Syllabus

The City as Text and Work of Art: Saint Petersburg - 30183

Last update 30-06-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: School of Arts

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Edwin Seroussi
Dr. Olga Levitan
Dr. Nina Rudnik

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Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesdays, 16:15-17:15
Teaching Staff:
Prof Edwin Seroussi
Dr. Olga Levitan
Dr. Nina Rudnik

Course/Module description:
Interpreting the urban space as an artistic text is a central trend in the contemporary intellectual discourse. The seminar will discuss the "Petersburgian text" as this concept has been developed in Russian semiotics on the background of urban studies beginning from the Renaissance and up to the cultural theories of the 20th century. The "cultural biography" of St. Petersburg will be at the center of the discussion and will engage students directly with works of art that shaped and continue to shape St. Petersburg's landscape in architecture, art, literature, theater, cinema, and music. The seminar will include analyses of masterpieces and artistic processes in Russian culture through the study of the city, acquaint the students with trends in the multi-disciplinary research discourse of urban studies, and offer a direct encounter with the city's inhabitants and artists.

Course/Module aims:
- To investigate a city as an inter-textual cultural phenomenon and as an artistic text.
- To analyze masterpieces and artistic processes in Russian culture through the study of the city.
- To become acquainted with the main trends in the multi-disciplinary research of urban spaces, and to experience a direct encounter with the city's residents and artists.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
The students will be able to discuss the urban space as a meeting place of the various arts, to understand major processes in Russian history and literature and to learn about the mutual relations between Russian culture and the arts.

Attendance requirements(%):
90 % of the classes in Jerusalem and participation in the field trip to Saint Petersburg

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures with active participation of the students, viewing and discussing recordings of music, theater,
opera, and ballet. A tour of St. Petersburg at the end of May, 2015, will include presentations by each student throughout the tour as well as encounters with artists and citizens from St. Petersburg.

**Course/Module Content:**
1. **Introduction: The city as laboratory. The Model Moscow – St. Petersburg as a starting point of Petersburg text in Russian culture.**
2. **The Petersburg text.** Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoyevsky: The Bronze Horseman: Pushkin and the foundation of Petersburg text; Gogol's Myth of the City; St. Petersburg in Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment
3. **The Petersburgian performance: The Imperial Theater and Petersburgian ballet:** Petipa, Fokin, Diaghilev; Meyerhold and the Petersburgian cabaret, the Futurist theater; the cinematic image of the city
4. **The opera of St. Petersburg**
5. **Between folklore and nationalism at the turn of the 20th century:** The national school of Jewish music and the Society for Jewish Folk Music in St. Petersburg as a case study
6. **St. Petersburg as a center of Jewish modernity:** Shimon Dubnow, Shlomo An-sky, the Jewish Chamber Theater, Synagogues
7. **Study in St. Petersburg: The Petersburgian atmosphere; Acmeist poetry:** Akhmatova and Mandelstam; Currents in modernistic art: From the "World of Art" movement to Futurism.

**Required Reading:**
Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 20 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
The course includes a seven day field trip to Saint Petersburg.
Number of students accepted to the seminar is limited; acceptance on the basis of excellence.
The course is open to senior undergraduate students in the honors program.