# History and Culture of Russian-Speaking Countries

Prof. Anna Bonola

# Russian Language Classes 2 (all curricula)

# Anna Bajdatska

**Specialised Translation Workshop** **(Curriculum: Languages for Specialist Translation and Translation for Publishing)**

### Anna De Ponti

# History and Culture of Russian-Speaking Countries

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***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff.***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide the tools and fundamental concepts for approaching the Russian cultural world. At the end of the course, students will be able to present and comment on a text or cultural phenomenon from the Russian area. They will be able to grasp the factors of continuity and disruption at the various moments and in the different components of its history, both in its internal evolution and in its external relations.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course aims to reconstruct the highlights of the history of the Soviet Union and its culture. Several topical nuclei of aspects relevant to understanding contemporary Russian culture will be explored: totalitarianism and the conception of power, the relationship with the West, the political and social structure, dissidence, propaganda and ideology, the fall of the USSR, generational differences, the relationship with the totalitarian past and the search for a new European and world political order, etc. Particular attention will be paid to the reflections of culture and history in the Russian language.

***READING LIST***

1. Geller M. – Nekrič A., *Storia dell'URSS dal 1917 a oggi. L'utopia al potere*, Rizzoli, Milano 1984.
2. Any book (of which students will need to demonstrate in-depth knowledge) from the list shared on the course page on Blackboard.
3. Individual texts indicated by the lecturer during lectures will be made available on the course page in Blackboard.

The full reading list will be indicated during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam to evaluate their knowledge of the content presented in lectures (50% of the total mark), but also their acquisition of a critical methodology and the ability to apply it not only to lecture content but also to the materials on the reading list to be read independently (30% of the total mark). In addition, students will be assessed on how well they use terminology and present the content covered (i.e. consistently and in a considered manner, taking a systematic approach to interpreting the material) (20% of the total mark).

Any ongoing preliminary assessments will be communicated during the course.

*NB: There is a series of Russian language classes related to the course (for all students) as well as the workshop on specialized translation from Russian (aimed at students on the Languages for Specialist Translation and for Translation for Publishing curriculum).*

For all curricula: All students are required to attend the Russian-language practical classes. The assessment of students’ active and fruitful participation in the practical classes, which last the year, will count towards the final mark awarded by the Culture and History lecturer. The Culture and History part and the practical classes are each worth 50% of the mark, as long as students pass in both cases.

For students on the Languages for Specialist Translation and for Translation for Publishing curriculum only The course is also supported by the specialist translation workshop run by Verdiana Neglia, the syllabus of which is below. For students on this curriculum, the language practical classes, the specialist translation workshop and the Culture and History oral exam contribute equally to the final mark, provided students pass all three.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

***Notes***

***Students may only take the examination for the “History and Culture of Russian-Speaking Countries” course after they have completed the examination for the “Communication Strategies in the Russian Language” course in the first year.***

***Prerequisites***

All students require good knowledge of the Italian language, as well as the ability to contextualise cultural events historically.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.

# Russian Language Classes 2 (All Curricula)

## Anna Bajdatska

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff.***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The objective of the course is for students to develop Russian comprehension and writing skills based on video material at a level comparable to C2 in the CEFR.

There will be a particular focus the socio-cultural aspect of the Russian language.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Understand original texts both written and oral, as well as appreciate their stylistic differences.
* Produce written texts of various styles.
* Produce a written summary of a short film.
* Simultaneously translate texts of different styles from Russian into Italian.

Interact spontaneously on different topics and participate actively in a discussion, successfully presenting and justifying their own point of view;

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is structured as follows:

- interpreting video material from a socio-cultural point of view.

- tools for analysing and understanding communication behaviour.

- translation and writing exercises, improving conversation skills and expanding vocabulary.

***READING LIST***

O.N. Grigor’eva, *Stilistika russkogo jazyka,* Moscow 2000.

Ju. Dobrovol'skaja, *Bol'šoj slovar' russko-ital'janskogo i ital'jansko-russkogo jayzka*, Hoepli, Milan 2001.

The lecturer will provide details of further reading and supplementary material during the practical classes.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class and the language lab, supervised practical classes, correction of students’ independent work. The course will be held in Russian, with the activities set at advanced level C2 in the CEFR.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For the final assessment, students will be assessed on their active and assiduous participation in the practical classes; the final assessment will be an oral exam in which students must translate a text belonging to one of the text types studied on the course.

Assessment criteria: grammatical accuracy (60% of the final mark); lexical mastery (40% of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

To make the most of the course, students require knowledge of written and spoken Russian at a level equivalent to advanced C1 in the CEFR and must follow up on their classwork with home study on a regular basis.

Students are strongly encouraged to take the year-long course.

Students must pass the *language test* in order to qualify for the final examination on the *Culture and History of the Russian-Speaking Countries* (see the “Assessment methods and criteria” for the course taken by Professor Anna Bonola).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

**Specialised Translation Workshop (Curriculum: Languages for Specialist Translation and Translation for Publishing)**

Anna De Ponti

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff.***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The workshop aims to offer students a space for reflection, insight and comparison with regard to the translation of various text types relating to Russian history and culture. The workshop will consider informative, argumentative, persuasive, descriptive, regulatory and narrative texts, including those of a legal, economic, technical-scientific, political, historical, literary and artistic nature.

By the end of the workshop, students will be able to apply tools and methods for translating various text types related to Russian history and culture into Italian.

***COURSE CONTENT***

During the translation workshop, students will read, analyse and translate into Italian various texts linked to some of the most significant and characteristic aspects of the Russian cultural world, cutting across multiple disciplines: from political and social cornerstones to the history of thought, literature, art and religion; from ancient traditions to the world of contemporary work and business.

***READING LIST***

Dobrovolskaja Ju., *Il russo: l’ABC della traduzione*, Milan: Hoepli, 2016. [Purchase from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/julia-dobrovolskaja/il-russo-labc-della-traduzione-9788820375010-240455.html)

Rigotti E., Cigada S., *La comunicazione verbale*, APOGEO, Milan 2004, pp. 15-52. [Purchase from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/comunicazione-verbale-9788838789878-186628.html)

Salmon L., *Teoria della traduzione*, Franco Angeli, Milan 2017, pp. 51-62. [Purchase from V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/laura-salmon/teoria-della-traduzione-una-riflessione-critica-dalle-premesse-teoriche-alla-pratica-completa-9788891759092-660696.html)

Šmelev A.D., *Russkaja Jazykovaja model’ mira*. Materialy k slovarju. Jazyki slavjanskoj kul'tury, Moscow 2002.

Other texts will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For the final assessment, students will be assessed on their active and committed participation in the workshop; the final assessment will be an oral exam in which students must translate a text belonging to one of the text types studied on the course. This test will take place during the oral part of the exam with Prof. Bonola.

Assessment criteria: grammatical accuracy (60% of the final mark); lexical mastery (40% of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

It is assumed that students have attended the first year specialist translation practical classes in conjunction with the *Translation Resources and Tools* course. The translation activity requires excellent knowledge of the Italian and Russian languages.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.