

**ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

**CERTIFICATE OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION:  
MODERN LANGUAGES**

**A COURSE HANDBOOK FOR  
RUSSIAN STUDIES FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS 2 EXTRA**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

## COURSE CONTENT

This course is designed for students with solid linguistic skills, wanting to revise and consolidate cultural issues through the use of authentic material, literary and journalistic texts, paintings and audio-visual recordings.

To expand upon the development of all the language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. All reading and audio-visual materials studied are “authentic”, that is, actually used by native speakers from Russian speaking countries in their daily life, for information or cultural recreation.

This module increase the student knowledge of contemporary Russian, imparting the following skills: writing, reading, speaking and listening.

A wide range of activities are undertaken, such as practical language exercises, work into and out of Russian and vocabulary-building activities. This will be delivered by commercially produced and in-house language materials from a variety of sources.

Students who successfully complete the module should feel that they have a solid command of Russian.

## AIMS AND OUTCOMES:

On completion of this module, students should be able to.

1. Demonstrate a further knowledge of Russian culture and history (history, geography, literature, political and cultural studies), using vocabulary and expressions in a variety of writing and speaking contexts.
2. Extract additional information from texts (i.e.: literaries, newspapers, advertisements), being able to understand reports and articles about contemporary issues.
3. Expand their translation skills with significant degree of accuracy and in an appropriate style
4. Strengthen the clarity, precision and fluency of their writing, using a wide range of vocabulary and with a significant level of linguistic accuracy.

## REFERENCE BOOKS:

- **Tranzit – A Bridge to Advanced Russian Studies**, Daphne West and Michael Ransome, Bramcote Press, Nottingham, 1996.
- **Concise Russian-English, English-Russian Dictionary**. Oxford University Press or similar
- **Ruslan 2** CD-ROM and audio tapes, John Langran.
- **501 Russian Verbs**, Patricia Davis, Barron’s Educational Press

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The course will offer extra support to students who have completed *Cultura Hispánica 2*, those who already have a solid knowledge of the Russian language.

The course will give students the opportunity to increase their fluency skills and deepen their understanding of modern Russian speaking countries’ societies.

Students will revise and further expand the way the Russian see themselves or are seen by outsiders today in a very rapidly changing multicultural environment.

Literature will include further extracts of modern books and writing and oral expression styles and techniques such as commentaries, speeches and debates will also be part of the menu.

All authors studied will belong to the 20th Century. The authors chosen will be emblematic of their times and will reflect the main preoccupations of the period

## ASSESSMENTS AND ACCREDITATION

The assignments are part of the Certificate of Higher Education: Modern Languages. Your learning process and your development is monitored by your tutor, giving you the opportunity to improve in all areas and also giving your tutor a clear understanding of your progression. We understand assignments, not as a threatening element, but as an important part of the quality of your learning.

We believe that you can learn more and appreciate better what you do. This means that the work produced by you is continually assessed, and assignments won't be separated from your learning experience. The assignments have been specially design to cater for Adult Learning, with a very friendly approach as they are integrated in the class, and we will adapt to your timetable accordingly. They can be done in class or at home.

You will notice that all of the language modules are given a number of credits. The number of credits is 10 for all the Beginners modules and 20 for all other language modules.

These credits will be awarded to you at the end of each module, provided that you have completed the appropriate assessment activities.

These assessment activities will be focussing on the following skills: Writing (35%), Reading (15%), Listening (15%) and Speaking (35%).

These credits will be banked in order to obtain a University recognized qualification. This qualification is the Certificate of Higher Education: Modern Languages.

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|--|------------|
| <b>SPEAKING:</b><br><br><b>Recording of a short speaking exercise, where equal weighting is given to the work of students, which can be done at home or in class</b> | <b>35%</b> |
| <b>LISTENING:</b><br><br><b>Answering questions in English on a short recording, lasting not more than five minutes.</b>   | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>READING:</b><br><br><b>Comprehension exercise based on a 1000-1200 words text (i.e. novels, newspapers, advertisements). Questions in English.</b>                | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>WRITING:</b><br><br><b>800-900 words written task</b>   | <b>35%</b> |

These credits obtained cannot be used towards the Certificate of Higher Education: Modern Languages.

### The Certificate of Higher Education

from Aberystwyth University can be awarded to students completing 120 credits (2 modules must be at Advanced level) on any language or languages provided by our School.

When you take a course with us, you are automatically enrolled into the Certificate in Higher Education: Modern Languages.

You can join our Certificate at any level.

The Certificate in Higher Education: Modern Languages comprises 120 credits, of which 40 must be taken from the Advanced modules, and on the same language. The remaining 80 credits could be selected from any of the other courses, and from any of the languages in the programme.

| <b>Beginners</b>   | <b>Intermediate</b>                                     | <b>Advanced</b>                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| From complete beginners to Basic GCSE<br><b>(10 Credits)</b> | From Basic GCSE to Basic A Level<br><b>(20 credits)</b> | Post A level<br><b>(20 credits)</b> |
| Beginners 1<br>Beginners 2<br>Improvers 1<br>Improvers 2     | Intermediate<br>Higher Intermediate                     | Advanced 1<br>Advanced 2            |

Other **Advanced** courses in some languages. All these courses are **20 credits**.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>French</b><br/>Itinéraires culturels et littéraires I<br/>Itinéraires culturels et littéraires II<br/>La France Profonde I<br/>La France Profonde II</p> | <p><b>German</b><br/>Buntes Kaleidoskop für Redekünstler I<br/>Buntes Kaleidoskop für Redekünstler II<br/>German Cinema</p> |
| <p><b>Russian</b><br/>Russian Studies for Advanced Students I<br/>Russian Studies for Advanced Students II</p>   | <p><b>Spanish</b><br/>Cultura Hispánica I<br/>Cultura Hispánica II</p>  |

## THE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

### GENERAL ADVICE

The use of social networking sites such as *MySpace, Facebook, You Tube, Twitter, Flickr, Bebo* etc. have become increasingly popular. The use of technology for educational purposes is an important part of the work of students, teachers and trainee teachers. However it is imperative that such websites are not abused. For your own protection please consider the following advice carefully.

Whilst studying at the University, on teaching practice at schools which are part of the partnership, on 'placement' modules and while volunteering, you are requested to carefully consider the use you make of e-mail, text messages, messaging sites, social networking sites, blogging and the internet. **High expectations and standards of professional behaviour in relation to the use of electronic interaction are as relevant as face to face behaviour.**

### USE OF E-MAIL:

Be aware of potential problems which can arise by providing personal details on social networking sites. Do not use your personal e-mail address to communicate with pupils in schools or adults or children in voluntary settings or placements. If you do receive work by pupils via e-mail please use the school's official e-mail and keep any comments within professional matters. Do not use any e-mail addresses given to you as a member of staff whilst on teaching practice, on placement or while volunteering for personal reasons. If in doubt, consult a member of staff.

### SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES:

Students using social networking websites in a manner that can be seen as representing the School and University should:

- set their profiles to private, so that they control who they allow to see their detailed information;
- never access or use the social networking sites of students or pupils or use internet or web based communications to send personal messages to a student or pupil;
- not refer to the school or setting where they are training, volunteering or on placement, nor any co-worker at that particular establishment in any way on a social networking site or in a blog. It is also not acceptable to use any pictures of them on such sites;
- not refer to the tutor of a module or any other member of staff within the School of Education and Lifelong Learning in any way on a social networking site or in a blog without their prior consent. It is also not acceptable to use any pictures of them on such sites without prior consent;
- not make offensive or derogatory remarks about students or other individuals, and do not post obscene or derogatory images. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action if appropriate and, in extreme cases, defamation can lead to legal action;
- not become an on-line 'friend' with any of the pupils at the school or adults or children in voluntary settings or placements;
- ensure that they do not conduct themselves in a way that is and/or could be seen as bringing the School of Education and Lifelong Learning or University into disrepute;
- ensure that any comments they post on these websites could not constitute bullying, harassment or discrimination;

- take care not to allow their interaction on these websites damage working relationships between members of staff and clients of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning or University;
- take care not to allow their interaction with students or pupils to be construed as unprofessional;
- Ensure that they do not contravene the Data Protection Act by posting information about the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, the University, its staff or students or any third party.

**Remember** it is not acceptable to make use of social networking sites during working hours or during lecture/seminar contact time, unless permission is given. **Remember** that a number of prospective employers search for information on applicants on social networking sites whilst short listing posts.

### **MOBILE PHONES:**

Do not use your mobile phone during lessons or lectures except for emergencies, unless you are actually granted permission by the tutor. Do not keep any message or picture on your phone which you would not be happy for others to see when you are on placement. Do not leave your phone where pupils/students/others can get hold of it. Do not under any circumstance give your phone number or lend your phone to a pupil for any reason. Do not use your mobile phone to phone or text any child or adult.

Use the school, setting or other establishment's mobile phone as a contact number if you are going on a trip with the school. Please act wisely if you know pupils personally outside of the school environment.

### **APL PROCEDURES**

All students starting Modern Languages within Lifelong Learning, are automatically part of the Certificate of Higher Education: Modern Languages.

Students should start the APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning) or APEL (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning) process within 4 weeks of starting the Certificate of Higher Education: Modern Languages.

### **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The Student Handbook is available online: [http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/Student\\_Handbook\\_Lifelong\\_Learning.pdf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/Student_Handbook_Lifelong_Learning.pdf)

If you would like to have a hard copy, you need to let your tutor know.