**LTEU 152GS:**

**Multiculturalism in Russia: Buryat Indigenous Identity Through Literature, Performance, and Belief**

As an autonomous republic within the Russian Federation and home to the largest indigenous group in Siberia, Buryatia offers a rich example of indigenous culture, both in its own right, and as it relates to the dominant Russian culture and the smaller indigenous groups of the region. This course will offer students an overview of Buryat history, culture, and politics, and also look at how language, literature, and religion have developed and intersected with them. We will look at modern Buryat culture and identity, including popular culture in music and film, and social issues of urbanization, crime and youth gangs, women’s rights, etc… Class will be run largely as a seminar. Each student will be expected to contribute based on their own expertise, life experience, and active learning. As a final project, students will work together to construct oral, written or photographic histories based on interviews and personal experiences with the Buryat community and in Buryatia.

**Week 1: History and Politics**
Local Fieldtrip: Botanical Gardens in Irkutsk/Buryat Traditions

**Week 2: Buryat Literature**
Local Fieldtrip: Meetings with representatives of the Buryat community

**Week 3: Religion and Spirituality**
Local Fieldtrip: Buryat cooking class
Traveling Fieldtrip: Ol’khon Island/Shaman Rock, Service Project

**Weeks 4: Present Day Culture, Language, Sub-cultures**
Traveling Field Trip: Ulan-Ude, Ivolginsky Monastery, field work, individual projects

**Week 5: Buryat Culture and Identity Outside Buryatia**
St. Petersburg: Buddhist Temple Visit

**Readings and films for the course will be taken from:**


-- Natalya L. Zhukovskaya (2007) Religion and ethnicity in eastern Russia, republic of Buryatia: A panorama of the
1990s, Central Asian Survey, 14:1, 25-42.
--Melissa Chakars, “Buryat Literature as a Political and Cultural Institution from the 1950s to the 1970s,” Inner Asia, Vol. 11, No. 1, Special Issue: Buryats (2009), pp. 47-63.
--youtube film, Sacred Spring https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBIG6OrXq5c
--ЛГБТ в Бурятии, о гей параде  https://arigus.tv/news/item/87746/
--youtube. Putin propaganda from Buryatia https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD0OvUWODZg

**Grades for the course will be based on the following:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Class Discussion/Informal Presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian Language Section Work</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Experience Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Journals on Field Experiences</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Group Project*</td>
<td>20%</td>
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*While there is an assigned final group project, students are invited to design their own project related to an area of personal interest and in consultation with an appropriate advisor.*