

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:

--Olaf Leisse & Utta-Kristin Leisse (2007) A Siberian Challenge: Dealing with Multiethnicity in the Republic of Buryatia, *Nationalities Papers*, 35:4, 773-788.

-- ANATOLIY BRESLAVSKY (2009) Youth and 'The Movement' — Social Life in a Rural District of Buryatia, *Inner Asia*, Vol. 11, No. 1, Special Issue: Buryats (2009), pp. 83-95.

-- Anya Bernstein, *Religious Bodies Politic: Rituals of Sovereignty in Buryat Buddhism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

--Lisa Dickey, *Bears in the Streets*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2017.

-- 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.

--Bashkeeva, Imikhelova, Garmaeva, Sanzheeva, and Dugarzhapova, "Behavioral Models in Russian Literature During Globalism: Russian and National Versions," *International Scientific Conference <Social and Cultural Transformations in the Context of Modern Globalism>*, 2018.

--Stefan Krist, "Shamanic Sports: Buryat Wrestling, Archery, and Horse Racing," *Religions*, May 2019.

--Holland, Edward, "Religious Practice and Belief in the Republic of Buryatia: Comparing Across Faiths and National Groups," *The Journal of Nationalism and Identity*, vol. 42: issue 1, 2014.

--David S. Trigger and Cameo Dalley, "Negotiating Idigeneity: Culture, Identity, and Politics," *Reviews in Anthropology*, 39: 46-65, 2010.

--Weir, Fred, "Russia takes a new look at Genghis Khan," *Christian Science Monitor*, August 17, 2018.

--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.

--Melissa Chakars, *The Socialist Way of Life in Siberia: Transformation in Buryatia*, Budapest: Central European University Press, 2014.

--Aleksandr Vampilov, *Duck Hunting*, 1968.

--Gennadi Bushkayev, *The Buryats: Traditions and Culture*, Soyol, 1999.

-- Justine B. Quijada, Kathryn E. Graber & Eric Stephen (2015) Finding "Their Own": Revitalizing Buryat Culture Through Shamanic Practices in Ulan-Ude, *Problems of Post-Communism*, 62:5, 258-272.

--Justine B. Quijada, *Buddhists, Shamans, and Soviets: Rituals of History in Post-Soviet Buryatia*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

-- Marinandrea Gamba. At the Crossroads: Through a Definition of Buryat Identity. Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary research and studies on Eastern Europe MIREES (LM 52). Graduation thesis in developing Multicultural Skills in Global Contexts.

--Buryat Cinema <http://www.kinokultura.com/2015/48-dobrynin.shtml>

--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:

Participation in Class Discussion/Informal Presentations	15%
2 Reading Quizzes	15%
Russian Language Section Work	15%
Field Experience Participation	20%
Weekly Journals on Field Experiences	15%
Final Group Project*	20%

*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.