

MAYMESTER 2010 IN ST. PETERSBURG

European Studies 260. European Cities: St. Petersburg. The course will explore the past and the present of the great Russian city, its history and culture. MAY. [3] Kustanovich



The Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ on Spilt Blood.
Built on the spot where the Emperor Alexander II was assassinated
by terrorists in 1881.

In the relatively short span of 200 years, St. Petersburg became one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Built by the best French, Italian, and Russian architects its buildings and palaces still strike the viewer with their rich, unfading beauty.

During its 300-year history the city has been one of the most important centers of Russian politics and culture. Alexandr Pushkin, Nikolai Gogol, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Anna Akhmatova, Joseph Brodsky and dozens of other famous Russian writers and poets, as well as such renowned composers as Igor Stravinsky, Sergei Prokofiev, and Dmitry Shostakovich, lived and worked here.

Here the tsarist empire ruled by the Romanov dynasty for over 300 years came to an end after Nicolas II abdicated in 1917 and Bolsheviks, headed by V. I. Lenin, came to power. During World War II, the city was besieged by the Nazis for almost 900 days; about 1.5 million died there from starvation and shelling. After the war the city was rebuilt in its original beauty. Museums, including the famous Hermitage, palaces in both St. Petersburg itself and in its environs, the granite embankments of the Neva, and the white nights in the summer when the sun barely sets attract thousands of tourists from all over the world.



Grand Peterhof Palace and the Grand Cascade

The course will cover the history of politics and culture in this city with an emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. The students will have regular classes supplemented with excursions to tsars' palaces and the Revolution headquarters; to the Peter and Paul Fortress where many revolutionaries were incarcerated and where all Russian tsars from Peter the Great on are entombed; to one of the world's greatest museums The Hermitage; to places where Pushkin and Dostoevsky lived and their immortal characters roamed. We will also travel to Moscow and visit the Kremlin and Lenin's Tomb, Tretyakov Museum of Russian art, Novodevichy Cemetery, where the most important figures in Russian history are buried, and ride on the famous Moscow metro. We'll take another trip to the ancient Russian city of Novgorod, visit the museum of wooden architecture, churches and monasteries. Students will also have classes on and be able to observe first-hand today's Russian culture including music, arts, and the famous Russian ballet.

DATES: To be determined

FEES: Total cost: approximately \$7000. Included: tuition, housing, health insurance, visits to museums and theatres in St. Petersburg, excursions to Moscow and Novgorod, and ground transportation. It does not include most meals, incidental expenses, and airfare.

CREDITS: 3 credit hours - EUS 260 is listed as International Cultures credit in AXLE.

SYLLABUS:

MORE INFORMATION: Information will be updated on Vanderbilt Russian site: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/russian/maymesterinrussia>