RUSS 2210 – Russia Today: Political, Socio-Economic and Cultural Change

Instructor: David Johnson, Lecturer in Russian
Location: Vladimir, Russia
Dates: May 14 – June 16, 2020

Experience Russian hospitality and post-Soviet political, socio-economic and cultural change from the inside out.

Spend four weeks in the ancient provincial city of Vladimir—one of Russia's first capital cities and political-economic powerhouses—studying, serving, exploring, interacting with Russians from many different social groups, including Russian university students, and reflecting about your knowledge and perceptions of contemporary Russia.

STUDYING

Daily presentations, lectures, and excursions focus on aspects of economics, political science, international relations, education, culture, history, sociology, law, religious studies, etc. Every effort is made to include something relevant to each participant's area of interest.

SERVING

To experience first-hand how history and current economic, political, social, educational, legal, and cultural developments intersect and impact specific groups in Russian society, we work in several community organizations, possibly including the Vladimir Handicapped Children's Association, a local preschool, a non-profit organization working with adult orphans, a local veterans' home, the Russian Orthodox Church, and a dog shelter being organized and built by three local retired women.

EXPLORING

The schedule includes:

- Home stays (including home-cooked breakfasts and dinners)
- Conversations, dinners, and fun evenings with Russians from different social groups, including university students
- Excursions to UNESCO World Heritage Sites and other fascinating places
- Trips to Moscow, St. Petersburg (during the famous "White Nights"), Suzdal, Bogoliubovo, Murom, and the rural village Schukhurdinovo
- Weekend at a dacha (summer home) with a Russian banya
- Concerts, ballet in St. Petersburg, and a soccer match
- Train, boat, bus, and bike rides

REFLECTING

While in Russia, each participant considers the guiding questions for the program: What is the current situation in Russia in general and in terms of my area of interest and specialization? How does my understanding of the current situation in Russia coincide and differ with what I am learning, hearing, seeing, and feeling in Russia?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Blog posts from previous years:

Cuchulain McGloin (2019): https://mylearningadventureshereandthere.blogspot.com/2019/06/thinking-about-going-to-russia-i-wish.html

Hanna Baugh (2018):https://nicholshumanitarianfundblog2018.wordpress.com/2018/05/08/hannah-baughn/

Samantha Long (2016):
http://considerablycaffeinated.blogspot.com/

Monika Weisman (2014):
http://visitingmotherrussia.blogspot.com/

Photos:

https://www.facebook.com/AmericanHome/photos/a.414289011289.194837.184076861289/10153479611591290/?type=3&theater

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152424612366622.1073741839.585521621&type=1&l=21c280aeca

Russian Television Reports:

http://vladtv.ru/society/78658/
http://variant33.ru/ekspressnovosti1/22590_prikosnulis_k_nacional_nym_tradiciyam/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHSmJKk5QIQ

FEES: Cost is approx. $8,540.00