

REES 2172

Global Landscapes: Russia in XXI century

Instructor: Dr. Aleksey Berg

Time: TR 1:45-3:15 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to improve students' ability to engage in informed and articulate debates on key issues facing the global world today. These issues include the Russian invasion of Ukraine, considered in the context of history, geography, natural resources, and culture; the dismantling of democracy in Russia and the return of totalitarianism; environmental problems and catastrophes, along with their aftermath; issues of social inequality and the redistribution of wealth, among others. This will be achieved through intensive work on expanding lexical knowledge, increasing grammatical accuracy, and developing rhetorical skills. By the end of the course, students will be able to comprehend increasingly complex written and spoken texts on a range of topics and defend their own viewpoints in oral debates and persuasive essay formats.

COURSE GOALS

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will:

1. Increase students' knowledge and understanding of issues, problems and possible solutions that define the current Russian political and cultural landscape.
2. Gain the ability to hold informal and formal conversations in Russian on the topics covered in this course.
3. Improve comprehension of speech of well-educated, highly articulate native speakers.
4. Increase understanding of authentic written and oral materials at the advanced level.
5. Expand and improve vocabulary and idioms and the knowledge of grammar and syntax, lexis, register and style, as well as linguistic awareness in order to consistently convey complex ideas and details and represent a point of view.
6. Achieve higher levels of language competency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing contemporary Russian.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All materials will be available for download on the course's Canvas site or as links to external Internet resources.

GRADING

Attendance and participation	15%
Homework	35%
Tests	20%
Presentations	20%
Final Oral Interview	10%