SIBERIAN CULTURE
IN THE GOLDEN ALTAI
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
SUMMER 2015

Faculty Director: Prof. David Galloway, Russian Area Studies

This program, sponsored and funded by the US Department of Education, aims to improve linguistic and cultural competence by taking a joint group of students and K-12 teachers from upstate New York to the Altai region of southern Siberia. Participants will complete four intensive weeks of Russian language training as well as cultural classes and excursions to city and regional sites. The final program is contingent on CoAA approval.

Program Dates
This is a 35-day program running from June 27 - August 1, 2015. Dates are tentative and may fluctuate depending on NYS public school schedules, which affect teacher participation.

Application Deadline
Friday, November 14, 2014, at 5:00pm. Note that the application requires your advisor’s signature.

Course Title: RUSE 116, Siberian Culture in the Golden Altai
**Course Description**
Siberia is an area little studied and traveled to by American academics, yet one where American companies are increasingly interested in having a presence. Bordering China, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan, this part of Russia is also likely to play a significant role in geopolitics and international relations as the economic and political power of China grows and the countries of East Asia increase their cooperation. This course will foster interdisciplinary learning and teaching in Russian area studies by immersing participants in the language, culture, and contemporary issues of Siberia. Participants will complete language training appropriate to their level, from beginning to advanced, as well as coursework in English on cultural studies of the Altai. By examining South-Central Siberia, participants will see firsthand the breadth of Russia, and will gain a much better sense of its complexities and diversity—in terms of culture, ethnicity, and physical environment. A multifaceted understanding of Russia is critical if students are to be properly prepared to interact with the country and its people on a professional basis after leaving college or in their existing professional teaching careers. Our approach is interdisciplinary: restricted to no one field of study, we aim to draw from all relevant topics in order to best grasp the changes which made Siberian Russia what it is today, and the influences that will change it in the future.

**Prerequisites**
All accepted students will be required to attend a Readers College in the spring of 2015, which will meet weekly for $\frac{1}{2}$ credit.

**Eligibility**
Qualified sophomores, juniors and graduating seniors may apply. Unfortunately the program is not open to first years. Applicants do not have to have Russian language experience but those who have studied or are studying Russian, or who are majoring/minoring in Russian Area...
Studies, will have higher priority. Because this program is funded by the U.S. government, only U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply.

GPA Requirement
Students applying for this program should have a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Credits
This course will be worth one HWS credit and will count for major/minor credit in Russian Studies. Students will also receive a ½ credit for the Readers College.

General Itinerary
The group will fly from JFK to Moscow, spending one day before flying the same evening to Barnaul. Once in the city, participants will complete four weeks of coursework consisting of three hours of Russian language study daily at their level, two hours of culture study, a three-hour service activity, and local excursions per week. Additionally, each weekend will be spent exploring the Altai Mountains region south of Barnaul for 2-4 days at a time. After the conclusion of formal coursework in week four, the group will undertake a 4-day expedition to the extreme southern Altai (Kosh-Agach). After returning to Barnaul, the group will take the train back to Moscow (a three-day trip), completing final evaluations and concluding activities en route. We depart for New York the same day we arrive back in Moscow.

Housing and Meals
All housing and meals in Russia will be covered by the grant. Students may be housed in homestays with Russian families but right now this is tentative; housing arrangements will be confirmed at a later date.

Costs
The program costs are heavily subsidized by a grant from the US Department of Education. The program fees will be only $100 for the 35-day program. This covers all usual expenses in Russia, including tuition, meals, accommodations, train travel, flight to and from Russia via NYC, internal flight from Moscow to Barnaul, entrance fees, day trips and excursions and local travel.
The following costs are NOT included and are the responsibility of each participant: visa costs ($285), passport costs/renewals, medical insurance, immunizations, personal spending, as well as any costs incurred traveling from participants’ homes to and from New York City.

NOTE: Students will be required to pay a $500 deposit if accepted. As long as you participate in the program, you will be refunded $400 of the deposit. If you withdraw after accepting your spot, you will lose the $500 deposit.

Flights
Group flights will be arranged by the CGE and accepted students will be notified of the cost and booking info for the flight once available.

Passports and Visas
All students will need a passport valid until at least March 2016 (18 months after your departure from Russia) to participate in this program. A visa is required for Russia. The cost for the visa is approximately $285. Each student must apply for his or her own visa, but the Program Director will provide guidance through the process.
**Immunizations**

Hepatitis A and B vaccines are recommended for travelers to Russia. Many of you will have already had the Hepatitis B vaccine before you came to college but you should check on this. Please check the CDC website [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/russia](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/russia) to read more about the recommendations. If you choose to get immunizations, you may be able to get these from your home doctor or you can get them a local medical clinic near your home (use this link to find travel medicine clinics: [http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentTravelClinics.aspx](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentTravelClinics.aspx)). You can also contact one of the Passport Health offices in Canandaigua, Rochester or Syracuse who provide travel immunizations. Their contact number is: (585) 275-8884.
Medical Insurance
Students will be required to have medical insurance while abroad. You should check to see if you are covered by your parents’ policy. If not, we recommend HTH Worldwide. The Travel Gap Voyager program from HTH Worldwide is a good option: http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/1_benefits_vaca.cfm The plan cost is $28 - $45 dollars depending on the options and deductible you choose. This is a good all-around plan and it includes coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation, which you are required to have. If you find a suitable plan through another company, that’s fine, too.

If you are using your parents’ insurance, you will need to check to see if it covers emergency evacuation and repatriation. If it does not, you will need to purchase the International Student ID Card (ISIC) for $25 in order to get this extra coverage. The card can be purchased online at www.myisic.com

Questions?
If you have questions about this program, please contact Sharon Walsh in the Center for Global Education, Trinity Hall, 3rd floor, (315) 781-3663 or walsh@hws.edu

Yurt in Southern Altai Republic