

ID7006 The Russian Avant-Garde

Module type Optional (programme module)

Term / hours Hilary / 22

ECTS 10

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Module description

This module aims to acquaint students with the history of the Russian avant-garde of the early 20th century, to examine the textual and visual practices of leading participants in the movement, and to study the theoretical basis for major strands of this movement. The module follows a standard lecture-seminar format. Each week students will be required to familiarize themselves with a set topic or body of work, as well as to complete reading assignments. Students present their own reflections individually in the form of seminar presentations, to be delivered in the second (seminar) hour on a weekly basis. Although knowledge of Russian is not a formal requirement for this course, it will be an advantage. For students who do not know Russian, familiarity with the Cyrillic alphabet will be essential.

Assessment

The module is assessed through a 4,000-word essay.

Indicative bibliography

Bowl, John E., Russian Art of the Avant-Garde: Theory and Criticism (Thames & Hudson, 1976). (STACKS: PL-142-153)

Gray, Camilla, The Russian Experiment in Art, 1863-1922 (Thames & Hudson, 1971). (USSH: LEN 709.47 K2*1)

Janecek, Gerald, Zaum: The Transrational Poetry of Russian Futurism (San Diego State UP, 1996). (STACKS: PL-280-102)

Khlebnikov, Velimir, The King of Time: Selected Writings of the Russian Futurist, trans. Paul Schmidt (Harvard UP, 1985). (SANTRY: PL-162-63)

Margit Rowell, and Wye, Deborah, (eds), The Russian Avant-Garde Book, 1910-1934 (New York Museum of Modern Art, 2002). (USSH: LEN 891.709 P21)

Markov, Vladimir, Russian Futurism: A History (New Academia Publishing / The Spring, 1968) (LECKY: 891.71 K9)

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Appreciate and critically evaluate literary texts produced by leading members of the Russian avant-garde.
- LO2 Appreciate and critically evaluate artwork produced by leading members of the Russian avant-garde.
- LO3 Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the theoretical writings underpinning Russian avant-garde practices.
- LO4 Demonstrate an understanding of the international impact of the Russian avant-garde as well as an appreciation of its enduring importance in Russian culture.
- LO5 Analyse and reflect critically on the module content through class presentations and essays.