

## Course description

### Theory and History of Culture

#### 1. Course title, ECTS, quarter/semester, contact hours:

Theory and History of Culture, 6ECTS, 3 and 4 quarters, 44 contact hours: lectures (20 hours) and seminars (24 hours)

2. **Author of the course:** Marina Loskutova (Associate Professor, History Dept., Ph.D.)

#### 3. Outline:

Cultural history and theory are developing quickly as one of the most dynamic subfields in humanities. This course is intended to familiarize students with this rapidly expanding research domain. It will provide a broad overview of ways of doing cultural history from nineteenth century onwards, and at the same time will examine major periods in antiquity, medieval, early modern and modern history from cultural perspective. Due to the limitations of time, the course will explicitly focus on Russian and European culture, although certain phenomena will be further explored in their global dimensions. The course consists of two parts (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of MA program). The first part of the course will cover medieval and early modern history with a particular emphasis on those issues that are not usually examined in standard courses on art and literary history: material culture, changing attitudes to time and space, history of emotions, the interaction between oral and literate culture, between popular beliefs and 'high' culture. Upon the successful completion of this part of the course the students will know working definitions of culture and cultural history and will be able to situate this field in its relationships with social and political history. They will be familiar with major cultural transformations from antiquity to the industrial era, and they will acquire basic skills in interpreting a broad variety of cultural phenomena in history.

#### 4. Structure and content

	Lectures (hours)	Seminars (hours)
1. Writing cultural history in the nineteenth and twentieth century: significant figures and approaches to cultural history	2	4
2. The world of classical antiquity and its legacy in European and Russian culture	2	4
3. Medieval and early modern material culture: objects and consumption practices	2	2
4. Human body in medieval and early modern Russia and Europe: aesthetic norms, health, illness and cleanliness	2	2
5. Spatial and temporal order in medieval and early modern Russia and Europe	2	2
6. Emotions and sensibilities in medieval and early modern Russia and Europe: the perception of gender, family, children and old age	2	2
7. Religion, magic and popular belief in medieval and early modern Russia and Europe	2	2
8. Oral and literate culture in medieval and early modern Russia and Europe. Cultural history of language	2	2
9. Visual culture in medieval and early modern Russia and Europe	2	2

10.	Cultural representations and projections of power and authority in medieval and early modern Russia and Europe	2	2
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5. **Prerequisites:** Students should be familiar with the general contours of Russian and European history from antiquity to the present, as well as with the general history of historical profession.

6. **Assessment:**

- Oral exam (based on a set of questions that is announced in advance, one question per student, 30 min. for preparation) - 40%
- participation in seminar discussions based on assigned readings - 30%
- team presentations - 30%