

## Course Syllabus

While the specific companies to be visited in Nizhny Novgorod and the issues to be discussed have not yet been finalized, it is possible to outline the broad parameters of the Study Trip.

- The Study Trip will be divided into three parts: a pre-departure study period during Module 1, the overseas activities in Russia between modules 1 and 2, and the post-trip wrap-up early in Module 2.

During the Module 1 study period, participants (divided into groups) will be asked to research and report to the group on various relevant topics such as characteristics of the Russian economy, progress made toward a free market economy, progress made toward true democracy, and evaluations of the companies we are scheduled to visit during the Study Trip. The intention is to prepare participants as much as possible so that they will understand and appreciate the experiences during the Study Trip. It is our intention to assign a project on which you will work with Russian students, and the topic or topics will be announced later. We will also go over the Russian Cyrillic alphabet and a few important phrases so that you can read signs and greet people appropriately when you are in Russia (relatively few people speak English). The team reports will be collected and bound into a book, a copy of which will be provided to each participant. This book will serve as the basis for discussion during Module 1 prior to leaving for Russia.

- While in Russia, several seminars and visits, plus at least one session with Russian students to discuss the project, will be scheduled. Briefings by several Russian academicians on the economic and political situation in Russia as it has evolved since the collapse of the Soviet Union and aspects of Russian business culture will develop the context for the company visits. There will be ample opportunity to get to know the city of Nizhny Novgorod and we will take a tour of the city and its major attractions. We will then travel by overnight train to Moscow and visit several companies in that city. A lecture with a prominent Russian official is also planned. The last full day of the trip will be a tour of Moscow, including Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, the Kremlin, and several other important historical and tourist sites. For our visits and official activities in Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow, we will have trained translators with us at all times. Russian students who are fluent in English will also join the group for the visits in Nizhny Novgorod and for after-hours social activities.
- Early in Module 2, the group will meet to share experiences and to summarize what we learned about doing business in and with Russia.
- Each student will be required to keep a diary during the period the group is in Russia. The diary will contain a minimum of three pieces of information:

1. The participant's observations and comments about the planned activities, their relevance to international business, and the information conveyed.
2. A discussion about experiences outside of the planned events. The exercise must relate to experiences involving cross-cultural differences between the USA and Russia, or experiences related to doing business in Russia.
3. Participants will need to find articles in the print or electronic media that relate to doing business globally or doing business in Russia. The participant then needs to write a ten-line summary of how the article relates to globalization or how to operate successfully in Russia. There will be a total (minimum) of fifteen articles.

This diary does not have to be typed, but it must be written legibly and assembled logically.

- The course will be for 2 credits and will be graded. The grading scale is as follows:

Team Reports	300 points
Individual/Participation*	300
Individual Diary	<u>400</u>
Total	1000 points

Grades will be assigned as 900 points (A), 899 to 850 points (B+), 849 to 800 points (B), 799 to 750 (C+), 749 to 700 points, (C), less than 700 points is a failing grade.

\* Subject to the "Kraft" rule: if one event is missed in Russia, the highest grade possible for the course is C. If two or more events in Russia are missed, you automatically fail the course.