



## Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation: 2007-2008

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad (this does not apply to non-Middlebury students). Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of the Middlebury Schools Abroad/International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 2 inclusive.

**1. Home Institution**

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

**2. Your academic program**

Major

Joint Philosophy/Religion

Month & Year of (expected) graduation

February 2010

**3. What was the period of your study abroad?**

fall semester

spring semester

academic year

spring semester followed by fall semester

**4. Given that educational systems abroad differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on your learning, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment?**

Being able to study abroad in Russia was extremely beneficial. Day to day vocabulary is mastered while abroad and not at home. Inside the classroom we became conversational in issues that effect Russia internally and externally. Outside the classroom you learn to live and get by independently. Though the adjustment inside and outside the classroom was initially very difficult for me, my vocabulary grew faster than imagined. As a result, both inside and outside the classroom, I was able to rely less on a dictionary and did not need assistance in understanding conversations.

**5. AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**6. Please Comment:**

Well, for one thing, it takes forever to get anywhere in Russia! Though they have one of the most efficient and beautiful transportation systems I have ever seen, adjusting to the pace of life in Russia was very difficult for me. I'm use to walking 5 minutes to get to class at Middlebury. In Russia, I would have to give myself a good hour to get to class in the morning.

Though the pace of life is quite different, there were several aspects of Russia that I found very similar to the States, and to my beliefs. Russia is far less "cold" than it is thought to be. The weather was not brutal, and the people were actually quite friendly. Most often, Russians just need more time to reveal themselves to strangers. I could easily relate to this, since I am initially a very closed off person. The more familiar I became with Russia, and the more familiar Russia was to me, the distance between our two countries quickly disappeared.

**7. In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

I have always thought of myself as an independent individual, however, upon my return to the states, I found that my independence was guided by a stronger will. Being in Russia really taught me how to speak with confidence. Russia can be a tough place, and you have to be tough to stand your ground there. In the states I sometimes lose my voice by trying to accommodate to others. Though I still am conscious of others, I am less willing to let my opinions drown out by other empowering voices.

**8. How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

I plan on attending Law school and focusing on international relations following my graduation at Middlebury. Being able to speak a foreign language fluently has always been a goal of mine, but is also a necessity for international law. Though I am still no where near fluent, being abroad has driven me just a little but closer to my goal, and was the first big step towards a possible career abroad.

**9. What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

**10. Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

Not at all - it was isolating

Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected

As helpful as I expected

Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected

Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration



**11. Please comment on your response to the question above.**

I don't know what I would have done, had I not lived with my host mom. She was a wonderful woman - enthusiastic and full of fabulous stories. We had a wonderful relationship, and this relationship is what I will truly remember when reflecting upon this experience.

12. Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

13. If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

It was far too advanced of a course for my Russian capabilities. Met a few Russian students, which was nice. Our relationships, however, never stepped outside of the classroom.

14. Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

15. If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

- |  | Not helpful at all    | Only slightly helpful | Somewhat helpful                 | helpful               | Very helpful          |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

16. Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I joined a gym. Though I was interacting less with Russians, being able to work out and relieve myself from stress was extremely helpful.

17. What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

18. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

19. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

20. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

21. Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My language progression was far greater than I had expected. My listening and reading comprehension, specifically, improved greatly. Spaking, however, was more difficult. All of the students on the program are at very different levels. Coming in as more of a beginner, I found the more advanced students to be extremely discouraging. I think it would be very helpful to discuss etiquette during orientation. The more advanced students should not revert to english when speaking with beginners, nor should they speak condescendingly.

22. Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Live with a host family.

**23. Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Mainstream courses. Students should be given far more assistance in finding an appropriate mainstream course. I wasted much time wandering the halls, looking for classrooms than I should have. Perhaps give students maps of the campus??

**24. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.**

- CHINA: Fall Semester: Speaking & Pronunciation (1 on 2)
- LATIN AMERICA: Cuaderno
- MIDDLE EAST: Fall Semester: Modern Standard Arabic
- RUSSIA: Fall Semester: Intensive Russian Language I (Grammar/Composition)

**25. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**26. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**27. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.**

- CHINA: Fall Semester: Classical Chinese
- MIDDLE EAST: Fall Semester: Egyptian Colloquial Arabic
- RUSSIA: Fall Semester: Intensive Russian Language II (Conversation/Speech Practice)

28. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

29. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

30. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

31. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.

- CHINA: Spring Semester: Speaking & Pronunciation (1 on 2)
- MIDDLE EAST: Spring Semester: Modern Standard Arabic
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Intensive Russian Language I (Grammar/Composition)

**32. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #7**

Russian Intermediate Grammar

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

Russian University of the Humanities (RGGU)

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

tests and homework

**Describe course content**

using the imperative, use of the infinitive infinitive, understanding russian metaphors and similes, (other common intermediate constructions)

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

We were provided with a book on grammar and several copies from outside texts

**Other comments about this course:**

Fabulous professor. Materials were drilled.

**33. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.**

- CHINA: Spring Semester: Classical Chinese
- MIDDLE EAST: Spring Semester: Egyptian Colloquial Arabic
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Intensive Russian Language II (Conversation/Speech Practice)

**34. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #8**

Speech Practice

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

RGGU

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

Papers

**Describe course content**

We discussed social and political aspects of Russia, read poetry and short stories, and discussed Russia's geography.

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

This course involved less handouts and assignments, and was more conversational

**Other comments about this course:**

Fabulous professor, fabulous discussions.

35. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

36. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

37. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.

- CHINA: Spring Semester: One-on-One Tutorial (Please describe in the boxes below)
- MIDDLE EAST: Spring Semester: One-on-One Tutorial (Please describe in the boxes below)
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Russian Civilization and Culture

38. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #9

Language and the Mass Media

At which institution/university did you take this course?

RGGU

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Papers, tests, presentations

Describe course content

How is media (news, knowledge, gossip) heard throughout Russia

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Presentations were extremely helpful. I also learned the most vocabulary in this course

Other comments about this course:

Professor was very nice and easy to relate with. At the end of the semester I even went out to coffee with her and her daughter. They also gave me a tour of some of the older, and more historical streets within Russia.

39. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

40. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

41. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.

CHINA: Spring Semester: Elective #1

MIDDLE EAST: Spring Semester: Media Arabic

RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Phonetics (or Russian Film for students in Irkutsk)

42. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #10

Phonetics

At which institution/university did you take this course?

RGGU

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

Tests, oral and written

Describe course content

Learning the proper intonation and sounds

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The course really addressed the parts of speech that I was verbalizing incorrectly.

Other comments about this course:

Class was somewhat boring. Though the Professor was always willing to work one on one, and greatly developed my phonetics

43. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree



44. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree



45. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.

- CHINA: Spring Semester: Elective #2 (Please describe in the boxes below)
- MIDDLE EAST: Spring Semester: Elective: History of the Middle East
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Spetskurs #1 (Please describe in the boxes below) OR ...
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Mainstream Course (Please describe in the boxes below)

46. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #11

Philosophy of Religion

At which institution/university did you take this course?

RGGU

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

3 Papers, one quiz

Describe course content

religion in ancient greek, and some modern philosophy

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Writing papers on topics that I study at home was extremely helpful. Learned the vocabulary I needed to express opinions about my interests in Russian

Other comments about this course:

Though I learned a great deal of vocabulary in this course, the course content was far too advanced for a third level student.

47. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

48. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

49. Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

50. Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

51. Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

52. Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> No

**53. If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.**

Be discreet, and keep to yourself. Don't always respond to strangers. Ignore and continue walking. If asked if you're an American, its often better to ignore the question. Many Russians think you are from a surrounding Russian speaking country, rather than the states if you dont say anything. And don't be out after the metro closes.

**54. Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

Russia had a vibrant culture, and was extremely international - a great place to study abroad.

**55. What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?**

If I could do it again, I would probably have chosen to study abroad in Irkutsk. Its much harder to develop language skills in Moscow, and I certainly regret not having a stricter environment.

**56. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?**

Yes

No

**57. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

**58. ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

Slide shows. Material on social aspects. What to wear, what not to wear etc.

**1. Home Institution**

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

Brown University

**2. Your academic program**

Major

Slavic Studies, Comparative Literature

Month & Year of (expected) graduation

May 2009

**3. What was the period of your study abroad?**

fall semester

spring semester

academic year

spring semester followed by fall semester

**4. Given that educational systems abroad differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on your learning, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment?**

Generally, while the Russian academic system is very different, I adjusted okay. I did have one mainstream course that was exceedingly troublesome precisely because of the strictness and the difference in the expectations from what I was used to (although I actually ended up with an A and a very enthusiastic recommendation from the professor). Certainly, I benefited from participating in a different environment, and my views of academics were molded by it.

**5. AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?**

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**6. Please Comment:**

It's hard to comment succinctly on this one. Let's just say that I feel like I really came to understand the Russian value system and came to see it as very different than the American one, in many ways that I had not expected.

**7. In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?**

Study abroad has immensely contributed to my personal growth. I am definitely more self-confident, more resilient, more light-hearted, more empathetic, more understanding as a result. Cultivating all of these qualities was important to surviving and enjoying my time abroad.

**8. How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?**

Great influences here, as well. I now have a more holistic view of life, and my values are much more balanced now, perhaps because this was my first chance to really just live somewhere exciting and not be cooped up in a rigorous academic setting.

**9. What was your housing situation during your study abroad?**

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

**10. Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?**

Not at all - it was isolating

Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected

As helpful as I expected

Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected

Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration



**11. Please comment on your response to the question above.**

I was fortunate to have a wonderful host mom who was very welcoming. I suspect the answer to the above question really depends on this. Thank you, Middlebury, for being so responsible in making this possible.

**12. Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?**

- Yes
- No

13. If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Russian students have zero interest in getting to know people outside of their circle of friends. I made no friends in my four mainstream courses, although I made many friends outside of school. It was helpful to be a part of the Russian system and integrate into the culture in that manner.

14. Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

15. If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful at all	Only slightly helpful	Somewhat helpful	helpful	Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I interned at the Nicholas Roerich Center-Museum in Moscow. It was rather dull overall but a great opportunity to experience a different environment and practice the language. I definitely encourage students to pursue an internship, and it really doesn't matter what organization the internship is with, the most important thing is to have the language and cultural experience. Be brave!

17. What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**18. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?**

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

**19. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?**

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

**20. What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?**

No improvement

Little improvement

Improved somewhat

Improved

Very much improved

**21. Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?**

I think my progress was about what I had expected, so certainly I am proud that I actually met those expectations. I now consider myself decently fluent in Russian. I definitely suggest that students need to do lots of reading in Russian and need to seek out Russians to chat with. The program definitely needs to require more writing in Russian from students and that teachers evaluate and correct the writing. We have very little opportunity to write in Russian, and this was absolutely disappointing. Most students on the program agreed that their writing skills actually declined.

**22. Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

Those interested in literature (and perhaps other departments, I don't know) should look into the "spetsseminary." Not listed on the regular course schedule, these seminars (info posted on departments' doors) are small classes with students who choose to be there. They offer rare opportunities to interact with the professor and students. Very interesting stuff.

**23. Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?**

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The Middlebury language courses, excluding grammar, are a joke. So are many of the mainstreams, especially lecture courses. Better to stick to Middlebury's spetskursy and any seminars you find among mainstreams.

**24. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.**

- CHINA: Fall Semester: Speaking & Pronunciation (1 on 2)
- LATIN AMERICA: Cuaderno
- MIDDLE EAST: Fall Semester: Modern Standard Arabic
- RUSSIA: Fall Semester: Intensive Russian Language I (Grammar/Composition)

**25. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

Course Title #1

Advanced Russian Grammar I

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Russian State University for the Humanities

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

homework, exams

Please describe the course content:

nuances of Russian grammar

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, oral practice of grammar exercises

Other comments about this course:

EXCELLENT!!

**26. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree



27. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

28. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.

- CHINA: Fall Semester: Classical Chinese
- MIDDLE EAST: Fall Semester: Egyptian Colloquial Arabic
- RUSSIA: Fall Semester: Intensive Russian Language II (Conversation/Speech Practice)

29. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Russian Speech Practice

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Russian State University for the Humanities

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

class discussion, exams, homework

Describe course content

discussion of various topics with the aim of increasing vocabulary

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

group discussion

Other comments about this course:

not very substantive; would have been better if we had been given more vocab to learn

30. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

The Literary Works of Nikolai Gogol (Middlebury spetskurs)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Russian State University for the Humanities

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

participation

Describe course content

close study of Gogol's texts

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture, discussion

Other comments about this course:

ultimately disappointing because there was no real work done for the course, and the professor was not very interested in teaching it

33. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**35. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #4**

Modern Russian History and Politics

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

Russian State University for the Humanities

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

presentation, participation

**Describe course content**

Russian politics post-cold war

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

lecture, hand-outs

**Other comments about this course:**

great lectures, but very little was required of us

**36. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**37. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**38. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

Course Title #5

Poetics of Russian Prose I (mainstream course)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Russian State University for the Humanities

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

presentation

Describe course content

Russian literature of 20th century

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

one student presented a paper each time, after which we discussed it

Other comments about this course:

exceedingly interesting to get to discuss literature with Russians (something never done in a non-seminar course) and to see how Russians write papers; also a great chance to write a paper, deliver it, and receive feedback from about 10 people

**39. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**40. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**41. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.**

- CHINA: Spring Semester: Speaking & Pronunciation (1 on 2)
- MIDDLE EAST: Spring Semester: Modern Standard Arabic
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Intensive Russian Language I (Grammar/Composition)

**42. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #7**

Advanced Russian grammar II

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

Russian State University for the Humanities

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

homework, exams, in-class participation

**Describe course content**

nuances of Russian stylistics

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

lecture, in-class oral practice of grammar

**Other comments about this course:**

excellent, excellent, excellent

**43. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**44. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

**45. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #8**

20th Century Russian Literature (Middlebury spetskurs)

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

Russian State University for the Humanities

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

participation, paper, presentation

**Describe course content**

various 20th-century Russian writers

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

lecture, discussion

**Other comments about this course:**

mediocre; mainly it was annoying that we didn't get any feedback on our papers

**46. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**47. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**48. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

**Course Title #9**

Poetics of Russian Prose II (mainstream course)

**At which institution/university did you take this course?**

Russian State University of the Humanities

**Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)**

presentation

**Describe course content**

20th century Russian prose

**Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.**

one student presented a paper each time and the group critiqued it

**Other comments about this course:**

(see above--this course was a continuation from the previous semester)

**49. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**50. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**51. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

Course Title #10

19th-20th Century English Drama (mainstream course)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Russian State University of the Humanities

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

multiple presentations

Describe course content

plays of Shelley, Byron, Shaw, Wilde

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lecture

Other comments about this course:

rather dull; I could have learned more from Wikipedia

**52. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

**53. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

**54. Please select your course from the drop down menu, if applicable.**

- CHINA: Spring Semester: Elective #2 (Please describe in the boxes below)
- MIDDLE EAST: Spring Semester: Elective: History of the Middle East
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Spetskurs #1 (Please describe in the boxes below) OR ...
- RUSSIA: Spring Semester: Mainstream Course (Please describe in the boxes below)

**55. Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.**

Course Title #11

History of the Theory of Comparative Literature (mainstream course)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Russian State University of the Humanities

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper, oral exams

Describe course content

Russian comparative literature theorists and the application of their methods

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

lectures

Other comments about this course:

the oral exams were absolutely frightening because they very much relied on having taken the sequence of courses that the Russian students had taken, as their content had very little to do with the lectures (the exams required application of the theory we studied to particular works of literature); also, the reading list was rather extensive and rather hard to get ahold of at libraries

**56. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"I learned a great deal in this course."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**57. Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:**

**"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**58. Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?**

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

59. Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

60. Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

61. Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

Yes

No

62. If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

I think it is fair to say that I did experience mild discrimination just as a foreigner in Russia. It's not as serious, I suppose, as being discriminated against for race, sexual orientation, etc., but it was unsettling at times how people would treat me with a certain suspicion and perhaps regard me as ignorant simply because I am a foreigner. I would suggest that Middlebury staff encourage students to keep up their self-confidence.

63. Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Has its flaws, but it is probably the best program in Russia (certainly in Moscow).

64. What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Be brave and adventurous, and take advantage of every opportunity to interact with the foreign culture. It is absolutely worth it, and while the academic benefits might be greater at your home institution, the personal growth you will go through is beyond measure and unfathomable until you actually experience it. Study abroad, and do it for a year if you at all can.

65. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

**66. MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?**

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

**67. ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?**

The material was sufficient, just a bit confusing with all the various handbooks and how they overlapped in some ways. I would provide more site-specific hints for packing, etc.

**68. How did you learn of the Middlebury program? (Check all that apply.)**

- searching the web
- a friend who attended a Middlebury program
- a friend (who did not attend a Middlebury program)
- a sibling or other family member
- a faculty member at my college/university
- by attending the Middlebury Language Schools
- a study abroad fair
- a study abroad office/adviser
- a news article

Other

knowing of Middlebury's reputation in language study

**69. Why did you choose this particular program and site?**

I wanted to do a Middlebury program (in Russia) because of Middlebury's reputation and strengths in comparison to the other programs available. The choice of Moscow was because I would never consider the other cities offered. (I would have considered studying in Petersburg if Middlebury had a program there. But--I am definitely glad I studied in Moscow! Amazing place!)

**70. Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad?**

- Completely matched
- Was what I expected for the most part
- Was somewhat different from what I expected
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected

**Comments**

Most disappointing was the lack of rigor in the Middlebury language classes (except for grammar) and in the Middlebury spetskursi. Very disappointing, actually, in light of the high expectations I had for these courses from the reputation of the language schools in Vermont.

**71. Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion?**

- Yes
- No

**72. Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?**

- Yes
- No

**73. How would you recommend that we improve in this area?**

The website can be confusing, and some things in general need to be updated with more current info on Moscow, at least, but all this is secondary to some of the problems with the program itself, which I have articulated above.

**74. Were there particular challenges unique to you as a student from another institution? Please explain.**

No.

**75. Further comments:**

I would say that overall I had an incredible experience, but this in many ways depended on my own initiative in seeking this out. Many students I know were unhappy with the program at the end and thus were unhappy with their entire semester. For future students: remember, Middlebury really is just providing you with a safe, solid opportunity to live in the culture and to receive a semester's or year's education there; interacting with the culture and really learning from it is entirely up to you, and you have to be confident and directed and take advantage of everything on your own. If you place all the responsibility on Middlebury, you will rightly be disappointed, as making friends and exploring the city and country are really best left up to you, and they are. Go after it!