

Professor Stevka Šmitran

Šmitran graduated at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. In 1983 she obtained the post-graduate title of “Magister” and in 2006 her PhD degree. Her academic career started in 1976 at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, “Gabriele d’Annunzio” University of Pescara, where she taught Russian language and literature, Slavic philology, Serbian-Croatian language and literature, and Southern Slavic culture. Since the a.y. 1984/1985, she has been in charge of courses in Serbian-Croatian language and Russian language at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Teramo, where, since the a.y. 2018/2019, she has also been lecturing in Culture and institutions of Balkan countries. Her research mainly focuses on popular literature, Medieval history, contemporary fiction and poetry. She is the author of more than one hundred publications including volumes, articles, translations, and introductions. She has edited the first Italian translation of poems by Ivo Andrić, Miodrag Pavlovič and other poets. She has presented papers at conferences and has given seminars at several prestigious universities. She has taught in the (first level) MA in Reading, preserving and cataloguing ancient documents from the Adriatic area, as well as in the Enrico Mattei MA. She was a member of the Teaching and Research Committee for the Doctoral Degree Programme in Cultural identities and juridical experiences in the Adriatic area: from late-ancient koinè to the age of common law. In 1996 she was awarded the Calliope prize for translation. She has worked in collaboration with the RAI regional cultural section. In 2007 she received the Great Women of 21st century award from the American Biographical Institute, Raleigh, North Carolina. In 2018 she received the diploma of “Benemerito” (Meritorious Person) for culture and teaching from her city of birth. She is an author for *Pagina21* (<https://www.pagina21.eu/author/stevka-smitran/>).

DISCIPLINARY-SCIENTIFIC SECTOR	L-LIN/21 Slavistics
TEACHING SEMESTER	II semester
TYPOLOGY OF THE COURSE	Activity chosen by students
CREDITS (ECTS)	6
TEACHING HOURS	30
PREPARATORY STUDY	Not needed

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to offer students a deep knowledge of Russian civilization, with a special attention for the following cultural topics: the Rus’ of Kiev and the birth of Moscovia; Ivan the Great’s foundation of a national state and the resulting unity of church and state that will last until 1917; nineteenth-century Romanticism with a special focus on the poetry of Puskin and

Lermontov as well as Gogol's and Turgenev's novels; 1920s poetics; Real socialism; the Cold War; Gorbačev and the perestrojka; today's Russia.

LEARNER'S AUTONOMY

Students will have to show their ability to acquire and apply knowledge, as well as their development of critical autonomy based on their studies.

COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS

Students will have to prove their abilities to apply and elaborate their newly acquired knowledge with critical autonomy, drawing their own conclusions, and to communicate this knowledge in effective ways to interlocutors of various cultural backgrounds.

LEARNING ABILITIES

At the end of the course, students will be able to reflect on the information on Russian civilization and recent history received in class. They are expected to develop appropriate methodologies and learning skills to reach a higher learning level and to understand today's historical situation in all its complexity.

TEACHING METHODS

Lectures

EXAMS

The exam will be both oral and written. At the end of the course, students are required to write a short essay on a topic of their choice, selected among those listed in the syllabus.

COURSE ENROLMENT AND TEACHER'S INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS

Office hours will be held immediately after classes. Additional information will be given to students via email (from the teacher's university account) during the whole course.

FURTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES MEANT TO REINFORCE TEACHING

No specific research activities are foreseen. Students will however have the possibility to conduct additional research on some topics taught in the course, in line with the syllabus's learning objectives.