Why You Should Study Russian

RUSSIA IS THE WORLD’S LARGEST COUNTRY
• Stretches across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia and bordering on North America.
• Almost twice the size of the U.S..

RUSSIA IS ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES
• One of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and has veto power.
• Controls 40% of the world’s long range nuclear warheads.
• One of the world’s richest countries in raw materials. It produces 20% of the world’s oil and natural gas.
• One of the four BRIC nations (Brazil, Russia, India, and China), the most promising emerging economies forecasted to surpass the major economic powers of today by 2050.
• Currently the only nation capable of reaching the international space station.
• The US government has classified Russian as a critical needs language vital for national security interests.

RUSSIAN IS ONE OF THE WORLD’S TOP FIVE LANGUAGES
• Fifth on the list of languages spoken by the most people, after only Mandarin, English, Hindi, & Spanish.
• An estimated 280 million people speak Russian, and 5.5 million of them live in the U.S.
• Russian is the most geographically widespread language of Eurasia, the most common native language in Europe, and a lingua franca from Eastern Europe to Central Asia.
• Russian is the 11th most spoken foreign language in the U.S. A million Americans speak Russian at home, and almost half of them speak English poorly.

RUSSIANS EXCEL IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD
• Science: Pavlov (the dog), Mendeleev (Periodic Chart), Gagarin (1st man in space), Tereshkova (1st woman in space), Sakharov (Soviet atomic bomb), etc.
• Military: Kutuzov (defeated Napoleon), Zhukov (defeated Hitler), Kalashnikov (AK-47 & AK-74), etc.
• Music & Dance: Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Ballets russes, Baryshnikov, Nureyev, etc.
• Literature: Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Solzhenitsyn, Nabokov, Pasternak, etc.
• Art and Film: Rublev (icons), Chagall, Kandinsky, Malevich, Eisenstein (Potemkin), Tarkovsky (The Mirror), Mikhlalkov (Burnt by the Sun), etc.
• Sports: Pavel Datsyuk, Sergey Fedorov, Alexander Ovechkin, Evgeny Plushenko, Maria Sharapova, Anna Kournikova, etc.

WHY YOU?
• Knowledge of Russian and Russian culture can help you advance in almost any field.
• There is less competition in the job market for those who gain fluency in Russian than for speakers of many other languages.

Compliments of the Wayne State University Russian Program: wsuslavic.org