



Teaching Exploration and Reformation of University General Education Curriculum *Appreciation of Russian Film* -Taking Shihezi University as an Example

Reaihan E¹ Tianlei Dong^{2*} Shuang Li² Yunyun Mao²

1. College of Water & Architectural Engineering, Shihezi University, Shihezi, 832000

2. International Relations Office, Shihezi University, Shihezi, 832000

Abstract: The course "Appreciation of Russian Film " is one of the general education curriculums of Shihezi University. Taking Shihezi University as an example, this paper introduces the background of this course, its teaching content, and its essential role in general education. Via analyzing and summarizing questionnaire survey results, the interest orientation of students' Learning was obtained, and ideas for further improvement and optimization of the course construction and reformation were put forward.

Keywords: General education course, Appreciation of Russian film, Culture, Language.

I. Introduction

China proposed the concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind" in 2012 and proposed the construction of the "Belt and Road" Initiative in 2013. As a core area of the "One Belt, One Road" Plan, Xinjiang has a natural geographical advantage. Xinjiang is adjacent to Russia and five Central Asian countries, where people use Russian as an official language or speak Russian well. Language is the best key to understanding a country's culture and society^[1]. Fluent language use and a good understanding of culture and society are significant international cooperation bases

This work acknowledges the financial support provided by the Education anReform Program of Shihezi University. (TXKZC2020-25; TXKZC2020-18)

First Author: Reaihan E, born on March 1989 , from Changji, Xinjiang. ereaihan@163.com
Research field: Russian language and culture, energy-saving technology and waste recycling

*Corresponding Author: Tianlei Dong, born in 1992, from Baoding, Hebei. 1017808063@qq.com
Research direction: Russian language and culture

2789-5882/© Shuangqing Academic Publishing House Limited All rights reserved.

Article history: Accepted October 30, 2023 Available online October 30, 2023

To cite this paper: Reaihan E,Tianlei Dong,Shuang Li,Yunyun Mao (2023). Teaching Exploration and Reformation of University General Education Curriculum Appreciation of Russian Film-Taking Shihezi University as an Example . Journal of Educational Research Progress, Vol3, Issue1, Pages 76-80.

Doi: <https://doi.org/10.55375/joerp.2023.3.9>

[2]. Shihezi University is located in Xinjiang, and with the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, it has more exchanges and cooperation with Russian-speaking countries. Students who graduate from Shihezi University always have more chances or need to use Russian in their future careers. Thus, it is significant to open general elective courses for students not majoring in Russian, providing them with a platform and way to learn. The original films help students understand Russian culture, history, and society^[3]. Using film in teaching is a teaching mode integrating vision, listening, and speaking, which can create a relaxed, happy, and Russian learning environment for students and has advantages that traditional teaching methods do not have^[4]. Therefore, Shihezi University opened and constructed the course "Appreciation of Russian Film" to teach students the Russian language and culture, combining classical Russian films and typical TV series.

II. Introduction to the course

This course values two credits. Since the spring semester of 2021, a total of 6 times have been offered, and a total of 463 students have taken this course. This concept of the course was arranged in three areas:

1. Appreciation of Russian film and TV series

Twelve Russian films and 2 Russian TV series have been watched in this course. The primary factor of the instructional film is that the content should be positive and reflect the mainstream cultural characteristics of Russian and Russian-speaking people^[4]. The selected theme includes war, history, inspiration, love, comedy, and other themes, involving classic and modern movies and TV series from the former Soviet Union, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. Teachers and students select all the films and series during the three-semester course construction process.

2. Everyday Language teaching

This course also teaches students the everyday language of Russian. For example: здравствуйте (Hello), до свидания (Goodbye), спасибо (Thank you), как дела (How are you doing), хорошо (OK), с новым годом (Happy New Year), с днем рождения (Happy Birthday) and other everyday expressions.

3. Introduction to Russian culture

The teacher introduced students traditional festivals and relative foods or cultures during the course, such as Victory Day, Meat Day, New Year, etc. The main attractions in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sochi, and other cities are also introduced from different aspects. Students showed high enthusiasm and interest in this course. Since this course is top-rated among students, some students reflect that it offers excellent popularity and that it is difficult for them to choose this course successfully. They asked teachers to expand the availability. Therefore, the course frequency has doubled in the subsequent semesters.

III. The role of this course in the general education curriculum

1. Provide a platform for students to learn Russian, understand Russian culture, and provide more employment opportunities.

Many non-Russian major students who are interested in Russian took this course. They want to learn Russian but have fewer ways to understand Russian culture. Through this general education curriculum/course, they will better understand Russian culture and customs, creating a good foundation for further Learning of Russian. Most students who took this course were zero-based and had no Russian learning experience, and their impression of Russian cultures was limited to the Internet. By taking this course, most students have developed a strong interest in Russian culture, customs, and cuisine, and their impression of Russians has also changed. Several students also

started their further study of Russian after taking this course. In addition, one of the essential goals of general education is to provide more opportunities for students to choose careers in the future. It needs to give students more flexibility of study and more work options.

2. Improve students' humanistic quality and artistic sentiment.

The films and TV series in this course were carefully selected. The film and TV series must attract students to watch and have high artistic value. For example, "The Figure Skating Queen" and "Going Vertical" fully display sportsmen's strong willpower and sportsmanship. The classic film "The Irony of Fate" fully shows the Russian customs and life of ordinary people. The "Christmas Tree" series of films introduced students to Russian New Year culture. These films and TV series can greatly improve students' humanistic quality and artistic sentiment.

3. Questionnaire survey analysis

After each session, a questionnaire survey was carried out among the students. Based on voluntary and anonymous questionnaire filling, 339 valid questionnaires were collected. Every questionnaire includes 13 questions, and four main points from them are analyzed as follows:

The favorite films of students are investigated. According to Fig.1, it can be seen that the classic film "The Dawns Here Are Quiet", which is widely known in China, is the most popular among students. Meanwhile, the comedies like "How I Have Become Russian", "Christmas Tree "and" Servant of the People (Part)" are also more popular among students. In addition, there are three classic films recommended by students to watch "Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears", "Song of the Soldiers" and "Defending Stalingrad".

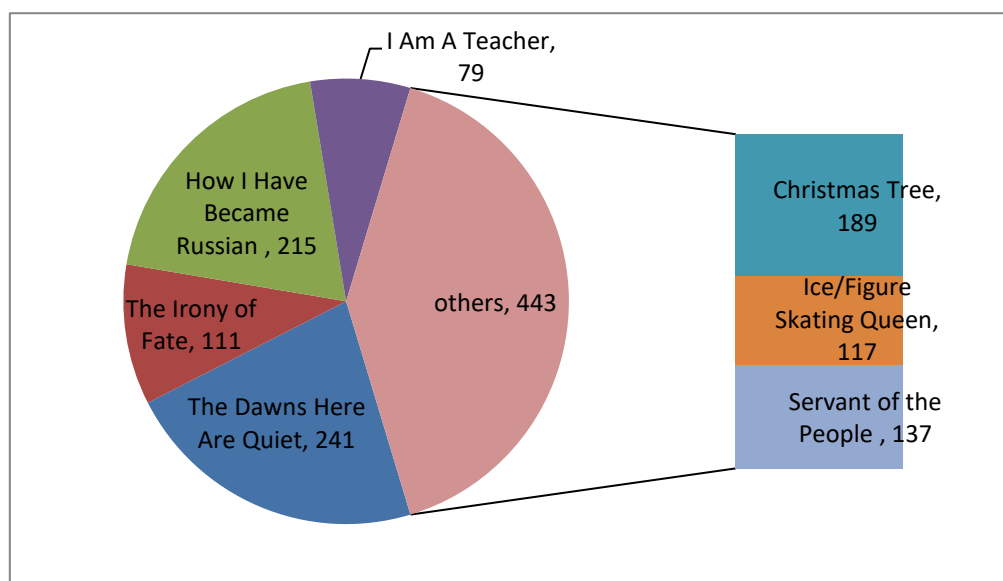


Fig. 1 Favorite films or TV series

In this course, teachers continuously adjusted the theme of films and TV series according to students' choices. As shown in Fig 2, it can be seen that students prefer to watch comedy-themed films and TV series and have the lowest desire to appreciate war-themed films and TV series. In addition, some students recommend movies and TV series about modern urban life to watch.

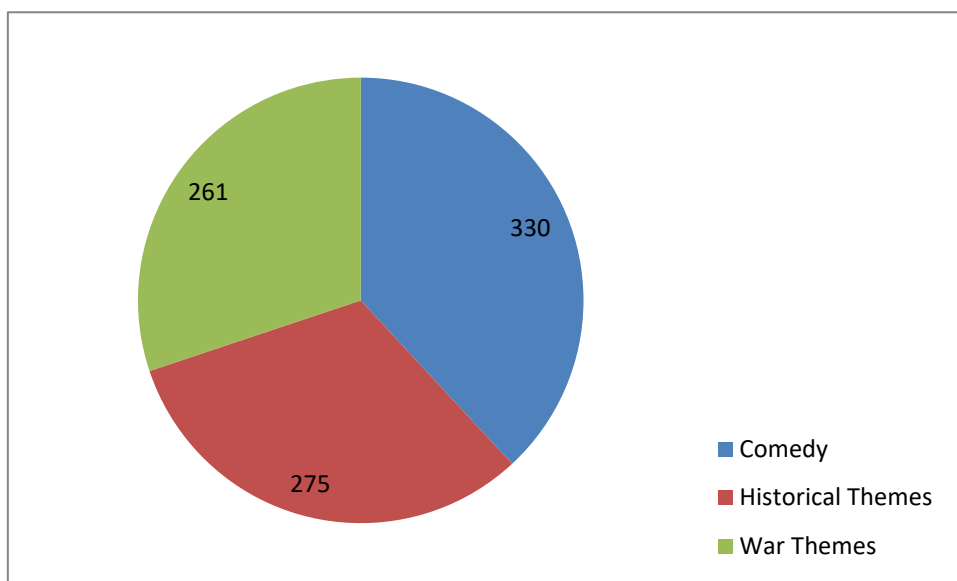


Fig. 2 Favorite themes of students

Teachers also surveyed the students' interest in Russian culture and language Learning. As shown in Fig 3, most students think that the amount of Russian cultural content in this course is moderate, and a small number of students believe this content can be increased. We can see from Fig 4 that most students show a neutral attitude about the arrangement of the language learning part; a few students think it is not arranged enough, and very few students think the language teaching part is too much. Teachers decided to keep the current amount of language content.

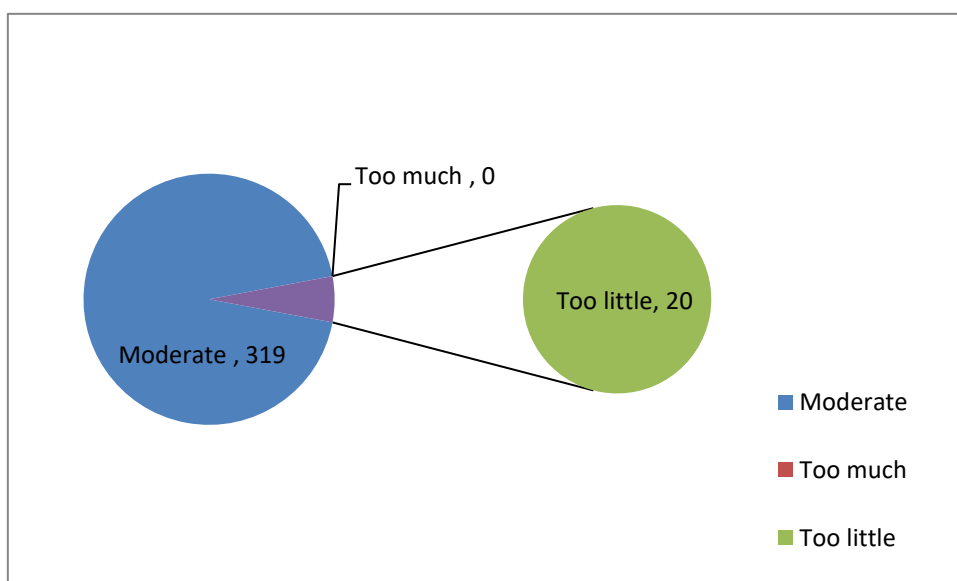


Fig. 3 Students' response on the arrangement of Russian culture part of this course

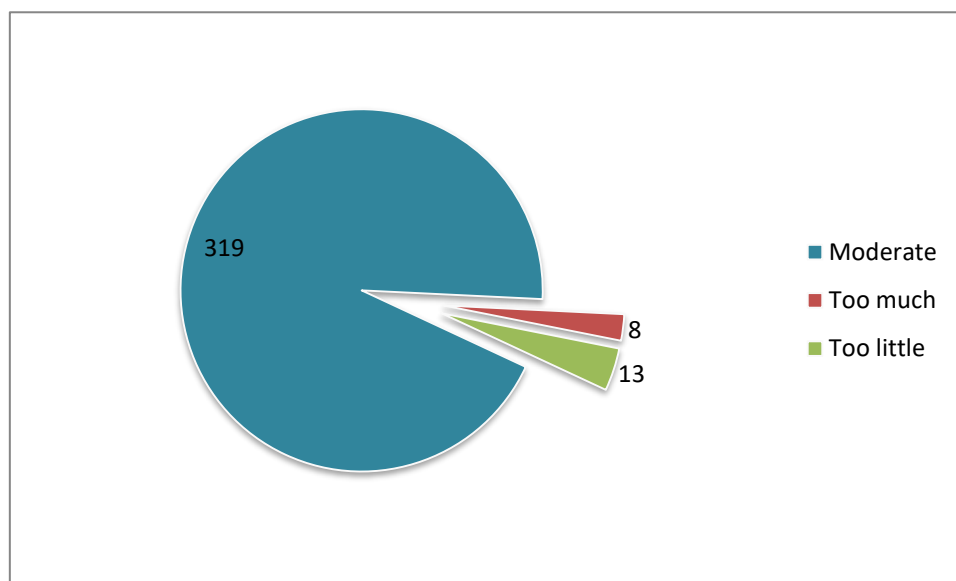


Fig.4 Students' response on the arrangement of the Russian language part of this course

V. Conclusion

The opening and construction of the course "Appreciation of Russian Film" provides students not majoring in Russian a platform and a way to learn Russian language and culture. The construction of this course is getting better and better. There is still a long way for further improvement in the content setting and teaching methods reforming the system. Themes of films and TV series are to be diversified. Culture, scenic spots, and historical sites need to be enriched. Teaching methods should also attach more importance to the application of modern teaching methods.

References:

- [1] Han, Y. (2022). Research on the application of Russian film art in Russian teaching from the perspective of linguistic culturology. *Hei Long Jiang Education (Theory & Practice)*, 6, 70-72. (In Chinese).
- [2] Li, T.J., Shen J. P., & Zhu, A.Q. (2020). The application of Russian film and television in Russian teaching. *Teaching and Talent Cultivation (High Education Forum)*, 27: 108-109. (In Chinese).
- [3] He, M.M. (2011). A brief analysis of the role of original films in promoting Russian Learning. *Youth Literator*, 22,89. (In Chinese).
- [4] Bao G,C.(2020) The application of film in Russian audiovisual teaching . *Overseas English*, 22: 118-119 (In Chinese).