The course explores Russian culture at the turn of the XX century - a very dynamic period of experimentation with different art forms and outstanding discoveries in the visual, literary and performing arts. The Silver Age produced a galaxy of brilliant artistic talents: we will speak about the poetry of Blok, Akhmatova and Mayakovsky, the music of Stravinsky and Scriabin, the “Ballets Russes” enterprise of Diaghilev, the paintings of Bakst, Roerich, Malevich and others. We will also discuss the impact of the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 on the arts and the lives of writers, musicians and artists.

Syllabus

Session 1.
Introduction. The concept of Silver Age. The time frame and the social-historical context. Distinctive characteristics of the Silver Age and their manifestation in music, art and literature. The major movements of the Silver Age.

Session 2.
Symbolism in music (A.Scriabin) and poetry (A.Blok). Fine arts of the Silver age: from the symbolism of “The World of Art” society to the beginning of Russian avant-garde.

Session 3.
From Symbolism to Acmeism: The life and poetry of Anna Akhmatova.

Session 4.

Session 5.
S.Diaghilev and The Ballets Russes: the leading dancers and choreographers: Fokin, Nijinsky, Massine, Balanchine, Nijinska, Pavlova, Karsavina et al.

Session 6.