Syllabus

Session 1
a) **Introduction**: the concept of national character and methods of studying it.
b) **Geography**: Brief overview of major geographical features of the Russian Federation. Important geographical concepts in Russian consciousness.

Session 2
a) **Geography: the Land and the People**: Analysis of geographical factors that molded the Russian character.
b) **Highlights of Russian history**: significant events and personages in Russian mentality.

Session 3
**Russian History and the People**
Historical factors that molded the Russian national character

Session 4
**Russian values and attitudes**
Comparison of Russian and American values: communaellsm, privacy, risk taking, fatalism, attitude to authority, attitude to money, etc.
Russian emotionality and maximalism.

Session 5
**Values and attitudes (continued)**
Russian ways and manners: irrationality and superstitions, communicative behavior, law compliance, attitude to time.
Reflection of the national character in Russian fairy tales.
How is the younger generation of modern Russians different from their fathers?

Session 6
**Lifestyle, habits and customs**
Russian food favorites; the history of Russian food; traditions of tea drinking. Partying and toast making; dacha in Russian life; steam bath and ice-swimming; Russian holidays.