

PROFESSOR RICHARD TEMPEST

RUSS 122 / CWL 122: RUSSIA AND BLACK AMERICA. SPRING 2023

MW 3.00–3.50 PM (LECTURES)

W 4.00–4.50 PM OR F 1.00–1.50 PM (DISCUSSION)



A survey of the interactions between key African American figures and Russian culture. The course explores the Russian-sourced cultural transfers that influenced the Black American experience; and examines the impact of that experience on people and events in Russia. Who were the Black artists, activists, and adventurers who traveled there, and what did they discover?

Learn about the lives of four African Americans with a strong Russian connection: the New York bellhop who became a millionaire in pre-revolutionary Moscow; the Ford Motor Company worker who spent four decades as a captive of the Soviet regime; the child actor who became a cult poet; and the young female writer who witnessed the decline of Soviet communism.

All materials are in English. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for US Minority Cultures.