

Mission Siberia - UCSD Global Seminar



FACULTY LEADER

[Rebecca Wells](#)
prwells@ucsd.edu



INFO SESSIONS

- **Monday, Feb. 3, 3-4:30 pm**, Study Abroad Programming Space
- **Thursday, Feb. 6, 5:00-6 pm**, Study Abroad Programming Space

Rebecca Wells is a lecturer in Russian who has taught and supervised Russian language courses for the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Program since 1989. She is enthusiastic about sharing her interest in this culturally and politically important country with students and received a distinguished Teaching Award in 2010. She has studied Russian for almost 40 years, and previously worked with the UC Education Abroad Program to establish their program in St. Petersburg and Moscow, including serving as Acting Director in Moscow in 1996 and 1997. Rebecca has a graduate degree in Slavic Linguistics and a special interest in Russian Language Pedagogy.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

LTEU 152GS: Ethnic Studies in Russia—Buryatia

LTEU 153GS: Environmental Studies in Russia—Lake Baikal

LTEU 152GS looks at indigenous identity through a comparison of Native Americans in the US and the largest indigenous group in Russia, the Buryats, and issues of race, ethnicity, and power vis a vis the dominant culture. Emphasis is on the strength of indigenous identity based on literature and culture, tradition, and religion, as well as its intersections with gender, sexuality, age, and other categories of identity. An extensive program of field trips and meetings with members of the Buryat community, along with abundant internet resources related to Native American culture and identity will provide a rich base of primary source material for students' analysis.

LTEU 153GS explores physical and biological characteristics of Lake Baikal, the oldest and deepest lake in the world, risks to its survival, and changes already observed in the ecosystem. It also delves into Baikal's cultural significance in arts, literature, and religion, political, historical, and economic issues. Students will be involved in research, service projects, and experiential learning. A central focus of our discussions will be the form and function of various texts relating to these issues—scientific texts, personal narrative, literature, journalism, etc...

Students of all majors are encouraged to apply. For both courses, Russian language instruction will be integrated according to student proficiency. **NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF RUSSIAN IS REQUIRED!**

<https://studyabroad.ucsd.edu/students/programs/global-seminars/irkutsk/index.html>

Contact: Rebecca Wells at prwells@ucsd.edu or Jim Galvin at UCSD Programs Abroad (858) 534-1123.