

My favorite...

Who doesn't like "cream colored ponies and crisp apple strudels"? Most people tend to like similar things, don't they? I believe that it is rather *the things we dislike* that can actually reveal our true face!

So - here is the list of things I don't like ☺

Courses to teach: Any class from which I can't learn something new. And fortunately, in most cases my students provide many new insights to the material that I teach, and I hope the process goes both ways. I am glad and proud to have many of my former students on my list of Russian Facebook's "Friends".

Russian author: Authors who have nothing in common with Vladimir Mayakovsky, Vladimir Nabokov, Vladimir Vysotsky or Joseph Brodsky rank low on my list. But fortunately, my favorites are so profoundly rooted in Russian culture and have so deliberately fertilized the Russian literary tradition that there is almost nobody left in either past or future who is not connected to them. ☺

Piece of Russian music: Any piece of music that is turned into a ringtone. And generally, any piece of music that has a mechanical rhythm and no real melody (My apologies to all of you rap fans!). Classic rock music (both Western and Russian) is so much better! ☺

Russian movie: "Borat"... While I don't consider it a "Russian" movie, it stands out because it is so clearly anti-Russian... I just LOVE to hate it! ☺

Russian city: Moscow... Sorry, I just don't like huge, crowded and expensive cities. Unfortunately, many of the greatest museums, theatres and libraries are concentrated there. Of course, there is a wonderful compromise... St. Petersburg, a city with almost equal opportunity for sight-seeing, clubbing, learning is also a pleasant place to visit. ☺

Russian leader: Oh, that is easy... All of them! Power in a country like Russia tends to be absolute. And what does absolute power do to an individual? - alas... It corrupts absolutely. ☺

Pastime: Surfing Internet... although I spend a regrettably large amount of time doing it ☺

Russian dish: Ice-cream and vodka. The first is cold and fattening and the second knocks me down. O.K., O.K. it's not very "Russian" of me but I would rather remember the party the next morning. ☺

Russian word/expression: Нельзя ("Don't"). If you want to make me do something, just tell me that it is prohibited. ☺

Purdue landmark: I am a newcomer to Purdue and haven't grown to dislike anything here yet. So far this campus seems so disgustingly likable! ☺