RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Director of undergraduate studies: Bella Grigoryan, 2705 HGS, 432-1301, bella.grigoryan@yale.edu

FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAJOR

Professors Vladimir Alexandrov (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Paul Bushkovitch (History), Katerina Clark (Comparative Literature, Slavic Languages & Literatures), Laura Engelstein (History), John Gaddis (History), Harvey Goldblatt (Slavic Languages & Literatures), John MacKay (Slavic Languages & Literatures, Film Studies), Timothy Snyder (History)

Associate Professors Douglas Rogers (Anthropology), Marcی Shore (History)

Assistant Professors Marijeta Bozovic (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Molly Brunson (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Bella Grigoryan (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Jason Lyall (Political Science)

Lecturer Hilary Fink

Senior Lector II Irina Dolgova

Senior Lectors Krystyna Ilakowicz, Constantine Muravnik, Julia Titus, Karen von Kunes

The major in Russian and East European Studies, administered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of a broad region: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Caucasus, and Central Asia; Poland, Hungary, the Czech and Slovak Republics, and other areas in east central Europe; and the Balkans. The program is appropriate for students considering careers in international public policy, diplomacy, or business, and is also suited to students wishing to continue academic work.

Languages A full understanding of the area demands a knowledge of its languages. Students must demonstrate either proficiency in Russian or intermediate-level ability in an East European language. Students may demonstrate proficiency in Russian by (1) completing fourth-year Russian (R USS 160, 161); (2) passing a written examination to demonstrate equivalent ability; or (3) completing a literature course taught in Russian and approved by the director of undergraduate studies. Students may demonstrate intermediate-level ability in an East European language by (1) completing a two-year sequence in an East European language (currently Czech or Polish; students interested in studying other East European languages should contact the director of undergraduate studies); or (2) by passing a language examination demonstrating equivalent ability. Students are encouraged to learn more than one language.

Course requirements Thirteen term courses taken for a letter grade are required for the major. Students must take one course in Russian or East European history selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. If Russian is presented as the primary language to satisfy the requirements of the major, then all East European language courses and third- and fourth-year Russian courses count toward the major. If an East European language other than Russian is presented as the primary language, then all courses in that language designated L3 or higher count toward the major. Electives are chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies from an annual list of offerings. Electives must include at least one course in a social science. Other undergraduate courses relevant to Russian and East European Studies, including residential college seminars, may also count toward the major if approved by the director of undergraduate studies. Qualified students may elect pertinent courses in the Graduate School with the permission of the instructor, the director of graduate studies, and the director of undergraduate studies.

Senior requirement Every major must write a senior essay in RSEE 490, 491. At the beginning of the senior year, students enroll in RSEE 490 and arrange for a faculty member to serve as senior adviser. By the third Friday of October, majors submit a detailed prospectus of the essay, with bibliography, to the adviser. A draft of at least ten pages of the text of the essay, or a detailed outline of the entire essay, is due to the adviser by the last day of reading period. The student provides the adviser with a form that the adviser signs to notify the director of undergraduate studies that the first-term requirements for the senior essay have been met. Failure to meet these requirements results in loss of credit for RSEE 490. The senior essay takes the form of a substantial article, no longer than 13,000 words, including footnotes and bibliography. Three copies of the essay are due in the Slavic departmental office by April 11, 2014. A member of the faculty other than the adviser grades the essay.

Study and travel Students should be aware of opportunities for study and travel in Russia and eastern Europe. The director of undergraduate studies can provide information on these programs and facilitate enrollment. Students who spend all or part of the academic year in the region participating in established academic programs usually receive Yale College credit, and are strongly encouraged to take advantage of study abroad opportunities during summers or through the Year or Term Abroad program. Students wishing to travel abroad as part of the major should consult the director of undergraduate studies by October 1.

M.A. program The European and Russian Studies program does not offer the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees. However, students in Yale College are eligible to complete the M.A. in European and Russian Studies (with concentration in Russia and eastern Europe) in one year of graduate work. Students interested in this option must complete eight graduate courses in the area by the time they complete the bachelor’s degree. Only two courses may be counted toward both the graduate degree and the undergraduate major. Successful completion of graduate courses while still an undergraduate does not guarantee admission into the M.A. program. Students must submit the standard application for admission to the M.A. program.
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisite or corequisite  Demonstrated proficiency in Russian or intermediate-level ability in an East European lang
Number of courses  13 term courses (incl senior essay and specified lang courses)
Distribution of courses  1 course in Russian or East European hist approved by DUS; at least 1 course in social sciences
Senior requirement  Senior essay (RSEE 490, 491)

*RSEE 240a / CZEC 246a / FILM 564a, Milos Forman and His Films  Karen von Kunes
An in-depth examination of selected films by Milos Forman and representatives of the New Wave, cinéma vérité in Czech filmmaking.
Special attention to Forman’s artistic and aesthetic development as a Hollywood director in such films as Hair, One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Ragtime, and Amadeus. Screenings and discussion in English.  HU

*RSEE 25b / LITR 206b / RUSS 25b, Studies in the Novel: Tolstoy  Vladimir Alexandrov
A survey of Leo Tolstoy’s legacy. Readings include early stories, War and Peace and Anna Karenina, and short later works. Close textual analysis, with primary attention to the interrelation of theme, form, and literary and cultural contexts. Readings and discussion in English.  HU Tr

*RSEE 256a / LITR 208a / RUSS 256a, Studies in the Novel: Dostoevsky  Molly Brunson
The literary and intellectual legacy of Fyodor Dostoevsky. Focus on Crime and Punishment and The Brothers Karamazov; consideration of several short stories and novellas. Special attention to Dostoevsky’s concept of modernity. Close textual analysis is accompanied by discussion of the historical, biographical, literary, and philosophical contexts of Dostoevsky’s novels. Readings and discussion in English.  HU Tr

*RSEE 321b / FILM 441b / LITR 391b / RUSS 245b, Russian Film  Katerina Clark and Mihaela Mihailova
Overview of Russian, Soviet, and post-Soviet cinema, from the inception of silent film in prerevolutionary Russia to the present.
Theoretical writings and canonical films of important figures such as Sergei Eisenstein, Dziga Vertov, Andrei Tarkovsky, Kira Muratova, Alexei German, and Alexander Sokurov. Special attention to films by Soviet minority directors. The genre diversity of Soviet and post-Soviet film, including animation, musical comedy, rock film, and historical drama.  HU Tr

*RSEE 327a / FILM 409a / HUMS 452a / LITR 306a / RUSS 327a, The Danube in Literature and Film  Marijeta Bozovic
The Danube River in the film, art, and literature of various Danubian cultural traditions, from the late nineteenth century to the present.
Geography and history of the region that includes the river’s shores and watershed; physical, historical, and metaphoric uses of the Danube; the region as a contested multilingual, multicultural, and multinational space, and as a quintessential site of cross-cultural engagement.  HU Tr

*RSEE 390b / HIST 237b / HUMS 285b / RUSS 241b, Russian Culture: The Modern Age  John MacKay and Paul Bushkovitch
An interdisciplinary exploration of Russian cultural history, focusing on literature, art, religion, social and political thought, and film.
Conceptions of Russian nationhood; the myths of St. Petersburg; dissent and persecution; the role of social and cultural elites; the intelligentsia; attitudes toward the common people; conflicting appeals of rationality, spirituality, and idealism; the politicization of personal life; the impact of the Bolshevik Revolution and its aftermath.  HU

*RSEE 415b / FILM 463b / RUSS 415b, Eastern European Master Directors  Dominika Laster
The theories and methods of both theater and film directors in the Eastern European tradition. Focus on directors whose research and creative work is paradigmatic of theatrical and cinematic trends in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The directors’ artistic visions, work with actors, texts or scripts, use of light and space, performance construction, and montage techniques. Open to junior and senior Theater Studies majors, and to nonmajors with permission of the instructor.  HU

*RSEE 490a and RSEE 491b, The Senior Essay  Bella Grigoryan
Preparation of the senior essay under faculty supervision. The essay grade becomes the grade for both terms of the course. Required of all seniors majoring in Russian and East European Studies. Credit for RSEE 490 only on completion of RSEE 491.

Related Courses That Count toward the Major

Students are encouraged to examine the offerings in Slavic Languages and Literatures and other departments, as well as residential college seminars, for additional related courses that may count toward the major.

ANTH 209b, Eurasia after the Soviet Union  Douglas Rogers
Changes in the lives of former Soviet citizens following the Soviet Union’s disintegration in 1991. Transformations in politics, culture, religion, gender, consumption patterns, and national identity; interconnections among these issues. Changes in Eurasia viewed as windows onto global transformations of knowledge, power, and culture at the turn of the twenty-first century.  SO
Anthropology: Sociocultural

*ANTH 436a, Culture, Power, Oil  Douglas Rogers
The production, circulation, and consumption of petroleum as they relate to globalization, empire, cultural performance, natural resource extraction, and the nature of the state. Case studies include the United States, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and the former Soviet Union.  SO
Anthropology: Sociocultural
*HIST 221Jb, Memoirs of Twentieth-Century Europe  Laura Engelstein
Exploration of how men and women of twentieth-century Europe (including Russia) made sense of their lives in the context of war, revolution, and cultural conflict. Focus on first-person narratives, some by professional writers, others by ordinary people searching for personal and cultural identity.  WR, HU

HIST 290a, Russia from the Ninth Century to 1801  Paul Bushkovitch
The mainstream of Russian history from the Kievan state to 1801. Political, social, and economic institutions and the transition from Eastern Orthodoxy to the Enlightenment.  HU
History: Preindustrial

*LITR 466a / FILM 429a, War in Literature and Film  Katerina Clark
Representations of war in literature and film; reasons for changes over time in portrayals of war. Texts by Stendahl, Tolstoy, Juenger, Remarque, Malraux, and Vonnegut; films by Eisenstein, Tarkovsky, Joris Ivens, Coppola, Spielberg, and Altman.  HU