SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Professors Vladimir Alexandrov, Katerina Clark, Harvey Goldblatt, John MacKay

Assistant Professors Marijeta Bozovic, Molly Brunson, Bella Grigoryan

Lecturer Hilary Fink

Senior Lector II Irina Dolgova

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

The major in Russian offered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures acquaints students with Russian literature and culture, develops students’ appreciation of literary values and skill in literary analysis, and gives them a basic competence in Russian. For an area major in Russian studies, see Russian and East European Studies, an interdisciplinary program administered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Students majoring in Russian may concentrate exclusively on Russian language and literature (Program I), or they may elect to study Russian literature in the context of comparative studies of literature (Program II). For Program II, credit is given for work done in other departments. Specific courses in each program must be arranged with the director of undergraduate studies. Students interested in specializing in Russian or Slavic linguistics may arrange a special concentration in linguistics with the director of undergraduate studies.

The major Prerequisite to the major in both programs is RUSS 151. The department offers two sequences of language courses to fulfill the prerequisite: either (1) RUSS 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, and 151 or (2) RUSS 125, 145, 150, and 151. Prospective majors should complete RUSS 140 or 145 by the end of their sophomore year or accelerate their course of study by taking summer courses or studying abroad. While completing the prerequisite, students are encouraged to begin fulfilling requirements of the major that do not presuppose advanced knowledge of Russian by taking courses in Russian history and Russian literature in translation.

In addition to the prerequisite, the major in Russian requires at least eleven term courses, which must include the following (some courses may fulfill more than one requirement):

1. Two terms of Russian literature in translation: RUSS 250 and 253.
3. Two terms of Russian literature read and discussed in the original language, typically selected from Group A courses numbered 170 or above.
4. At least two term courses in Russian literature of the nineteenth century and two in Russian literature of the twentieth century. Students should select courses from Group A and from the 250 series with this requirement in mind.
5. RUSS 490. The senior essay is the intellectual culmination of the student’s work in the major. All primary sources used in the essay must be read in Russian.

In addition to the requirements above, each program requires the following:

Program I One term course in the history or culture of Russia, selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies; three additional term courses in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures above RUSS 151. These may include literature courses taught either in translation or in the original, advanced language training courses, or graduate courses.

Program II Four term courses outside the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures that are relevant to the major in the context of comparative studies of literature, selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

Senior requirement All majors write a senior essay (RUSS 490), an independent project carried out under the guidance of a faculty member. Three copies of the essay are due in the Slavic departmental office on April 11, 2014.

Placement examination A departmental placement examination will be given before the first day of classes in the fall term; see the Center for Language Study Web site (http://cls.yale.edu/placement-testing) for the time and location. Students who have studied Russian elsewhere must take the placement examination before enrolling in any Russian language course at Yale. For further information consult Irina Dolgova, language coordinator, 432-1307.

Graduate courses Courses in the Graduate School are open to qualified undergraduates with permission of the instructor and of the director of graduate studies. Course descriptions are available at the office of the director of graduate studies.

Study abroad Students majoring in Russian are strongly encouraged to spend a summer or a term studying in the Russian Federation under the auspices of programs approved by the director of undergraduate studies. Language courses taken during the summer or during
a term in Russia in approved programs may substitute for certain advanced Russian courses at Yale. Students interested in study abroad should consult the director of undergraduate studies well before their junior year.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

**Prerequisite** RUSS 151

**Number of courses** 11 term courses beyond prereq (incl senior essay)

**Specific courses required** Both programs – RUSS 160, 161, 250, 253

**Distribution of courses** Both programs – 2 terms of 19th-century Russian lit; 2 terms of 20th-century Russian lit; 2 courses from Group A numbered 170 or above; Program I – 1 course in hist or culture of Russia; 3 addtl courses in dept of Slavic Langs and Lits above level of RUSS 151; Program II – 4 courses relevant to major in other depts, with DUS approval

**Senior requirement** Senior essay (RUSS 490)

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**Czech, Polish, Romanian, and Ukrainian**

**CZEC 110a, Elementary Czech I** Karen von Kunes

A comprehensive introduction to Czech for students with no previous knowledge of the language. Essentials of grammar, with emphasis on oral proficiency, reading, writing, and listening comprehension. Newspaper articles, annotated excerpts from Capek’s *R.U.R.*, Hasek’s *Svejk*, Kundera’s *Joke and Unbearable Lightness of Being*, and Havel’s *Private View*. Audio- and videotapes. Credit only on completion of CZEC 120. L1 RP 1½ Course cr

**CZEC 120b, Elementary Czech II** Karen von Kunes

Continuation of CZEC 110. After CZEC 110 or equivalent. L2 RP 1½ Course cr

**CZEC 130a, Intermediate Czech** Karen von Kunes

Continuation of CZEC 120. Grammar and usage, with emphasis on idiomatic expressions, syntax, and stylistics. Readings in modern Czech history, prose, and poetry; discussion of economic, political, and social issues. After CZEC 120 or equivalent. L3 RP 1½ Course cr

**CZEC 140b, Advanced Czech** Karen von Kunes

Continuation of CZEC 130. Emphasis on writing skills and spoken literary Czech. After CZEC 130 or equivalent. L4 RP 1½ Course cr

*CZEC 246a / FILM 364a / RSEE 240a, 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

**PLSH 110a, Elementary Polish I** Krystyna Illakowicz

A comprehensive introduction to Elementary Polish grammar and conversation, with emphasis on spontaneous oral expression. Reading of original texts, including poetry. Use of video materials. Credit only on completion of PLSH 120. L1 RP 1½ Course cr

**PLSH 120b, Elementary Polish II** Krystyna Illakowicz

Continuation of PLSH 110. After PLSH 110 or equivalent. L2 RP 1½ Course cr

**PLSH 130a, Intermediate Polish I** Krystyna Illakowicz

A reading and conversation course conducted in Polish. Systematic review of grammar; practice in speaking and composition; reading of selected texts, including poetry. Use of video materials. After PLSH 120 or equivalent. L3 RP 1½ Course cr

**PLSH 140b, Intermediate Polish II** Krystyna Illakowicz

Continuation of PLSH 130. After PLSH 130 or equivalent. L4 RP 1½ Course cr

*PLSH 248b / THST 370b, Polish Theater and Its Traditions* Krystyna Illakowicz

Exploration of the rebellious, defiant, and explosive nature of Polish theater, including ways in which theater has challenged, ridiculed, dissected, and disabled oppressive political power. Polish experimental and absurdist traditions that resulted from a merger of the artistic and the political; environmental and community traditions of the Reduta Theatre; Polish-American theater connections. Includes attendance at live theater events as well as meetings with Polish theater groups and actors. HU Tr

*ROMN 110a, Elementary Romanian I* Mona Momescu

The first half of a two-term introduction to Romanian language, grammar, and cultural literacy centered around the theme of life in Bucharest. Topics, vocabulary, and grammar lessons based on everyday linguistic interactions in the city. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. Credit only on completion of ROMN 120. L1

*ROMN 120b, Elementary Romanian II* Mona Momescu

The second half of a two-term introduction to Romanian language, grammar, and cultural literacy centered around the theme of life in Bucharest. Topics, vocabulary, and grammar lessons based on everyday linguistic interactions in the city. Prerequisite: ROMN 110. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. L2
*ROMN 130a, Intermediate Romanian I  Mona Momescu
Continuation of ROMN 120, with attention to all four language skills and to cultural literacy. Students reach B2 level in compliance with
the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL). Prerequisite: ROMN 120 or equivalent. Course taught through
distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail
minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information.  L3

*UKRN 110a*, Elementary Ukrainian I  Staff
The first half of a two-term introduction to Ukrainian for students with no previous knowledge of the language. Emphasis on speaking,
reading, listening, and writing skills. Topics, vocabulary, and grammar lessons based on everyday linguistic interactions. Course taught
through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University. Enrollment limited; interested students should
e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information. Credit only on completion of UKRN 120.  L1

*UKRN 120b*, Elementary Ukrainian II  Staff
The second half of a two-term introduction to Ukrainian for students with no previous knowledge of the language. Emphasis on
speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills. Topics, vocabulary, and grammar lessons based on everyday linguistic interactions.
Prerequisite: UKRN 110. Course taught through distance learning using videoconferencing technology from Columbia University.
Enrollment limited; interested students should e-mail minjin.hashbat@yale.edu for more information.  L1

Group A

Unless otherwise noted, all Group A courses are conducted in Russian.

RUSS 110a, First-Year Russian I  Julia Titus
A video-based course designed to develop all four language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension. Use of
dialogues, games, and role playing. In addition to readings in the textbook, students read original short stories and learn Russian songs
and poems. Oral and written examinations. Credit only on completion of RUSS 120.  L1  RP  1½ Course cr

RUSS 120b, First-Year Russian II  Julia Titus
Continuation of RUSS 110. After RUSS 110 or equivalent.  L2  RP  1½ Course cr

RUSS 125a, Intensive Elementary Russian  Constantine Muravnik
An intensive course that covers in one term the material taught in RUSS 110 and 120. For students of superior linguistic ability. Study of
Russian grammar; practice in conversation, reading, and composition. Recommended for prospective majors in Russian and in Russian
and East European Studies.  L1, L2  RP  2 Course cr

RUSS 130a, Second-Year Russian I  Irina Dolgova
A course to improve functional competence in all four language skills (speaking, writing, reading, and listening comprehension). Audio
activities, for use both in the classroom and independently, are designed to help students improve their listening comprehension skills
and pronunciation. Lexical and grammatical materials are thematically based. After RUSS 120 or equivalent.  L3  RP  1½ Course cr

RUSS 140b, Second-Year Russian II  Irina Dolgova
Continuation of RUSS 130. After RUSS 130 or equivalent.  L4  RP  1½ Course cr

RUSS 145b, Intensive Intermediate Russian  Constantine Muravnik
A continuation of RUSS 125 that covers in one term the material taught in RUSS 130 and 140. For students of superior linguistic ability. Prerequisite: RUSS 125.  L3, L4  RP  2 Course cr

RUSS 150a, Third-Year Russian I  Constantine Muravnik
Intensive practice in conversation and composition accompanied by review and refinement of grammar. Readings from nineteenth- and
twentieth-century literature, selected readings in Russian history and current events, and videotapes and films are used as the basis of
structured conversation, composition, and grammatical exercises. Oral and written examinations. Audiovisual work in the Center for
Language Study required. After RUSS 140 or 145 or equivalent.  L5  RP  1½ Course cr

RUSS 151b, Third-Year Russian II  Constantine Muravnik
Continuation of RUSS 150. After RUSS 150 or equivalent.  L5  RP  1½ Course cr

RUSS 160a, Fourth-Year Russian I  Irina Dolgova
Discussion topics include Russian culture, literature, and self-identity; the old and new capitals of Russia, the cultural impact of the
Russian Orthodox Church, and Russia at war. Readings from mass media, textbooks, and classic and modern literature. Use of video
materials. After RUSS 151 or equivalent.  L5

RUSS 161b, Fourth-Year Russian II  Irina Dolgova
Continuation of RUSS 160. After RUSS 160 or equivalent.  L5

*RUSS 178b, The Russian Short Story  Julia Titus
Chronological study of celebrated Russian short stories. Authors include Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Nabokov, and
Tolstaya. Readings and discussion in Russian. Prerequisite: RUSS 140, 145, or equivalent.  L5, HU
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

*RUSS 179a, The Grotesque in Victor Pelevin  Constantine Muravnik
Major novels and short stories by contemporary Russian writer Victor Pelevin. Focus on the theory of the grotesque and on the relationship between imagination and reality. Diverse conceptions of the grotesque; the ethical and aesthetic significance of the conflict between the real and the fantastic; Pelevin’s place in the specifically Russian grotesque tradition of Gogol and Nabokov. Prerequisite: RUSS 140 or equivalent. 15, HU RP

Group B

The courses in this group, conducted in English, are open to all Yale College students.

*RUSS 202a, The Divine and the Human in Russian Fiction  Vladimir Alexandrov
A study of major works by several of the greatest writers in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian literature: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Bely, Nabokov, and Bulgakov. Primary attention to the ways the authors embody in their themes, devices, and forms the link between the human realm and the transcendent, a central preoccupation of Russian culture. Readings and discussion in English. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU Tr

RUSS 241b / HIST 237b / HUMS 285b / RSEE 390b, 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

*RUSS 245b / FILM 441b / LITR 391b / RSEE 321b, Russian Film  Katerina Clark and Mihaela Mihaileova
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

*RUSS 250a / HUMS 276a, Masterpieces of Russian Literature I  Molly Brunson
Introduction to major texts of the nineteenth-century Russian literary tradition. Works by Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov examined in their social and historical contexts. Emphasis on the authors’ use of genre, language, and literary devices to explore pressing questions posed by Russian modernity. Readings and discussion in English.  HU Tr

*RUSS 253b / HUMS 203b, Masterpieces of Russian Literature II  Marijeta Bozovic
A survey of major writers and literary movements, focusing on the intersection of art and revolution in twentieth-century Russian literature. The Symbolists and Decadents at the end of the nineteenth century; the reception of the 1917 Revolution by Russian writers in the 1920s; the formation of Stalinist literary orthodoxy and reactions against it; contemporary literary rebellions against the political and artistic legacies of the past. Works by Chekhov, Bely, Babel, Akhmatova, Bulgakov, Pasternak, and Pelevin. Readings and discussion in English.  HU Tr

RUSS 255b / LITR 206b / RSEE 255b, 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

RUSS 256a / LITR 208a / RSEE 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

*RUSS 313a, The Irrational in Russian Literature  Hilary Fink
Themes of the irrational, the absurd, and madness in works of Russian literature from romanticism to contemporary fiction. Particular attention to the role of the individual in society, the battle in Russian thought between reason and antireason, and the function of the irrational in the search for ontological truth. Authors include Gogol, Dostoevsky, Kharrms, and others. Readings and discussion in English.  HU Tr

*RUSS 321a / HUMS 212a / LITR 205a, Capitalism and the Nineteenth-Century European Novel  Bella Grigoryan and Vadim Shneyder
The cultural significance and literary representations of capitalism in nineteenth-century Europe. Labor and leisure; material culture and consumerism; social and geographic mobility; constitution of the modern self; the public sphere; private life; economics and literary form. Works by Balzac, Gogol, Dickens, Dostoevsky, and Zola supplemented by selections from theoretical writings. Readings and discussion in English.  HU Tr

*RUSS 327a / FILM 409a / HUMS 452a / LITR 306a / RSEE 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

*RUSS 415b / FILM 463b / RSEE 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

Group C

*RUSS 480a and RUSS 481b, Directed Reading in Russian Literature  Bella Grigoryan
Individual study under the supervision of a faculty member selected by the student. Applicants must submit a prospectus approved by the adviser to the director of undergraduate studies by the end of the first week of classes in the term in which the course is taken. The student meets with the adviser at least one hour each week, and takes a final examination or writes a term paper. No credit granted without prior approval of the director of undergraduate studies.

*RUSS 490a or b, The Senior Essay  Bella Grigoryan
Research and writing on a topic of the student’s own devising. Regular meetings with an adviser as the work progresses from prospectus to final form.

*SLAV 485a or b, Directed Reading or Individual Research in Slavic Languages and Literatures  Bella Grigoryan
Individual study under the supervision of a faculty member selected by the student. Applicants must submit a prospectus approved by the adviser to the director of undergraduate studies by the end of the first week of classes in the term in which the course is taken. The student meets with the adviser at least one hour each week, and takes a final examination or writes a term paper. No credit granted without prior approval of the director of undergraduate studies.