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

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Lecturer Hilary Fink

Senior Lectors II Irina Dolgova, Constantine Muravnik

Senior Lectors Krystyna Illakowicz, 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 (http://catalog.yale.edu/archive/2015-2016/ycps/subjects-of-instruction/russian-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 15, 2016.

Placement examination

The online departmental placement examination will be available from July 1 through August 15; see the Center for Language Study Web site (http://cls.yale.edu/placement-testing) for more information. 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 (irina.dolgova@yale.edu), 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 undergraduate 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)

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 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 150a or b, Advanced Polish  Krystyna Illakowicz
Improvement of high-level language skills through reading, comprehension, discussion, and writing. Focus on the study of language through major literary and cultural texts, as well as through film and other media. Exploration of major historical and cultural themes. Prerequisite: PLSH 140 or equivalent. L5

* ROMN 110a, Elementary Romanian I  Staff
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  Staff
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  Staff
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
* ROMN 140b, Intermediate Romanian II  Staff  
Continuation of ROMN 130, with attention to all four language skills and to cultural literacy. Students reach C1 level in compliance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL). 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.  1.4

* 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.  1.1

* 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.  1.2

Group A

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

RUSS 110a, First-Year Russian I  Staff  
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.  1.1, RP  1½Course cr

RUSS 120b, First-Year Russian II  Julia Titus  
Continuation of RUSS 110. After RUSS 110 or equivalent.  1.2, RP  1½Course 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.  1.1, 1.2, RP  2Course 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.  1.3, RP  1½Course cr

RUSS 140b, Second-Year Russian II  Irina Dolgova  
Continuation of RUSS 130. After RUSS 130 or equivalent.  1.4, RP  1½Course 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.  1.3, 1.4, RP  2Course 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.  1.5, RP  1½Course cr

RUSS 151b, Third-Year Russian II  Constantine Muravnik  
Continuation of RUSS 150. After RUSS 150 or equivalent.  1.5, RP  1½Course 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.  1.5

RUSS 161b, Fourth-Year Russian II  Irina Dolgova  
Continuation of RUSS 160. After RUSS 160 or equivalent.  1.5

* RUSS 174a, The Russian Works of Vladimir Nabokov  Constantine Muravnik  
An aesthetic reading of Vladimir Nabokov’s Russian works. Nabokov as a writer who first and foremost was interested in the question of the ontological significance of art and, consequently, in various modes of the artist’s relationship to the world. Prerequisite: RUSS 150 or equivalent, or with permission of instructor.  1.5, HU, RP
*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.  15, HU

**Group B**

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

* 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

*RUSS 023b, Storytelling and the Russian Tradition*  Bella Grigoryan
An introduction to modern Russian literature via the genre of the short story. A sustained examination of the relationship between various modes of storytelling and modern literature. Emphasis on the aesthetic and ideological uses of storytelling in masterpieces of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian prose fiction. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU  TR

RUSS 250a, Masterpieces of Russian Literature I  Bella Grigoryan
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.  WR, HU  TR

RUSS 253a, Masterpieces of Russian Literature II  Hilary Fink
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 254b / LITR 245b / RSEE 254b, Novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky  Vladimir Alexandrov
Close reading of major novels by two of Russia’s greatest authors. Focus on the interrelations of theme, form, and literary-cultural context. Readings and discussion in English.  HU  TR

*RUSS 316b, Russian Literature in the Context of Western Philosophy*  Hilary Fink
Intensive analysis of Dostoevsky’s *Notes from the Underground*, Tolstoy’s *The Death of Ivan Il’ich* and *The Cossacks*, and selected short stories by Chekhov. The works are examined through the prism of such Western philosophers as Rousseau, Schiller, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Bergson, and Heidegger. Some attention to Russian philosophy in relation to the Russian literary tradition.  HU  TR

*SLAV 206a, The Slavic Peoples and Their Languages: From Unity to Diversity*  Harvey Goldblatt
Examination of the linguistic and cultural history of the Slavs from their prehistoric period up to the formation of the diverse Slavic languages, the individual Slavic states, and their national literatures. Readings and discussion in English.  HU

**Group C**

*RUSS 480a and RUSS 481b, Directed Reading in Russian Literature*  Staff
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*  Staff
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 48a or b, Directed Reading or Individual Research in Slavic Languages and Literatures*  Staff
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.