Russian

Directors of undergraduate studies: Claire Roosein (claire.roosein@yale.edu); language coordinator: Irina Dolgova, (irina.dolgova@yale.edu) HQ 538, 320 York Street, 432-1307; slavic.yale.edu

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, East European, and Eurasian Studies, an interdisciplinary program administered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Placement Procedures
Students who have previously studied Russian formally or informally are required to take the Russian placement exam. This brief oral exam helps determine which Russian course best fits each student’s background. Contact the Russian language coordinator, Irina Dolgova (irina.dolgova@yale.edu), to schedule the oral placement exam or for information about preregistration. She may be reached via email or at 432-1307.

Students in the Class of 2023 With approval from the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), the following changes to the prerequisites and requirements of the major may be fulfilled by students who declared their major under previous requirements.

Students in the Class of 2024 and subsequent classes Follow the requirements as indicated.

Prerequisites
Prerequisite to the major in both programs is second year Russian, RUSS 140, 142, 145, or S140. The department offers three sequences of language courses to fulfill the prerequisite: either (1) RUSS 110, 120, 130, 140, or (2) RUSS 125, 145 or (3) courses for heritage speakers, RUSS 122, 142. Prospective majors should complete the prerequisites 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.

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

1. Third-year Russian: RUSS 150 and 151.
3. Two terms of Russian literature in translation, one in 19th-century or earlier Russian literature and one in 20th-century or later Russian literature. First-Year Seminars and courses number 200 or higher fulfill this requirement.
4. One content course in which Russian is the language of instruction (RUSS 170–190).
5. One course in Russian, East European, or Eurasian history or social sciences.
6. RUSS 490 or 491. 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.

If the language proficiency is met without coursework, these course requirements must be fulfilled through additional term courses to bring the overall total to 11 term courses. A Yale summer program in Russian culture may be used to fulfill the requirements, with DUS approval.

Credit/D/Fail Courses taken Credit/D/Fail may not be counted toward the requirements of the major.

Senior Requirement
All majors write a senior essay (RUSS 490 or 491), an independent project carried out under the guidance of a faculty member. By the end of the junior year, students should declare their general topic and arrange for a faculty adviser, in consultation with the DUS. Students planning to conduct summer research for the senior essay, especially if abroad, should contact the DUS early in the spring semester of the junior year and apply for fellowships. By the first day of the reading period of the term prior to the term of the senior essay (RUSS 490 or 491), majors submit a proposal to the adviser (up to two pages double spaced). 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 midterm of RUSS 490 or 491. The senior essay takes the form of a substantial article, no longer than 13,000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography. The final essay is due on the first day of the reading period of the term the student is enrolled in RUSS 490 or 491. A member of the faculty other than the adviser grades the essay.

Students pursuing two majors need to fulfill the senior requirement of both majors. If the second major allows, students may enroll in both RUSS 490 and 491 and write an essay longer than a single-term essay. In this case, students count the second term of the Russian senior essay as their twelfth course in the Russian major.
ADVISING

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 DUS.

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 DUS. Language courses, as well as RUSS S241, S242, and S243, 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 DUS well before their junior year. Students can apply for FLAS and Fox fellowships to support their travel.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisite RUSS 140, 142, 145, S140 or placement exam
Number of courses 11 term courses beyond prereq (incl senior essay)
Specific courses required RUSS 150, 151, 160, 161
Distribution of courses 1 course in 19th-century or earlier Russian literature in translation, as specified; 1 course in 20th-century or later Russian literature in translation, as specified; 1 content course taught in original language, as specified; 1 course in Russian, East European, or Eurasian history or social sciences, as specified
Substitution permitted Yale summer program in Russian culture (RUSS S241, S242, or S243) for electives
Senior requirement Senior essay (RUSS 490 or 491)

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers a Certificate of Advanced Language Study in Russian. A certificate adviser, typically the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), advises students on the certification process and certifies to the University Registrar’s Office that students have completed the stated requirements before the end of eight terms of study. The Certificate of Advanced Language Study, once certified, is listed on the student transcript.

The Certificate of Advanced Language Study is offered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. It provides students with an opportunity to attain a level of proficiency in the Russian language that is comparable with that of a student who has studied Russian at a university in Russia. To earn the Certificate, students must complete the following requirements:

1. Complete at least two years of study in Russian, beginning with RUSS 110.
2. Achieve a level of proficiency in Russian equivalent to that of a student who has completed at least two years of study in Russian at a university in Russia.
3. Pass a comprehensive examination in Russian, administered by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Students interested in the Certificate of Advanced Language Study in Russian should contact the language coordinator, Krystyna Illakowicz (krystyna.illakowicz@yale.edu) or Irina Dolgova (irina.dolgova@yale.edu), for information about placement and preregistration. They may be reached via email or by telephone at 432-1307. Entering first-year students who have some knowledge of Czech or Polish should contact Krystyna Illakowicz (krystyna.illakowicz@yale.edu) (Polish) or Karen von Kunes (karen.vonkunes@yale.edu) (Czech) to arrange to take a placement examination.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RUSS 110-111 Introduction to Russian

This course is designed for students with no previous study of Russian. It covers the fundamentals of the language, including grammar and basic vocabulary, and introduces students to the culture and society of present-day Russia. RUSS 111 is a continuation of RUSS 110.

RUSS 120-121 Elementary Russian

This course is designed for students with no previous study of Russian. It covers the fundamentals of the language, including grammar and basic vocabulary, and introduces students to the culture and society of present-day Russia. RUSS 121 is a continuation of RUSS 120.

RUSS 140-145 Intermediate Russian

This course is designed for students with at least one year of study in Russian. It covers advanced topics in grammar and vocabulary, and introduces students to the culture and society of present-day Russia. RUSS 145 is a continuation of RUSS 140.

RUSS S241-243 Advanced Russian

These courses are designed for students with a strong foundation in Russian. They cover advanced topics in grammar and vocabulary, and introduce students to the culture and society of present-day Russia. RUSS S243 is a continuation of RUSS S242.

RUSS 337 The Invention of Tradition in Post-Soviet Nation States

This seminar is a seminar on national building process in Central Asia, Russia, and Ukraine after 1991.

RUSS 391 RUSS 392 RUSS 393 RUSS 394 RUSS 395 RUSS 396 RUSS 397 RUSS 398 RUSS 399 RUSS 400 RUSS 401 RUSS 402 RUSS 403 RUSS 404 RUSS 405 RUSS 406 RUSS 407 RUSS 408 RUSS 409 RUSS 410 RUSS 411 RUSS 412 RUSS 413 RUSS 414 RUSS 415 RUSS 416 RUSS 417 RUSS 418 RUSS 419 RUSS 420 RUSS 421 RUSS 422 RUSS 423 RUSS 424 RUSS 425 RUSS 426 RUSS 427 RUSS 428 RUSS 429 RUSS 430 RUSS 431 RUSS 432 RUSS 433 RUSS 434 RUSS 435 RUSS 436 RUSS 437 RUSS 438 RUSS 439 RUSS 440 RUSS 441 RUSS 442 RUSS 443 RUSS 444 RUSS 445 RUSS 446 RUSS 447 RUSS 448 RUSS 449 RUSS 450 RUSS 451 RUSS 452 RUSS 453 RUSS 454 RUSS 455 RUSS 456 RUSS 457 RUSS 458 RUSS 459 RUSS 460 RUSS 461 RUSS 462 RUSS 463 RUSS 464 RUSS 465 RUSS 466 RUSS 467 RUSS 468 RUSS 469 RUSS 470 RUSS 471 RUSS 472 RUSS 473 RUSS 474 RUSS 475 RUSS 476 RUSS 477 RUSS 478 RUSS 479 RUSS 480 RUSS 481 RUSS 482 RUSS 483 RUSS 484 RUSS 485 RUSS 486 RUSS 487 RUSS 488 RUSS 489 RUSS 490 RUSS 491
REQUIREMENTS

Students seeking to earn the certificate are required to take four courses beyond the L4 level in their chosen language, at least two of which must be Yale courses designated as L5. Students should take L5 content courses only after they have completed RUSS 151, Third-Year Russian II. All courses must be taken for a letter grade, and students must achieve a grade of B or above. With the approval of the adviser, one advanced non-L5 course, conducted in the target language, such as an independent study course, a graduate seminar, or an advanced seminar may count toward certification requirements.

The certificate adviser may allow one “language across the curriculum” (LxC) course, which ordinarily is an advanced seminar with an additional weekly discussion section in the target language, to count toward the certification requirements. The certificate adviser may also approve the substitution of up to two credits earned during study abroad and taught in the target language to count toward the certificate requirements. If the adviser approves courses taken outside of Yale for inclusion in the certificate requirements, students must take the necessary steps to ensure those courses appear on their transcript.

Credit/D/Fail  No courses taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the requirements of the certificate.

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Professors  Edyta Bojanowska (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Katerina Clark (Comparative Literature, Slavic Languages and Literatures), John MacKay (Film & Media Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Associate Professor  Molly Brunson (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Assistant Professors  Marijeta Bozovic (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Jinyi Chu (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Claire Roosien (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Senior Lectors II  Irina Dolgova (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Constantine Muravnik (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Julia Titus (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Senior Lectors I  Krystyna Illakowicz (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Karen von Kanes (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Lector  Anastasia Selemeneva (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

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