SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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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 DUS.

PREREQUISITES

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.

PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

Students who have previously studied Russian formally or informally are required to take the Russian placement exam. This brief oral exam will help 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 203-432-1307. Entering freshmen 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 brief placement examination.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

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 DUS; 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 DUS.

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 13, 2018.

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 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 DUS. 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 DUS 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)

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Professors Katerina Clark (Comparative Literature, Slavic Languages and Literatures), Harvey Goldblatt (Slavic Languages and Literatures), John MacKay (Film Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Associate Professor Molly Brunson (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Assistant Professor Marijeta Bozovic (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

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

Senior Lectors I Krystyna Illakowicz (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Julia Titus (Slavic Languages and Literatures), Karen von Kunes (Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Czech, Polish, Romanian, and Ukrainian Courses

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 Svijk, 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, 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

* PLSH 160b, Advanced Polish II 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 150 or equivalent. L5, HU
* 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 RP 1½ Course cr

* ROMN 120b, Intermediate Romanian II  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 RP 1½ Course cr

* 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 RP 1½ Course cr

* 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. L2 1½ Course cr

Group A Courses
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. L1 RP 1½ Course cr

RUSS 120b, First-Year Russian II  Staff
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 130b, 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  Staff
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 150b, Third-Year Russian II  Constantine Muravnik
Continuation of RUSS 150. After RUSS 150 or equivalent. L5 RP 1½ Course cr
* **RUSS 155a, The Language of the Russian Revolution**  Constantine Muravnik  
The political and social landscape of the 1917 Russian Revolution explored through the shifting ambiguities of political slogans. Readings from the memoirs of the revolution's main figures represent the entire political spectrum from right to left. Prerequisite: RUSS 140 or equivalent.  L5  RP

**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

**Group B Courses**

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 253a, Masterpieces of Russian Literature II**  Michael Weinstein  
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, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky**  Molly Brunson  
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 355a / EVST 294a / HUMS 294a / RSEE 355a, Ecology and Russian Culture**  Molly Brunson  
Interdisciplinary study of Russian literature, film, and art from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries, organized into four units—forest, farm, labor, and disaster. Topics include: perception and representation of nature; deforestation and human habitation; politics and culture of land-ownership; leisure, labor, and forced labor; modernity and industrialization; and nuclear technologies and disasters. Analysis of short stories, novels, and supplementary readings on ecocriticism and environmental humanities, as well as films, paintings, and visual materials. Several course meetings take place at the Yale Farm. Readings and discussions in English.  HU  Tr

* **RUSS 391b / LITR 312b, The Russian Short Story and Beyond**  John MacKay  
Examination of the hugely important, but often ignored short story form, primarily in Russia from the early nineteenth-century onward. Reading of important works by major artists of the short story like Karamzin, Turgenev, Pisemsky, Tolstoy, Leskov, Chekhov, Bunin, Zaitsev, Gorky, Babel, Zoshchenko, and Pilnyak, as well as lesser known work, using tools from the digital humanities. Knowledge of Russian useful but not required.  WR, HU

* **RUSS 403a / FILM 442a / LITR 403a, The City in Literature and Film**  Katerina Clark  
Consideration of the architecture, town planning, and symbolic functions of various cities in Europe, Latin America, the United States, and East Asia. Discussion of the representation of these cities in literature and film. Works include older Soviet and Chinese films about Shanghai and contemporary films about Hong Kong and Beijing.  HU

* **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

* **SLAV 391b / FILM 391b / LITR 363b, Media, Politics, and Identity**  Staff  
Consideration of the centrality to media practice of political identities, including those based in class, gender, ethnicity, region, and religion among others. Films by such directors as Todd Haynes, Shirley Clarke, Barry Jenkins, Barbara Kopple, and Charles Burnett; literary and critical works by Édouard Louis, Etienne Balibar, Clarice Lispector, and Judith Butler among others.  WR, HU
Group C Courses

* **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 485b, 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.