SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

**Director of undergraduate studies:** Edyta Bojanowska (edyta.bojanowska@yale.edu), 341 RKZ, 432-1301; language coordinator: Irina Dolgova (irina.dolgova@yale.edu), Arnold Hall A36, 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 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 (DUS). 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 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. 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 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):

2. 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 10, 2020.

**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 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 Russian lit courses from Group A numbered 170 or above; Program I – 1 course in hist or culture of Russia; 3 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)

**CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED LANGUAGE STUDY**

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 student transcripts.

**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), Harvey Goldblatt (Slavic Languages and Literatures), John MacKay (Film & Media 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. Online 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. 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

**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. 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 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

* 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.  L1  RP  1½ Course cr

* 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  RP  1½ Course cr

* 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  RP  1½ Course cr

* 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.  L4  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.  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

* UKRN 130a, Intermediate Ukrainian I  Staff
Continued review and reinforcement of grammar fundamentals and of core vocabulary pertaining to common aspects of daily life. Special attention to verbal aspect and verbs of motion. Emphasis on further development of oral and written communication skills on topics such as the self, family, studies and leisure, travel, and meals. UKRN 130 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 140b, Intermediate Ukrainian II  Staff
Continuation of UKRN 130. After UKRN 130 or equivalent.  L4  RP  1½ Course cr

Group A Courses

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.  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. 1.1, 1.2 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-visual activities, for use both in the classroom and independently, are designed to help students improve their listening comprehension skills and pronunciation. Texts and grammatical materials are thematically based. After RUSS 120 or equivalent. 1.3 RP 1½ Course cr

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

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

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

* RUSS 172a, Russian History through Literature and Film  Irina Dolgova
Study of important events in Russian history, from the medieval times to the present, through authentic reading materials in various genres and through feature and documentary films. The course is designed to advance students’ speaking proficiency in Russian and to develop their reading, listening, and writing skills. Texts include Russian fairy tales; fragments from The Primary Chronicles; A. Tolstoy’s Peter I; D. Merezhkovsky’s Antichrist; N. Eidelman’s Decembrists; P. Chaadayev’s Philosophical Letters; N. Leskov’s Enchanted Wanderer (fragments); and I. Goncharov’s Oblomov (fragments). Films include A. Tarkovsky’s Andrey Rublev; N. Mikhailov’s Several Days from Oblomov’s Life; A. Askoldov’s Comissar; Todorovsky’s Stiliagi; K. Muratova’s Asthenic Syndrome; and A. Zviagintsev’s Loveless. All written assignments, texts, and discussions are in Russian. Prerequisite: RUSS 142 or 151, or permission of instructor. 1.5, HU

* RUSS 178b, The Short Story in Russian  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. 1.5, HU

* RUSS 179b, The Grotesque in Victor Pelevin  Constantine Muravnik
Novels and short stories by a contemporary Russian writer, Victor Pelevin. Focus on Pelevin’s major novel, Chapaev i Pustota, 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 142, 151 or permission of instructor. 1.5, HU RP

Group B Courses

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

* CZEC 301b / LITR 220b / RSEE 300b, Milan Kundera: The Czech Novelist and French Thinker  Karen von Kunes
Close reading of Kundera’s novels, with analysis of his aesthetics and artistic development. Relationships to French, German, and Spanish literatures and to history, philosophy, music, and art. Topics include paradoxes of public and private life, the irrational in erotic behavior, the duality of body and soul, the interplay of imagination and reality, the function of literary metaphor, and the art of composition. Readings and discussion in English. HU TR

* PLSH 248b / THST 370b, Polish Theater and Its Traditions  Krystyna Ilłakowicz
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 228a / RLST 390a, Russian Religious Culture in Thought and Practice  Harvey Goldblatt
Examination of the Russian Religious Culture through the centuries, from the origins of an Old Rus’ spiritual civilization in the 11th century to the emergence of post-Soviet literature and art forms in the late-20th and early-21st centuries. Representative works in literature and the visual arts, which deal with both elite and popular culture as well as religious and secular modes of discourse, are chosen from both old Russian bookish culture to the new Russian cultural trends that have their origins in the seventeenth century. All works are examined against a broad comparative background to illustrate the variant and invariants in the long history of Russian religious culture. Special attention is devoted to (1) diverse interpretive approaches and methodological perspectives, (2) traditional and innovative theories of literary and artistic expression, and (3) the connections between cultural activity and ideological trends. All readings and discussions are in English.  HU

* RUSS 233a, Masterpieces of Russian Literature II  Staff
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 254a / LITR 254a / RSEE 254a, 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 260b / LITR 202b, Nabokov and World Literature  Marijeta Bozovic
Vladimir Nabokov’s writings explored in the context of his life story and of the structures and institutions of literary life in Russian émigré circles. Themes of exile, memory, and nostalgia; hybrid cultural identities and cosmopolitan elites; language and bilingualism; the aims and aesthetics of émigré and diasporic modernism in novels and other media. Additional readings from works of world literature inspired and influenced by Nabokov. Readings and discussion in English.  WR, HU

RUSS 312b / HUMS 255b / RSEE 312b, Tolstoy’s War and Peace  Edyta Bojanowska
A study of Leo Tolstoy’s masterpiece War and Peace (1865-1869) about Napoleon’s 1812 invasion of Russia, in philosophical, historical, and political contexts. All readings and class discussions in English.  WR, HU TR

* RUSS 327a / FILM 409a / 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 metaphorical uses of the Danube; the region as a contested multilingual, multicultural, and multinational space, and as a quintessential site of cross-cultural engagement. Readings and discussion in English.  WR, HU TR

* RUSS 403b / FILM 442b / LITR 403b, 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

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.