RUSSIAN STUDIES

FACULTY:
Mareike Herrmann (German Studies), Chair
John Lyles
Beth Ann Muellner (German Studies) (on leave 2013-2014)
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Russian Studies is an interdisciplinary area focused on Russia and Eastern Europe in cultural, literary, historical, philosophical, and political contexts. It is one of several programs at the College that provides students with the opportunity to develop proficiency in a foreign language in connection with their other academic and professional interests. The department offers courses in three areas: 1) Russian language, 2) Russian culture, and 3) Russian literature. These, together with courses in history and comparative literature, give students a strong background in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Recent graduates in Russian Studies have embarked on employment in government service, non-governmental organizations, and private companies, both in the United States and abroad. Some have gone on to graduate school, pursuing careers in such areas as law, education, library science, and academia. Recent graduates have also served in the Peace Corps in the former Soviet Union.

Major in Russian Studies

Consists of twelve courses:

- RUSS 20100
- RUSS 20200
- RUSS 21000
- RUSS 22000
- One of the following courses: HIST 10100-10176 (when topic focuses on Russian history), 23000, 23300, or 30100-30142 (when topic focuses on Russian history)
- Three of the following courses: RUSS 23000, 25000, 26000, CMLT 24800, HIST 10100-10176 (when topic focuses on Russian history), 23000, 23300, or 30100-30142 (when topic focuses on Russian history)
- RUSS 40000
- Junior Independent Study: RUSS 40100
- Senior Independent Study: RUSS 45100
- Senior Independent Study: RUSS 45200

Minor in Russian Studies

Consists of six courses:

- RUSS 20100
- Five of the following courses: RUSS 20200, 21000, 22000, 23000, 25000, 26000, CMLT 24800, HIST 10100-10176, 23000, 23300, or 30100-30142

Special Notes

- The College language requirement may be satisfied in Russian by completing a 102-level course or receiving a score equivalent to the 102-level on the placement examination administered during registration week. If a student registers for and completes a course in language below the level at which the language department's placement exam placed him or her, that student will not receive credit toward graduation for that course, unless he or she has obtained the permission of the instructor of the course into which the student placed and permission of the department chair.

- **Study Abroad:** Students will be encouraged to enhance their educational experience (or fulfill requirements for a major in International Relations) by studying in Russia or East Central Europe, and are advised to consult with the chairperson of the department in the first term of their first year of study at the College. Early planning is essential for the CIEE program in St. Petersburg, as well as for other programs such as American Councils Study Abroad in Vladimir. Approved courses taken in an off-campus semester will provide additional variety in the courses offered for the major.
- **Russian House:** Students have the opportunity to take up residence in Russian House, a suite in Luce Hall that houses students along with a native Russian assistant and serves as the focal point for most campus Russian language and cultural activities.
- **Related Interdepartmental Programs:** Students interested in Russian and East Central European literature and culture should be aware of several interdepartmental programs in which the Department of Russian Studies cooperates: Comparative Literature, Film Studies, and International Relations.
- S/NC courses are not permitted in the major or minor.
- Only grades of C- or better are accepted for the major or minor.

RUSSIAN STUDIES COURSES

RUSS 10100. BEGINNING RUSSIAN (LEVEL I)
An introduction to understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Russian; acquisition of basic grammar; conversational practice and short readings. Cultural content. Five hours per week. *Annually. Fall.*

RUSS 10200. BEGINNING RUSSIAN (LEVEL II)
Continuation of RUSS 10100, with increased emphasis on conversational, reading, and writing skills. Cultural content. *Prerequisite: RUSS 10100 or placement. Annually. Spring.*

HIST 10100-10136. INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION (when topic focuses on Russian history) *[W, some sections count toward C, HSS]*

RUSS 20100. INTERMEDIATE RUSSIAN (LEVEL III)
Review and enhancement of basic grammar; practice through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Attention to reading strategies. Exposure to cultural material. Four hours per week. *Prerequisite: RUSS 10200 or placement. Annually. Fall.*

RUSS 20200. INTERMEDIATE RUSSIAN (LEVEL IV)
Continuation of RUSS 20100, with still greater emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural content. *Prerequisite: RUSS 20100. Annually. Spring.*

RUSS 21000. RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION: FROM FOLKLORE TO PHILOSOPHY (Comparative Literature)
An introductory and interdisciplinary study of fundamental aspects of Russian culture from medieval Russia through the post-Soviet era, with emphasis on the changing and evolving concept of Russian identity over the centuries. A broad range of texts will include folktales, memoirs, fiction, painting, poetry, philosophy, music and film. *Every three years. [W, C, AH]*

RUSS 22000. RUSSIAN CULTURE THROUGH FILM (Comparative Literature, Film Studies)
An introduction to twentieth-century Russian society and culture through the medium of cinema, covering the immediate pre- and post-revolutionary periods, Stalinism, the post-Stalin "thaw," stagnation under Brezhnev, Gorbachev's "perestroika" and "glasnost," and the post-communist era. Weekly screenings of films will be supplemented with readings in Russian film theory and criticism. *Every three years. [C, AH]*

RUSS 23000. RUSSIAN DRAMA PRACTICUM (Comparative Literature)
This course has two components. The first is an in-depth study of the works of one major Russian playwright. The course will address figures such as Nikolai Gogol, Anton Chekhov, and Mikhail Bulgakov. Since these artists were prose writers to the same extent as they were playwrights, we will read a wide selection of both their prose and their dramatic works in order to understand the significance of their artistic innovations. The second part of the course will be to produce one of our author's major plays as a class and to present it to the public at the end of the semester. No acting experience required. *Every three years. [C, AH]*

RUSS 25000-25001. RUSSIAN LITERATURE IN THE AGE OF DOSTOEVSKY AND TOLSTOY (Comparative Literature)
In the nineteenth century, Russia witnessed an unprecedented explosion of literary and intellectual activity, a renaissance which yielded some of the greatest masterpieces world literature has seen. Our course will examine the seven most prominent authors of this period, with special emphasis on Russia's unique handling of the sudden influx of European philosophy and culture (Rationalism, Idealism, Romanticism, Atheism, Socialism). Through its literary canon, we will explore how Russia envisioned the problems of modern individualism in a culture divided between European and Slavic roots. *Every three years. [C, AH]*

RUSS 26000. THE ARTIST AND THE TYRANT: TWENTIETH-CENTURY RUSSIAN LITERATURE (Comparative Literature)
Russian literature developed side by side with the myths and horrors of a cataclysmic twentieth century. In this course, we will read some of the most powerful artistic meditations on the collapse of imperial Russia, on the dream and nightmare of the Soviet experiment, and on the search for dignity and meaning in the post-Soviet contemporary world. Authors include Nobel laureates Pasternak, Bunin, Solzhenitsyn and Brodsky. We will also read novels by Bulgakov and Nabokov, short stories from a host of writers from Babel to Petrushevksaya, and some of the major poetry of the era in translation. *Every three years. Spring. [C, AH]*

CMLT 24800: THE PERILS OF ROMANTICISM: NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPEAN LITERATURE *[C, AH]*

HIST 10161. RUSSIA'S WORLD WAR II: HISTORY AND FILM *[C, HSS]*

HIST 23000. RUSSIA TO 1900 *[C, HSS]*

HIST 23300. RUSSIA SINCE 1900 *[C, HSS]*

HIST 30100-30142. PROBLEMS IN HISTORY (when topic focuses on Russian history) *[C, R, HSS]*

RUSS 40000. TUTORIAL
Individually supervised advanced language learning. By prior arrangement with the department only. *Prerequisite: RUSS 20200 or equivalent; the approval of both the supervising faculty member and the chairperson is required prior to registration.*

RUSS 40100. INDEPENDENT STUDY
Bibliographical and research methods in Russian Studies, including the preparation of one longer research paper. Normally taken Semester II of the junior year.

RUSS 45100. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER ONE
The first semester of the Senior Independent Study project, in which each student engages in creative and independent research of a specific topic in Russian Studies guided by a faculty mentor and which culminates in a thesis and an oral examination in the second semester. *Prerequisite: RUSS 40100.*

RUSS 45200. SENIOR INDEPENDENT STUDY – SEMESTER TWO
The second semester of the Senior Independent Study project, which culminates in the thesis and an oral examination. *Prerequisite: RUSS 45100.*