

Wellesley College
RUSSIAN AREA
STUDIES PROGRAM
&
RUSSIAN
DEPARTMENT



Course Offerings

<http://new.wellesley.edu/russianareastudies>

<http://www.wellesley.edu/russian>

Welcome to our Russian Area Studies and Russian offering of courses!



A defiantly resurgent Russia is on the move. Not since the collapse of Communism a quarter-century ago has Russia appeared so dominant in global affairs as she does today. Two years ago, Vladimir Putin stormed into his third term of office as President in the wake of the biggest mass protests his country had seen in decades. The February 2014 Olympics at Sochi trumpeted the classics of Russian music, ballet, art and literature as well as celebrating that country's sweep of gold medals. And the following month, the world held its breath as Russia annexed the strategic Crimean peninsula with astonishing boldness and speed as Ukraine, weakened by a popular revolution and factionalism, could only look on. The planet's largest country (even after having lost its enormous empire over two decades ago), with the world's deepest lake, biggest nuclear arsenal, greatest forest, coldest regions and largest energy production, Russia bewilders, frustrates and fascinates. The United States clearly needs a new generation of Russia experts to shape our long-term policy, and everyone needs Russian literature, history and culture to nourish the mind that seeks a challenge and the spirit that looks for universal truth and beauty residing in Russia's unparalleled artistic canon.

The Russian Area Studies program brings together courses in both the humanities and the social sciences in an interdisciplinary program that explores Russia and Eurasia in depth and also with breadth, proffering a rich complement of courses that explore Russian language and literature, and Russian and Eurasian anthropology, culture, history and politics.

Please visit <http://www.wellesley.edu/russianareastudies> to learn about our faculty, courses, students and the many splendid happenings on our events calendar. If you have any questions about the Russian Area Studies program or courses, please feel free to contact me at ntumarkin@wellesley.edu, Adam Weiner, Chair of the Russian Language Department, at aweiner@wellesley.edu, or our assistant, Katie Sango-Jackson, at ksangoja@wellesley.edu. Friendly shake hands (as Lenin used to sign off to his English comrades),

Nina Tumarkin
Director, Russian Area Studies and Professor of History

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nina Tumarkin". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Nina Tumarkin
Director, Russian Area Studies and Professor of History

*Russian Area
Studies Courses*

Lake Baikal: The Soul of Siberia

Russian Area Studies 212



The ecological and cultural values of Lake Baikal — the oldest, deepest, and most biotically rich lake on the planet — are examined. Lectures and discussion in spring prepare students for the three-week field laboratory taught at Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia in August. Lectures address the fundamentals of aquatic ecology and the role of Lake Baikal in Russian literature, history, art, music and, the country's environmental movement. Laboratory work is conducted primarily out-of-doors and includes introductions to the flora and fauna, field tests of student-gathered hypotheses, meetings with the lake's stakeholders, and tours of ecological and cultural sites surrounding the lake. *Prerequisite or corequisite: BISC 111 or ES 101; RUSS 101; and permission of the instructors. Thomas Hodge and Marianne Moore. Preference will be given to students who have also taken HIST 211.*

Not offered 2014-2015

Firebird! The Russian Arts Under Tsars and Commissars

Russian Area Studies 222/322



The magical Russian Firebird—with its feathers of pure gold—embodies creative genius and the salvational glory of Russian visual and performing arts. In this course we will explore Russian art, ballet, music, opera and theater and their place in the culture and history of both Russia and Europe. One of the great paradoxes of the Russian experience in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries was the astonishing capacity of Russia's composers, choreographers, dancers, writers and other artists to produce many of the world's greatest artistic creations while living and working under almost unimaginably repressive political regimes. How was this possible? In addition to larger themes and movements we will consider the contexts, histories, meanings—and, in some cases, iconic afterlives—of selected works and performers. Nina Tumarkin.

222 Prerequisite: Open to all students.

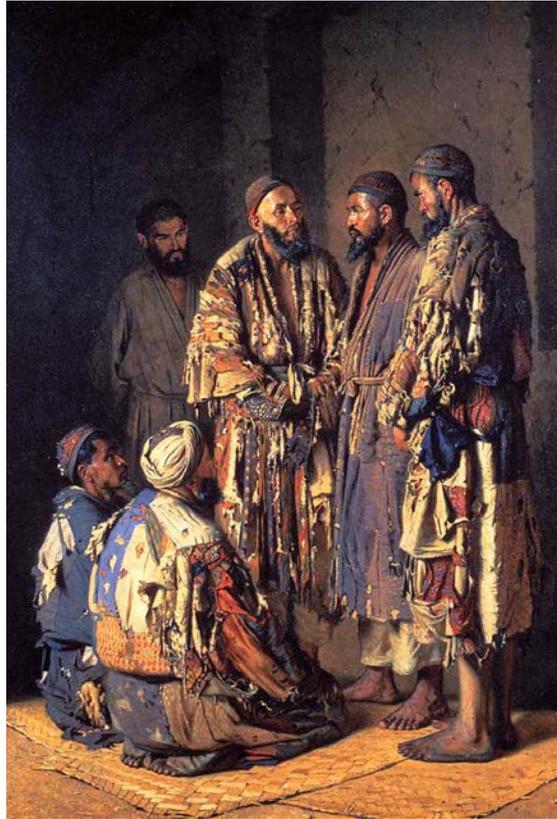
322 Prerequisite: Normally open to juniors and seniors who have taken at least one course in a related area (such as Russia, Europe, performing arts or visual arts). Students enrolled in 322 must complete a major research paper in addition to other coursework.

Offered Spring 2015, Th 1:30-4:00

Anthropology Courses
in
Russian Area Studies

Societies and Cultures of Eurasia

Anthropology 247



A survey of the non-Russian, largely non-European peoples of the former Soviet Union (particularly ethnic groups in Ukraine, North and South Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia). The course will review how traditional cultures in these areas changed during the years of Soviet rule and will examine the problems they face today with newly gained independence or greatly increased autonomy. Nationality policies of the former Soviet Union will be discussed with a particular emphasis on how they affect the current territorial disputes and conflicts among different ethnic groups (e.g., the Russian Annexation of Crimea). *Philip Kohl*. *Prerequisite: One unit in anthropology, economics, history, political science, or sociology.*

*Fall 2014
W 6-8:30pm*

Nationalism, Politics, and the Use of the Remote Past

Anthropology 319



This seminar critically examines the use of prehistory and antiquity for the construction of accounts of national origins, historical claims to specific territories, or the biased assessment of specific peoples. The course begins with an examination of the phenomenon of nationalism and the historically recent emergence of contemporary nation-states. It then proceeds comparatively, selectively examining politically motivated appropriations of the remote past that either were popular earlier in this century or have ongoing relevance for some of the ethnic conflicts raging throughout the world today. The course will attempt to develop criteria for distinguishing credible and acceptable reconstructions of the past from those that are unbelievable and/or dangerous. *Philip Kohl.*

Prerequisite: One 200-level unit in anthropology, economics, political science, sociology, or permission of the instructor.

Not offered 2014-2015

History Courses
in
Russian Area Studies

Bread and Salt: *Introduction to Russian* *Civilization* *History 211*



For centuries, Russians have welcomed visitors with offerings of bread and salt. This introductory course is an earthy immersion in Russian everyday life and political culture from the age of Tolstoy to Putin. Black bread, dense and pungent, is central to our exploration of Russian drinking, feasting and fasting. We will also consider patterns of autocratic and communal rule and Russians' current political and commercial uses of portions of their history and civilization. How did and do Russians understand, represent, reinvent and market their past? This question will drive our discussions of national identity in a country that twice—in the course of one semester—lost an empire and struggled (and continues to struggle) to create a new Russian civilization and political culture. *Nina Tumarkin. Open to all students.*

Not offered 2014-2015

Vikings, Icons, Mongols and Tsars

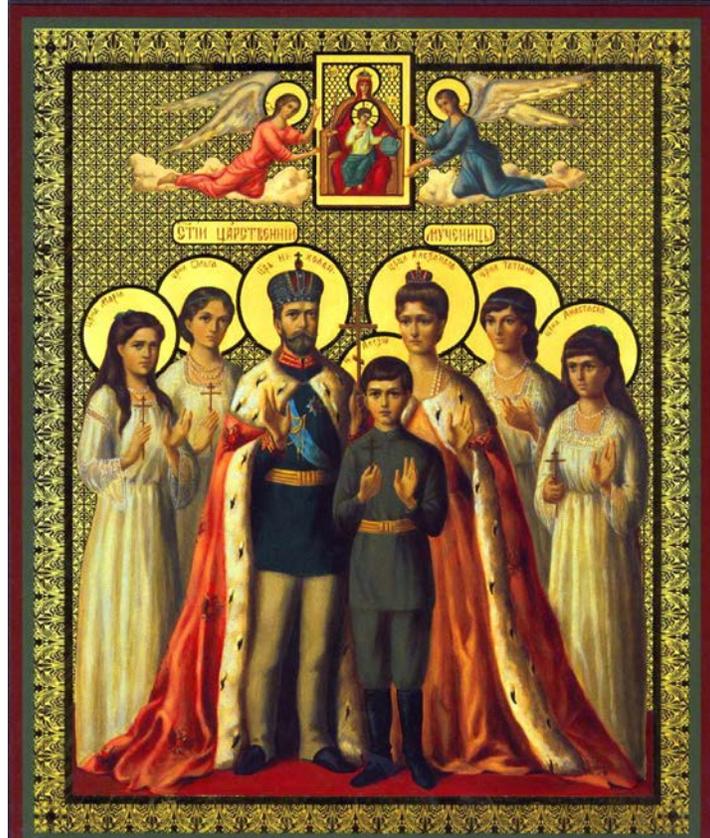
History 246



A multicultural journey through the turbulent waters of medieval and early modern Russia, from the Viking incursions of the ninth century and the entrance of the East Slavs into the splendid and mighty Byzantine world, to the Mongol overlordship of Russia, the rise of Moscow, and the legendary reign of Ivan the Terrible. We move eastward as the Muscovite state conquers the immense reaches of Siberia by the end of the turbulent seventeenth century, when the young and restless Tsar Peter the Great travels to Western Europe to change Russia forever. We will focus on khans, princes, tsars, nobles, peasants and monks; social norms and gender roles; icons and church architecture; and a host of Russian saints and sinners. *Nina Tumarkin. Open to all students.*

Not offered 2014-2015

Splendor and Serfdom: Russia Under the Romanovs History 247



An exploration of Imperial Russia over the course of two tumultuous centuries, from the astonishing reign of Peter the Great at the start of the eighteenth century, to the implosion of the Russian monarchy under the unfortunate Nicholas II early in the twentieth, as Russia plunged toward revolution. St. Petersburg—the stunning and ghostly birthplace of Russia’s modern history and the symbol of Russia’s attempt to impose order on a vast, multiethnic empire—is a focus of this course. We will also emphasize the everyday lives of peasants and nobles; the vision and ideology of autocracy; Russia’s brilliant intelligentsia; and the glory of her literary canon. *Nina Tumarkin. Open to all students.*

*Offered Fall 2014
TF 2:50-4:00PM*

The Soviet Union: A Tragic Colossus

History 248



The Soviet Union, the most immense empire in the world, hurtled through the twentieth century, shaping major world events. This course will follow the grand, extravagant, and often brutal socialist experiment from its fragile inception in 1917 through the rule of Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev, after which the vast Soviet empire broke apart with astonishing speed. We will contrast utopian constructivist visions of the glorious communist future with Soviet reality. Special emphasis on Soviet political culture, the trauma of the Stalin years and World War II, and the travails of everyday life. *Nina Tumarkin. Open to all students.*

*Offered Spring 2015
TF 11:10-12:20*

Seminar: Women of Russia: A Portrait Gallery History 301



An exploration of the tragic, complex, inspiring fate of Russian women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a period that spans the Russian Empire at its height, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the Soviet experiment. We will read about Russian peasants, nuns, princesses, feminists, workers, revolutionaries, poets, pilots and prostitutes, among others in our stellar cast of characters. Sources include memoirs, biographies, works of Russian literature, and film. *Nina Tumarkin*.
Prerequisite: Normally open to juniors and seniors who have taken a 200-level unit in history and/or a 200-level unit in a relevant area/subject.

Not offered 2014-2015

Seminar: World War II as Memory and Myth History 302



This seminar explores the many ways that victors and vanquished, victims and perpetrators, governments, political groups and individuals have remembered, celebrated, commemorated, idealized, condemned, condoned, forgotten, ignored and grappled with the vastly complex history and legacy of World War II in the past half-century. Our primary focus is the war in Europe, including Poland and Russia, although we will also consider the U.S. and Japan. We will investigate the construction of individual and collective memories about World War II and the creation and subsequent transformation of set myths about the war experience. In addition to books and articles, sources will include memoirs, primary documents, and films. We will also study the impact of war memories on international relations and analyze the “monumental politics” of war memorials. *Nina Tumarkin. Prerequisite: Normally open to juniors and seniors who have taken a 200-level unit in history and/or a 200-level unit in a relevant area/subject.*

***Offered Fall 2014
Th 2:50-5:20***

Magical Realism

Comparative Literature 284



This course examines novels and stories whose basic reality is familiar up until the introduction of a magical element. The magic can take the form of a demon, a talisman, a physical transformation, a miraculous transition in space or time, etc. The appearance of a second plane of existence calls into question all assumptions about what we are accustomed to calling reality. Students will read Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Calvino's *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*, Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, and short stories by Borges, Cortazar and Nabokov. *Adam Weiner. Two periods, 1.0 units of credit. Taught in English. Open to all students. Counts toward Russian and Russian Area Studies majors.*

Offered Fall 2014
MTh 11:10-12:20

Russian Department
Courses

Elementary Russian:

Russian 101-102

Аа  автобус	Бб  банан	Дд  диван	Ее  еда	Зз  замок	Ии  икра	Лл  лист	Мм  мяч
Вв  велосипед	Гг  грибы	Ёё  ёлка	Жж  жилет	Йй  йогурт	Кк  корона	Нн  ножницы	Оо  огурец
Пп  подушка	Рр  расчёска	Уу  утюг	Фф  фотоаппарат	Чч  чайник	Шш  шишка	Ы	Ь мягкий знак
Сс  светофор	Тт  телевизор	Хх  хлеб	Цц  цветы	Щщ  щётка	Ъ твёрдый знак	Ээ  экскаватор	Юю  юбка
Яя  ягоды	Аа Бб Вв Гг Дд Ее Ёё Жж Зз Ии Йй Кк Лл Мм Нн Оо Пп Рр Сс Тт Уу Фф Хх Цц Чч Шш Щщ Ъ ы Ь Ээ Юю Яя						

These courses serve as a comprehensive introduction to Russian, which is spoken by nearly 300 million people worldwide, putting it in fifth place among the world's most widely spoken languages. We emphasize oral communication and self-expression. Students will complete oral and written exercises, read short stories and poems, and work with multimedia computer exercises in order to finish the course with the ability to read and write basic Russian as well as carry on everyday conversations. Elementary Russian opens the door to Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Turgenev, Gogol, Pushkin, Solzhenitsyn, Pasternak, Nabokov, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and many other legendary Russians. *Russian 101* may also be taken during Wintersession. Thomas Hodge, Adam Weiner. Four periods, 1.0 units of credit. Open to all students.

Offered Fall 2014-Spring 2015
Fall TWF 8:30-9:40, F 12:30-1:20
Spring TWF 9:50-11:00, F 12:30-1:20

Elementary Russian

Wintersession

Russian 101W



Intensive, on-campus introduction to Russian grammar through oral, written, and reading exercises; special emphasis on oral expression.
Adam Weiner. Open to all students. 1.0 units.

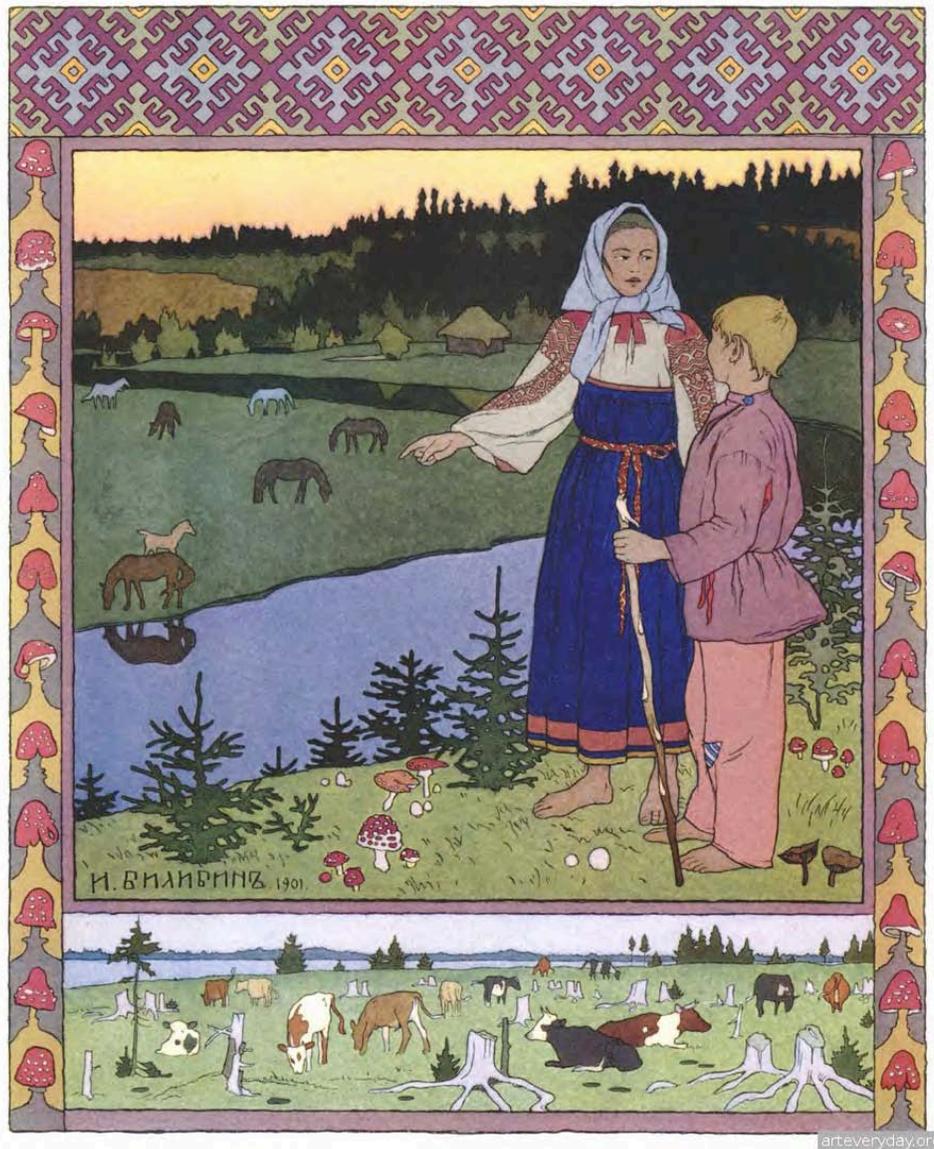
Offered Wintersession 2015

January 5-23

MTWThF 09:00 am - 02:00 pm

Intermediate Russian

Russian 201-202



Conversation, composition, reading, music, comprehensive review of grammar; special emphasis on speaking and writing idiomatic Russian. Students perform a play in Russian in 201. *Alla Epsteyn. Three periods, 1.0 units of credit. Prerequisite: 101-102 or the equivalent.*

Offered Fall 2014-Spring 2015
TWF 11:10-12:20

Wintersession in Moscow

Russian 203/303

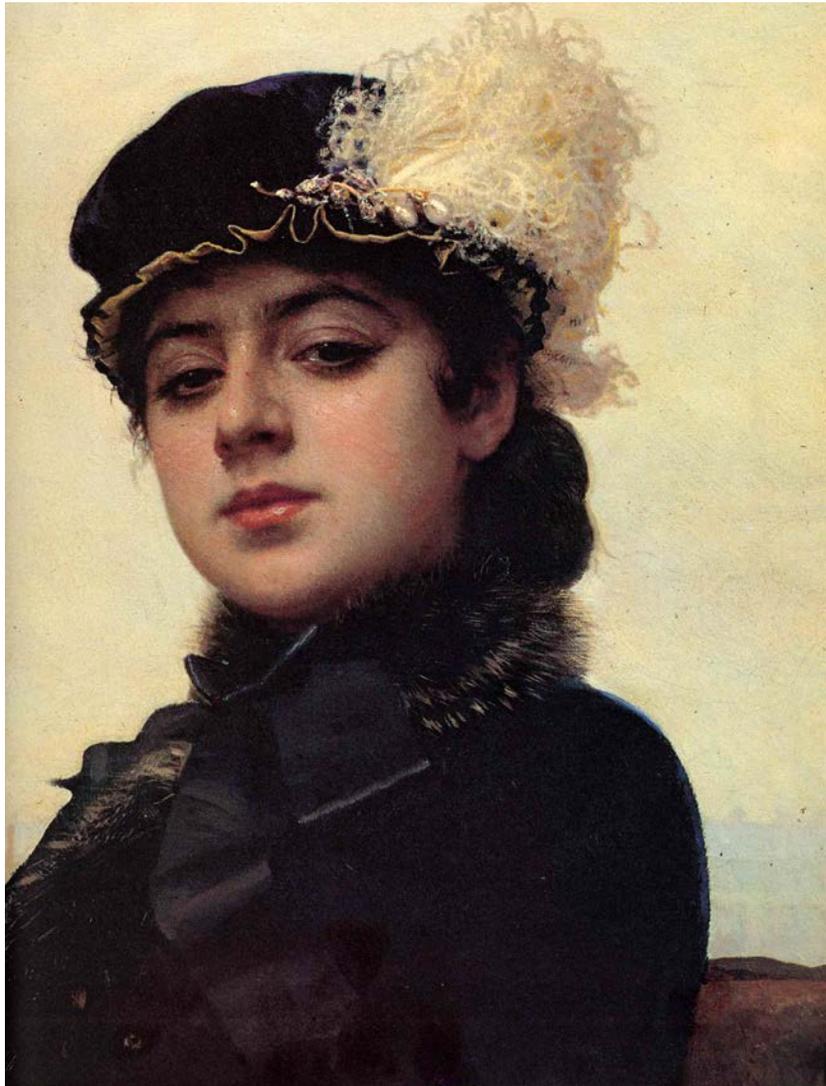


This course is offered as an immersion experience, designed to improve students' oral proficiency in Russian while introducing them to the cultural treasures of Russia's capital. Mornings students study language with instructors at the Russian State University for the Humanities. Afternoons and evenings they visit sites associated with Moscow's great writers, art galleries and museums, attend plays, operas and concerts. This course may be taken as either RUSS 203W or, with additional assignments, RUSS 302W. *1.0 units. Alla Epsteyn. Prerequisites: RUSS 201/ RUSS 301 or permission of the instructor. Application required.*

Not offered 2014-2015

Passion, Pain, Perfection

Russian 251 (in English)



No knowledge of Russian language or literature is required. A survey of Russian fiction from the Age of Pushkin (1820s-1830s) to Tolstoy's mature work (1870s) focusing on the role of fiction in Russian history, contemporaneous critical reaction, literary movements in Russia, and echoes of Russian literary masterpieces in the other arts, especially film and music. Major works by Pushkin (*Eugene Onegin*, "The Queen of Spades"), Lermontov (*A Hero of Our Time*), Gogol (*Dead Souls*), Pavlova (*A Double Life*), Turgenev (*Fathers and Sons*), Dostoevsky (*Crime and Punishment*), and Tolstoy (*Anna Karenina*) will be read. *Thomas Hodge. Two periods. 1.0 units of credit. Open to all students.*

Offered Fall 2014
TF 9:50-11:00

Battle for the Russian Soul: Ideology and the Nineteenth- Century Russian Novel

Russian 272 (in English)

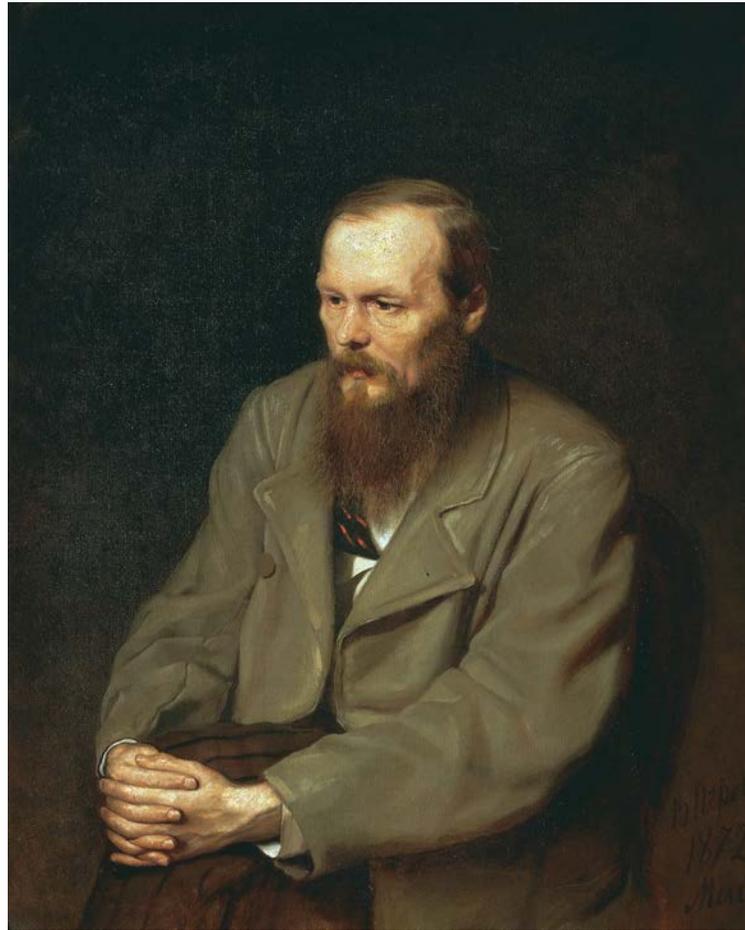


Nineteenth-century Russian writers were locked in a desperate struggle for freedom under an extraordinarily repressive regime. Through an intensive analysis of the great ideological novels at the center of Russia's historic social debates from the 1840s to the 1860s, we will unearth the roots of both Lenin's revolution and Dostoevsky's fervent anti-radicalism. The tension between literary realism and political exigency will be explored in the fictional and critical works of Chaadaev, Herzen, Belinsky, Turgenev, Chernyshevsky, Goncharov, Dobroliubov, Pisarev, and Dostoevsky. Isaiah Berlin's famous essays on the Russian intelligentsia, as well as representative works from the nonliterary arts, including Tom Stoppard's *The Coast of Utopia*, will supplement our reading and discussion. *Thomas Hodge. Taught in English. Open to all students.*

Not offered 2014-2015

Fedor Dostoevsky: Seer of Spirit

Russian 276 (in English)

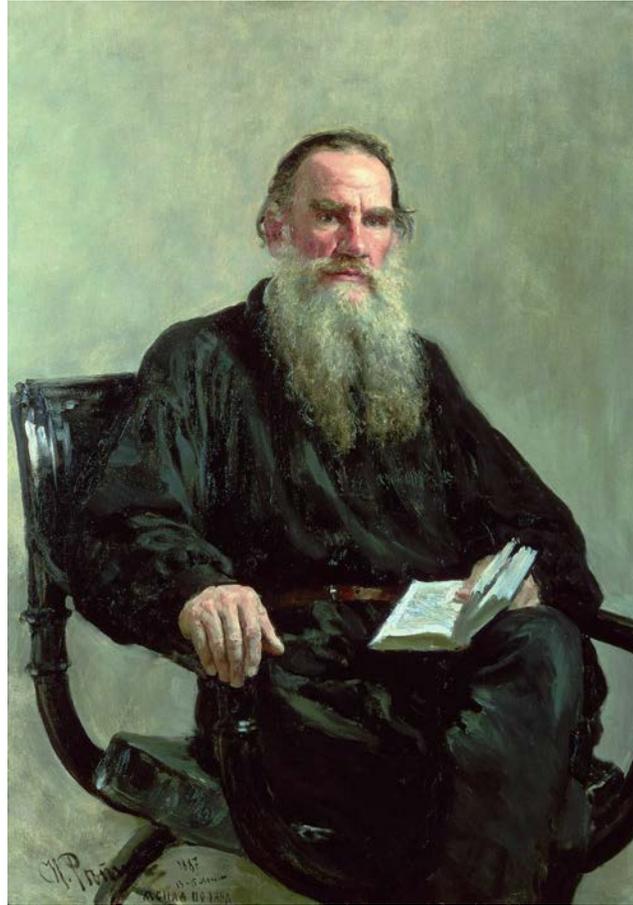


Probably no writer has been so detested, adored, demonized and deified as Dostoevsky. This artist was such a visionary that he had to reinvent the novel in order to create a form suitable for his insights into the inner life and his prophecies about the outer. To this day readers are mystified, outraged, enchanted, but never unmoved, by Dostoevsky's fiction, which some have tried to brand as "novel-tragedies," "romantic realism," "polyphonic novels," and more. This course challenges students to enter the fray and explore the mysteries of Dostoevsky themselves through study of his major writings. *Taught in English. Adam Weiner. Two Periods. Open to all students.*

*Offered Spring 2015
MTh 11:10-12:20*

Lev Tolstoy: Russia's Ecclesiast

Russian 277 (in English)

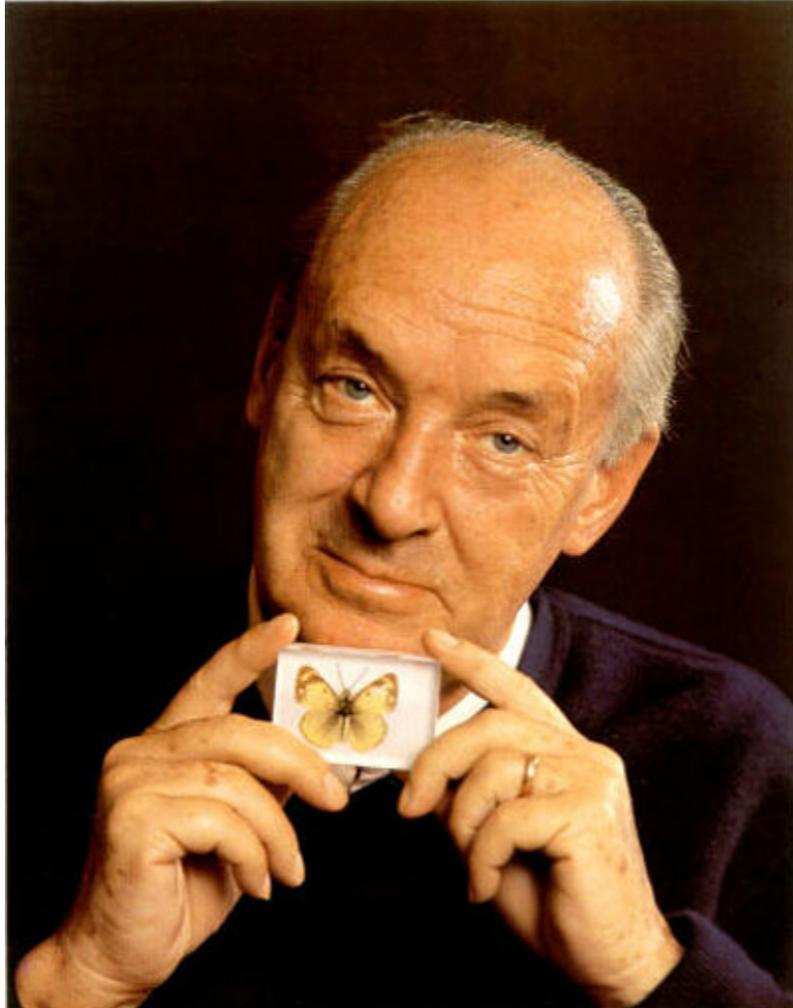


An odyssey through the fiction of the great Russian novelist and thinker, beginning with his early works (*Sevastopol Stories*) and focusing on *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, though the major achievements of Tolstoy's later period will also be included (*A Confession*, *The Death of Ivan Ilich*). Lectures and discussion will examine the masterful techniques Tolstoy employs in his epic explorations of human existence, from mundane detail to life-shattering cataclysm. Students are encouraged to have read the Maude translation of *War and Peace* (Norton Critical Edition) before the semester begins. *Taught in English. Thomas Hodge. Two periods. Open to all students.*

Offered Spring 2015
TF 9:50 -11:00

Vladimir Nabokov

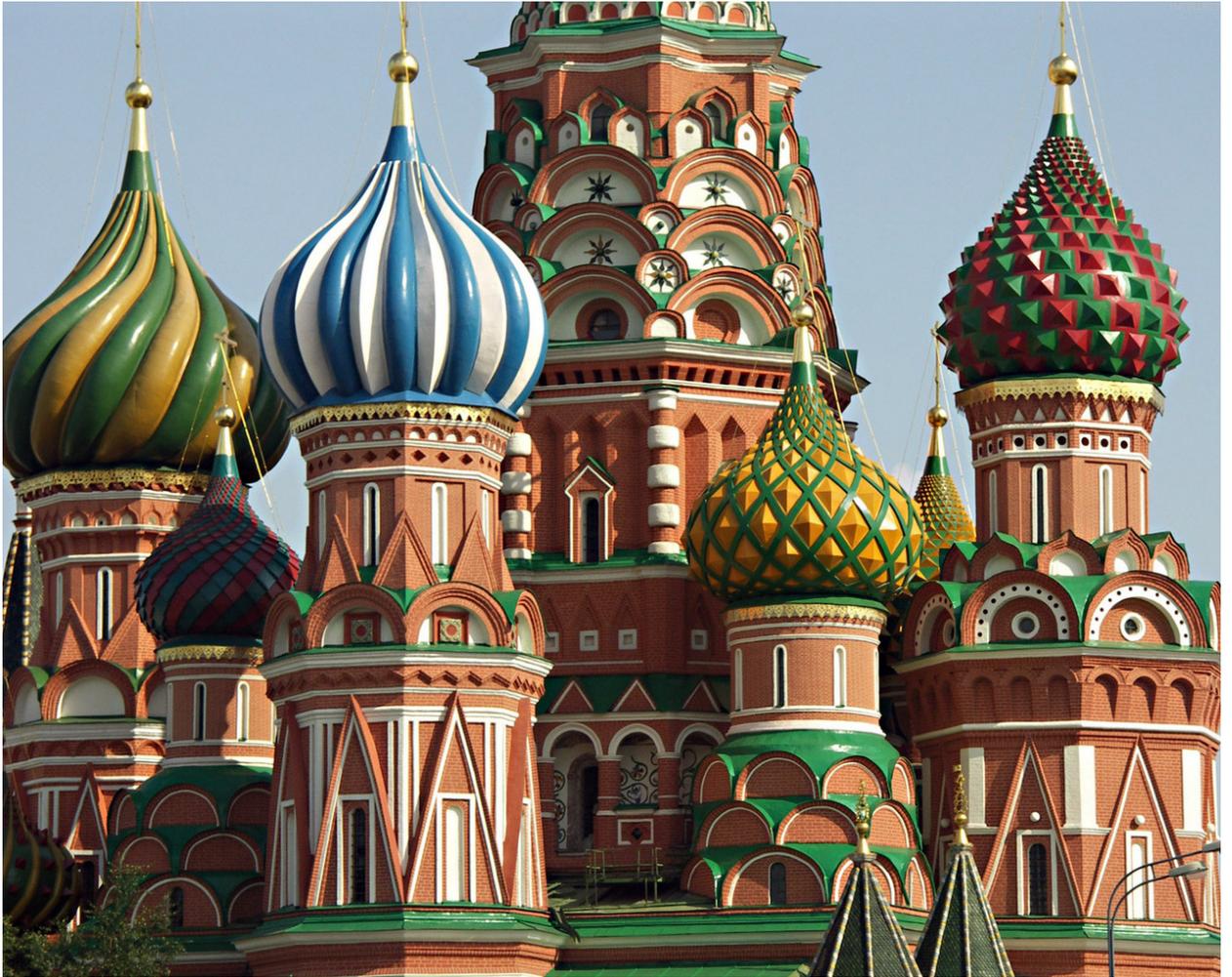
Russian 286 (in English)



An examination of the artistic legacy of the great novelist, critic, lepidopterist, and founder of the Wellesley College Russian department. Nabokov's works have joined the canon of twentieth-century classics in both Russian and English literature. Students will explore Nabokov's English-language novels (*Lolita*, *Pnin*, *Pale Fire*) and the authorized English translations of his Russian works (*The Defense*, *Despair*, *Invitation to a Beheading*). *Taught in English*. Adam Weiner. Two periods. Open to all students.

Offered Fall 2014
MTh 9:50-11:00

Advanced Russian: Moscow Russian 301



Topic for 2015-2016. Students will become experts in one of the great overarching themes of Russian culture: Moscow. We will read and discuss texts, view films, listen to songs, and compose essays on the theme of Russia's historic capital. The course includes study of grammar and syntax, vocabulary expansion with strong emphasis on oral proficiency and comprehension. At the end of the semester each student will write a final paper and present to the class her own special research interest within the general investigation of Moscow's history, traditions, culture, and art. *Taught in Russian. Alla Epsteyn. Three periods.*
Prerequisite: 201-202 or the equivalent.

Not Offered 2014-2015

Advanced Russian: St. Petersburg Russian 301



An inquiry into the unique history, traditions, and myth of St. Petersburg. Students will explore Russia's second capital through readings, films, and song. Special emphasis will be placed on oral proficiency. Each student will pursue her special research interest throughout the course and give an oral presentation on it at the end of the semester. *Taught in Russian. Alla Epsteyn. Three periods. Prerequisite: 301 or the equivalent.*

*Offered Fall 2014
TF 1:30-2:50, W 2:15-3:25*

Advanced Russian: Children and Laughter in Russia

Russian 302



Topic for 2015-2016. Students will enter the world of Russian children's folklore, literature, songs, film, and animation. We will start with lullabies and verbal games, and tales by Pushkin and Tolstoy. We will then examine the contribution of Soviet authors from the early 1920s to the late '80s such as V. Maiakovsky, K. Chukovsky, S. Marshak, D. Kharms, M. Zoshchenko, A. Gaidar, N. Nosov, and E. Uspensky and their effect on the aesthetic development and ethical upbringing of Soviet children. The course emphasizes oral proficiency, extensive reading and weekly writing assignments. Students will write and present a final paper on their own special research interest. *Taught in Russian. Alla Epstein.* Two periods. Prerequisite: 301 or the equivalent.

Not offered 2014-2015

Advanced Russian: Russian Comedy Blockbusters Russian 302



This course explores Soviet and Russian popular film classics loved by generations of viewers that have become cultural symbols. We will study G. Aleksandrov's musicals of the 1930s; sentimental, detective and fantastic comedies by the masters of the genre, L. Gaidai, E. Riazanov, and G. Danelia in the 1950-80s; and post-Soviet crime comedies of the twenty-first century. We will attempt to determine the source of their enduring popularity and cult status through an examination of their aesthetics and of their social and political context. *Taught in Russian. Alla Epstein. Prerequisite: 301 or the equivalent.*

*Offered Spring 2015
TF 1:30-2:50, W 2:15-3:25*

Nineteenth-Century Russian Narrative Poetry Russian 333 (in Russian)



Students will immerse themselves in the famous *poemy* of Derzhavin, Zhukovskii, Pushkin, Lermontov, and Nekrasov, analyzing ballads and verse tales devoted to the natural and the supernatural. Exotic “Oriental” cultures as well as high and low Russian culture serve as the backdrop for these dramatic verse narratives. Russian painting, music, and history will enrich our discussions of Russian Romanticism in the poetry. *One Period. Thomas Hodge. 0.5 units. Taught in Russian. Prerequisite or corequisite: 301 or 302.*

Not offered 2014-2015

Dostoevsky's Short Stories

Russian 376 (in Russian)

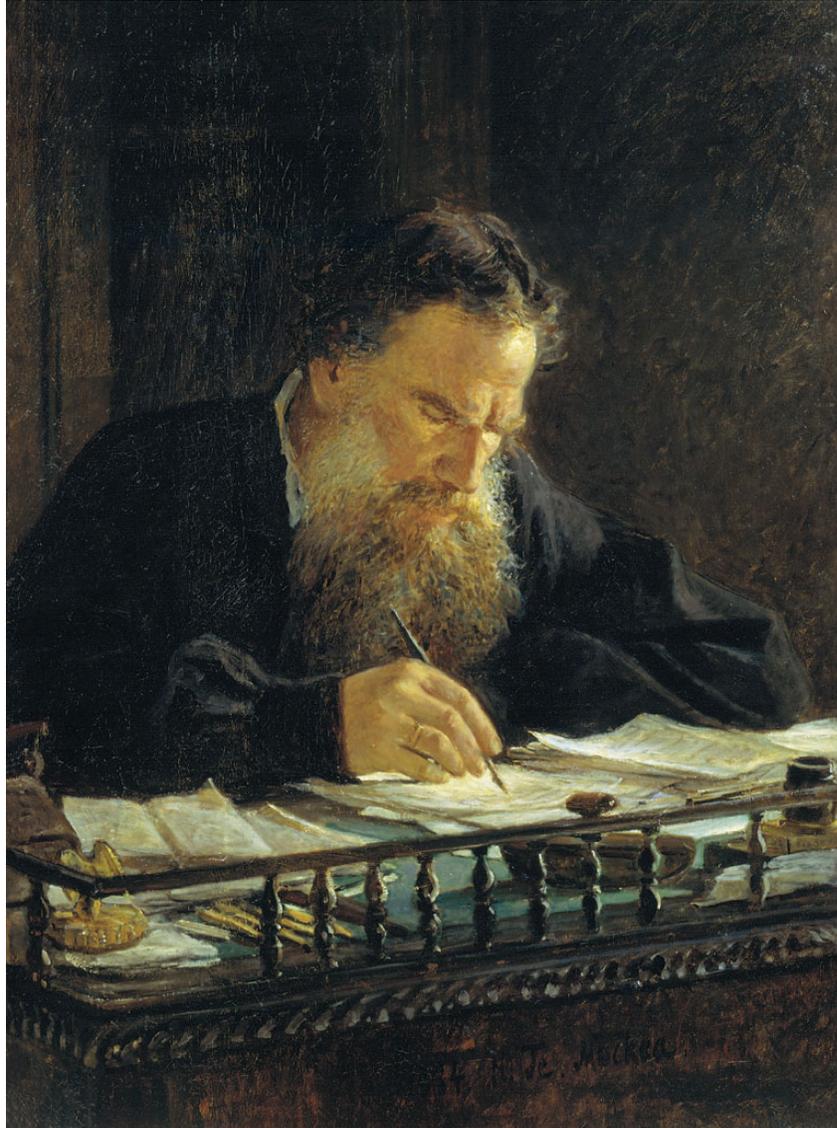


A Russian language course designed to supplement RUSS 276 above, though 376 may be taken independently. Students will read and discuss, in Russian, major short works by Dostoevsky. *One period. Adam Weiner. 0.5 units. Prerequisite: 301 or 302.*

Not offered 2014-2015

Lev Tolstoy's Short Stories

Russian 377 (in Russian)



A Russian- language course designed to supplement 277 above, though 377 may be taken independently. Students will read and discuss, in Russian, major short works by Tolstoy. *One period. Prerequisite or corequisite Russian 301 or 302.*

Offered Spring 2015
W 2:15-3:25

Vladimir Nabokov's Short Stories

Russian 386 (in Russian)



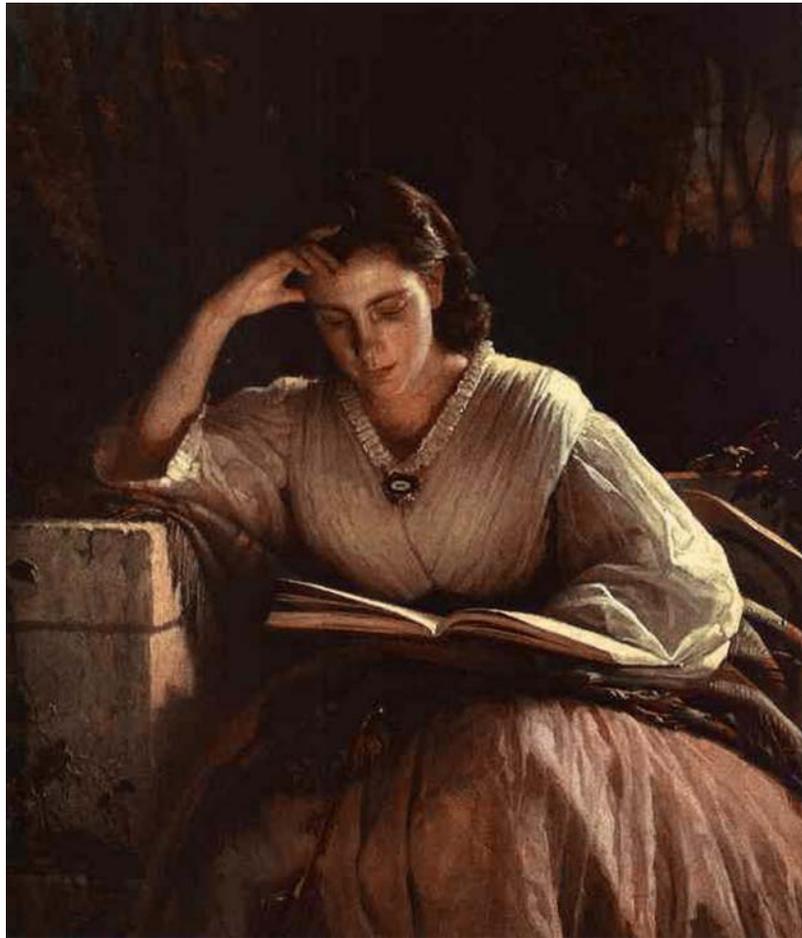
A Russian-language course designed to supplement 286, though 386 may be taken independently. Students will read and discuss, in Russian, major short works by Nabokov. *Prerequisite or corequisite: 301 or 302. Adam Weiner. 0.5 units of credit. One period.*

*Offered Fall 2014
W 9:50-11:00*

Research or Individual Study

Russian 250, 250H

Russian 350, 350H



The following courses are open by permission to qualified students:

250: 200-level independent study for 1.0 units of credit

250H: 200-level independent study for 0.5 units of credit

350: 300-level independent study for 1.0 units of credit

350H: 300-level independent study for 0.5 units of credit

Consult the Chair as early as possible if you are interested in any of these independent-study offerings.

Senior Thesis Research

Russian 360-370



By permission of department. See Departmental Honors.