

Wellesley College

RUSSIAN AREA
STUDIES PROGRAM
and
RUSSIAN DEPARTMENT



Course Offerings 2021-2022

<https://www.wellesley.edu/russianareastudies>

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

Welcome to our Russian Area Studies and Russian course offerings!

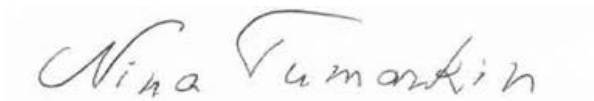
Russia and the United States find themselves once again at a critical juncture. The two nuclear giants are at cross-purposes all over the world, from the Middle East to South America, and Russia's interference in US elections, along with its harsh persecution of oppositionists and the continued conflict in Ukraine, have led to a particularly tense political moment. We see a heated competition in the energy sector, as the US and Russia compete for dominance in oil and gas production.

At the same time Russia also has so much to offer to the world: the peerless beauty of her literature, art, music, dance, film; the unflinching quest for truth on the part of her artists, philosophers, and scholars; her unbelievably rich history, spanning more than a millennium of pain, hope and enigma. Russia possesses a richness and an integrity of experience that must not be carelessly brushed aside. The US desperately needs a new generation of Russia experts to shape our long term policy, steering us away from dangerous conflict and into a relationship that is at least stable, if not mutually beneficial. Why not consider serving the country in this way?

The Russian Area Studies faculty invites you to investigate the region's current trajectory and to immerse yourselves in its dramatic past and culture. The Russian Area Studies program brings together courses in the humanities and social sciences in an interdisciplinary program that explores the Russian language and literature, and Russian and Eurasian culture, history, and politics.

Please visit wellesley.edu/russianareastudies to learn about our faculty, courses, students and the frequent fascinating programs on our events calendar. If you have any questions about the Russian Area Studies program or courses, please feel free to contact me, Nina Tumarkin (ntumarki@wellesley.edu), Director of Russian Area Studies, or our administrator, Katie Sango-Jackson(ksangoja@wellesley.edu).

I look forward to seeing you in our courses, lectures, concerts and feasts!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nina Tumarkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nina Tumarkin
Director, Russian Area Studies

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Russian Area Studies Courses

Russian Area Studies Major Requirements

Goals for Russian Area Studies Major

Successful Russian Area Studies majors can:

- Evaluate and understand Russia's and Eurasia's place in today's interconnected world, challenges facing the region, and goals and values espoused by the citizenry and political leadership
- Describe the basic structures and dynamics of Russian and Eurasian historical development, including the nature of autocracy, dictatorship, and empire
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the nations and peoples of Russia and Eurasia have interacted over time with each other and with geographic regions beyond their borders
- Acquire sufficient proficiency in the Russian language for fluent conversation and advanced study of Russian literature
- Through extensive reading and analysis of primary and secondary texts, discover and delineate the major themes of nineteenth-, twentieth- and twenty-first century Russian literature
- Read, understand and critically interpret scholarly and literary texts
- Deploy methods used by scholars of literature, history and the social sciences to formulate and compose analyses orally and in writing
- Affirm the importance of understanding foreign nations and cultures as a component of active civic responsibility

Requirements for Russian Area Studies Major

A major in Russian Area Studies consists of a minimum of eight units. Majors are normally required to take RUSS 201-RUSS 202 and at least two of the following courses: RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 305, RUSS 306. In addition, a major's program should consist of at least four non-language units drawn from Russian Area Studies, Russian history, literature, and politics, as well as relevant courses in comparative literature (see listings on courses page). At least two of a major's units should come from outside the Russian department and the Comparative Literature program. Majors are normally required to take at least two units of 300-level coursework, at least one of which should be drawn from outside the Russian department.

Honors in Russian Area Studies

Seniors who wish to graduate with honors in the major must write an honors thesis. Applicants for honors must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in all work in the major field above the 100 level; the department may petition on her behalf if her GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. Interested students should discuss their ideas and plans with their advisor, the program chair, or a member of the advisory committee as early as possible in their junior year.

Non-Language Courses For Credit Toward the Russian Area Studies Major

CPLT 284 Magical Realism

CPLT 294 Utopia and Dystopia in Literature

HIST 116 FYS Vladimir Putin: Personage, President, Potentate

HIST 246 Vikings, Icons, Mongols, and Tsars

HIST 247 Splendor and Serfdom: Russia Under the Romanovs

HIST 248 The Soviet Union: A Tragic Colossus

HIST 302 Seminar: World War II as Memory and Myth

POL2 206 The Politics of Russia and Eurasia

POL2 314 Politics of Territory, Language and Division in Russia and Europe

RAS 212 Lake Baikal: The Soul of Siberia

RAS 222/322 Firebird! The Russian Arts Under Tsars and Commissars

RUSS 251 The Nineteenth-Century Russian Classics: Passion, Pain, Perfection (in English)

RUSS 255 Russian and Soviet Film (in English)

RUSS 272 Battle for the Russian Soul: Ideology and the Nineteenth Century Russian Novel (in English)

RUSS 276/376 Fedor Dostoevsky: The Seer of Spirit (in English)

RUSS 277/377 Lev Tolstoy: Russia's Ecclesiast (in English)

RUSS 286/386 Vladimir Nabokov (in English)

RUSS 333 Nineteenth-Century Russian Narrative Poetry: Tales of Mystery and Adventure (in Russian)

RUSS 355 Russian Film (in Russian)

RUSS 376 Fedor Dostoevsky's Short Stories (in Russian)

RUSS 377 Lev Tolstoy's Short Stories (in Russian)

RUSS 386 Vladimir Nabokov's Short Stories (in Russian)

Lake Baikal: The Soul of Siberia

Russian Area Studies 212/ES 212/GEOS 212



Lake Baikal is the oldest, deepest, and most biotically rich lake on Earth. This class examines the geologic history, aquatic processes and cultural values of Lake Baikal and its surroundings and how humans engage with this unique landscape. Lectures and discussion in spring prepare students for the three-week field laboratory taught at Lake Baikal in south central Siberia in August. Lectures address the fundamental natural processes around and within the lake, 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 regional geology, flora and fauna, field tests of student-generated hypotheses, meetings with the lake's stakeholders, and expeditions—often by boat—to natural and cultural sites surrounding the lake.

Adam Weiner (RUSS) and Katrin Monecke (GEOS). 1.25 units of credit. Max Enrollment: 12. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 101 and one of the following: ES100, ES 101, GEOS 101, GEOS 102; and permission of the instructors. Application required. Distribution: LL, NPS. Offered every third Spring. Not offered every year. Subject to Provost's office approval.

Not Offered 2021-2022

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 performing arts. In this course we will explore Russian ballet, opera, music, and theatre 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, painters, and writers to create many of the world's greatest artistic works while living and working under almost unimaginably repressive political regimes. How was this achieved? 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. 1.0 unit of credit. May be taken as RAST 322 with additional assignments.
Prerequisites: RAST 222: None; RAST 322: Normally open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
Distribution: ARS.*

Offered Spring 2022

Th 2:20-5:00

*Comparative
Literary Studies
Program Courses*

Magical Realism

Comparative Literary Studies 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. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students.
Distribution: LL.*

Counts for credit towards the Russian Area Studies major.

Offered Spring 2022

MTh 9:55-11:10

Utopia and Dystopia in Literature

Comparative Literature 294



In his *Republic*, Plato described his utopia as a land where people are divided into four classes depending on their intelligence, where a philosopher-king rules over all, and a guardian class spies and protects, where private property is forbidden and where children are taken from their parents to be raised for the state and taught only things that will increase their loyalty to the state. Eugenics is practiced; literature is banished. Plato's vision has inspired socialist utopian fantasies and dystopian warnings alike. Students will read Nikolai Chernyshevsky's *What's to Be Done?*, H.G. Wells' *Time Machine* and *A Modern Utopia*, Evgeny Zemyatin's *We*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, George Orwell's *1984*, and Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. We will examine the ideas and plans of Plato, Charles Fourier, Jeremy Bentham, Charles Darwin, Cecil Rhodes, and others as they take shape on the pages of the novels we read, and we will consider the extent to which the utopias we read are prophesy or proscription.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students.
Distribution: LL.*

Counts for credit towards the Russian Major.

Not Offered 2021-2022

History
Department
Courses

Vladimir Putin: Personage, President, Potentate

History 116 (First Year Seminar)



Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, is by many accounts the world's most powerful political leader. How did he achieve this status? What have been his chief goals, values and operating principles? What accounts for his continued popularity in Russia, even as the war with Ukraine continues and the economy flattens? To what end has Russia intruded itself into U.S. domestic politics by interfering in our elections and penetrating our social media? A product of Leningrad's "mean streets," the young Putin sought glory in the KGB, and, after the demise of the Soviet Union — a collapse he rues to this day — moved into the heights of power. We will explore Vladimir Putin's life path, political policies and adventures, ideas about Russia's identity and place in the world, and his fading image as the epitome of potent masculinity as he approaches his eighth decade. Assignments will include biographical and autobiographical writings, speeches, videos and a plethora of images and caricatures of this enigmatic and forceful leader.

Nina Tumarkin. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to First Year Students only. Distribution: N/A.

Offered Spring 2022

W 1:30-4:10

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. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: HS.

Not Offered 2021-2022

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. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: HS.

Not Offered 2021-2022

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. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: HS.

Offered Fall 2021

TF 11:20-12:35

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, international relations and analyze the “monumental politics” of war memorials.

Nina Tumarkin. 1.0 unit of credit. 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. Distribution: HS.

***Offered Fall 2021
Th 2:20-5:00***

*Russian
Department
Courses*

Russian Major/Minor Requirements

Russian Major

Goals for the Russian Major

A student majoring in Russian should be able to:

- Converse fluently in Russian;
- Comprehend important primary and secondary texts from the Russian literary tradition;
- Discover and delineate the major themes of nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first century Russian literature and culture;
- Express an understanding of Russian culture clearly and persuasively

Requirements for the Russian Major

A student majoring in Russian must take at least **eight** units in the department above RUSS 102, including:

- Language courses through RUSS 202, and at least 2 units of language at the 300 level
- RUSS 251
- Two 200-level courses above RUSS 251
- At least 2 of the following half-unit courses: RUSS 333, RUSS 355, RUSS 376, RUSS 377, and RUSS 386

RUSS 101, RUSS 102, RUSS 203 and RUSS 303 are counted toward the degree but not toward the Russian major.

Thus, a student who begins with no knowledge of Russian would typically complete the following courses to major in Russian: RUSS 101 and RUSS 102, RUSS 201 and RUSS 202, and two courses from among RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 305, RUSS 306; RUSS 251; two 200-level literature courses above RUSS 251; and one unit from 300-level literature courses.

Honors in Russian

Students may graduate with honors in Russian by writing a thesis. To be admitted to the thesis program, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work in the major field above the 100 level; the department may petition on her behalf if her GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. Students who wish to attempt an honors thesis should consult the chair early in the second semester of their junior year. See Academic Distinctions.

Russian Minor

Requirements for the Russian Minor

A student minoring in Russian must take at least five units in the department above RUSS 102, at least one of which must be at the 300 level. RUSS 203 and RUSS 303 do not count towards the minor in Russian.

Elementary Russian

Russian 101-102



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.

Thomas Hodge. Four periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Russian 101 may also be taken during Wintersession, if offered. Distribution: LL.

Offered Fall 2021, Spring 2022
TF 8:30-9:45, W 8:30-9:20
Conversation class: F 12:45-2:00

Elementary Russian Wintersession

Russian 101W



Intensive, on-campus introduction to Russian grammar through oral, written, and reading exercises; special emphasis on oral expression. The course covers exactly the same material as fall-semester Russian 101. For details see the course website here: <https://www.wellesley.edu/russian/wintersession-russian-101>

Thomas Hodge. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.

***Offered Wintersession 2022
MTWThF 9:00-2:00***

Intermediate Russian

Russian 201-202



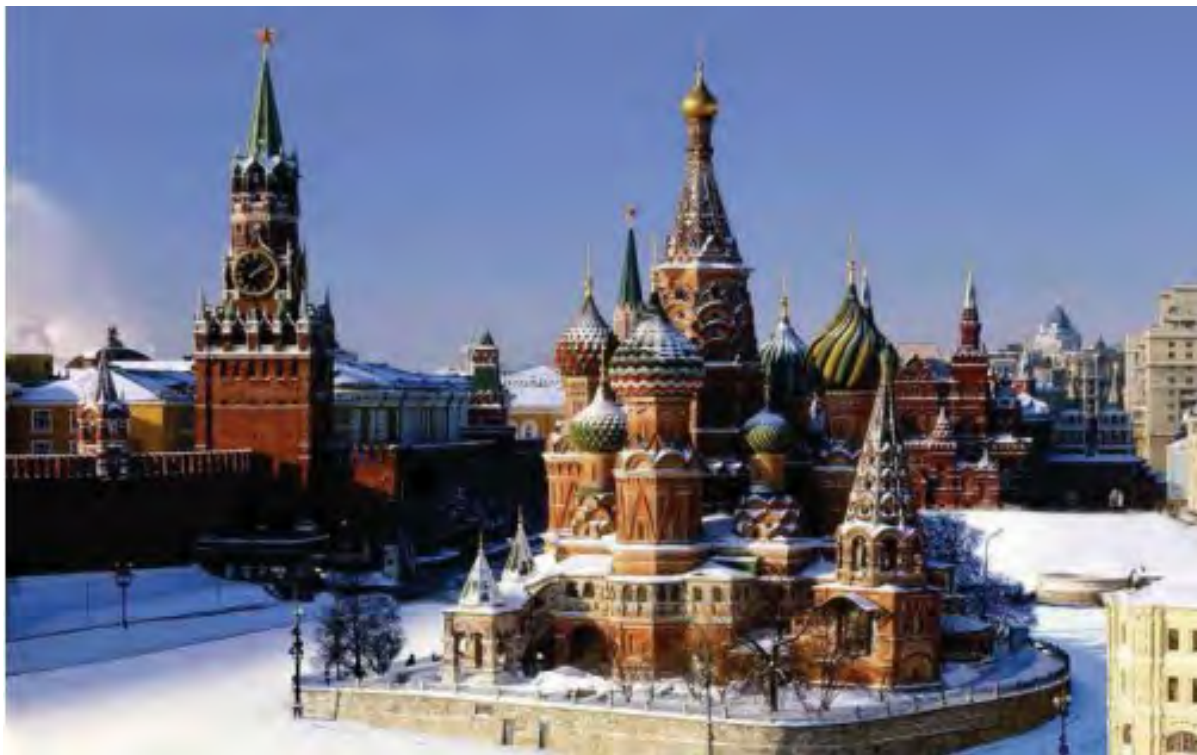
Conversation, composition, reading, music, comprehensive review of grammar; special emphasis on speaking and writing idiomatic Russian. Students perform a play in Russian in 201.

*Alla Epsteyn. Three periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: 101, 102, or the equivalent.
Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Fall 2021, Spring 2022
TF 11:20-12:35, W 12:30-1:20***

Wintersession in Moscow

Russian 203/303



This course is offered as an immersion experience, designed to improve student's 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 303W.

Alla Epsteyn. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.

Offered Wintersession 2022

The Nineteenth Century Russian Classics: 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 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.

***Offered Fall 2021
TF 9:55-11:10***

Russian and Soviet Film

Russian 255 (in English)



Vladimir Lenin characterized film as “the most important of the arts” for the fledgling Soviet state. Film has played a crucial role in documenting and shaping Russia’s Soviet and post-Soviet experience. This course will begin by exploring early Soviet masters of montage (Vertov, Eisenstein, and Pudovkin) and the impact of their revolutionary ideas on world cinema. We will study visionaries of the long take (Tarkovsky, Parajanov, and Sokurov) who later enchanted audiences with a more meditative cinematic sensibility. Along the way, we will consider masterpieces by such filmmakers as the brothers Vasiliev, Kalatozov, Khutsiev, Shepitko, Mamin, Mikhalkov, Muratova, German, and Zviagintsev. Students will deepen their knowledge of Russian history, from the October Revolution to modern-day Russia, and develop a foundation in film theory and analysis.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students.
Distribution: ARS.*

***Offered Spring 2022
MTh 11:20-12:35***

Battle for the Russian Soul: Ideology and the 19th-Century Russian Novel

Russian 272 (in English)



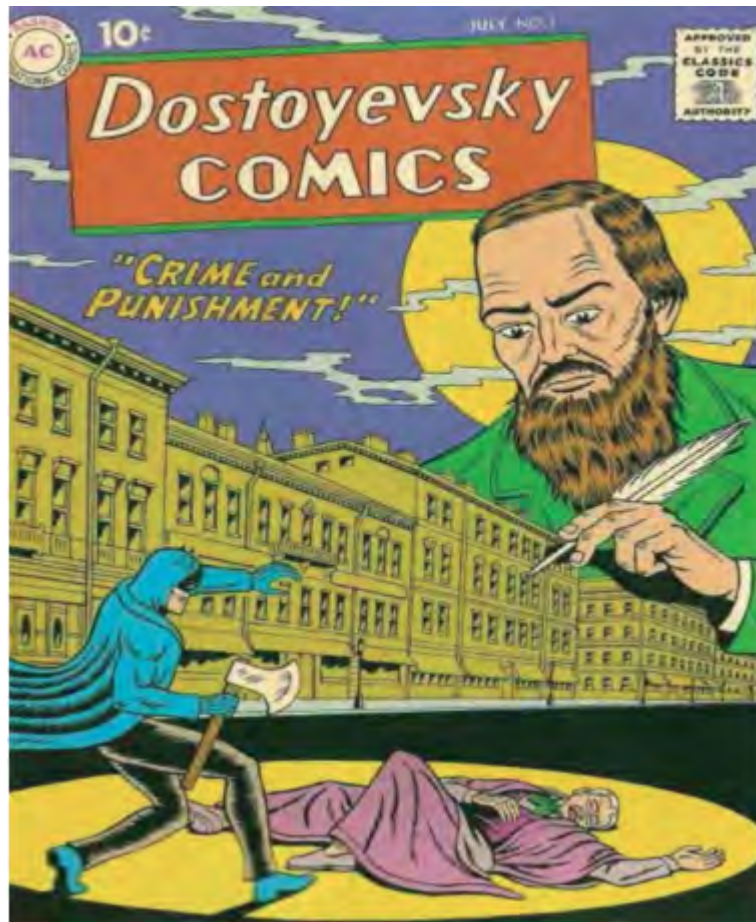
Nineteenth-century Russian writers were locked in a desperate struggle for freedom under an extraordinarily repressive regime. Through an intensive analysis of the great ideological novels at the center of Russia's historic social debates from the 1840s to the end of the century, we will unearth the roots of Dostoevsky's fervent anti radicalism and Lenin's vision for translating nineteenth-century Russia's utopian dreams into real revolutionary change. The tension between literary realism and political exigency will be explored in the fictional and critical works of Chadaev, Herzen, Belinsky, Turgenev, Chernyshevsky, Dobroliubov, Pisarev, and Dostoevsky. Isaiah Berlin's famous essays on the Russian intelligentsia, as well as Tom Stoppard's *The Coast of Utopia* will supplement our reading and discussion.

*Thomas Hodge. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Taught in English. Open to all students.
Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Spring 2022
TF 9:55-11:10***

Fedor Dostoevsky: Seer of Spirit

Russian 276 (in English)



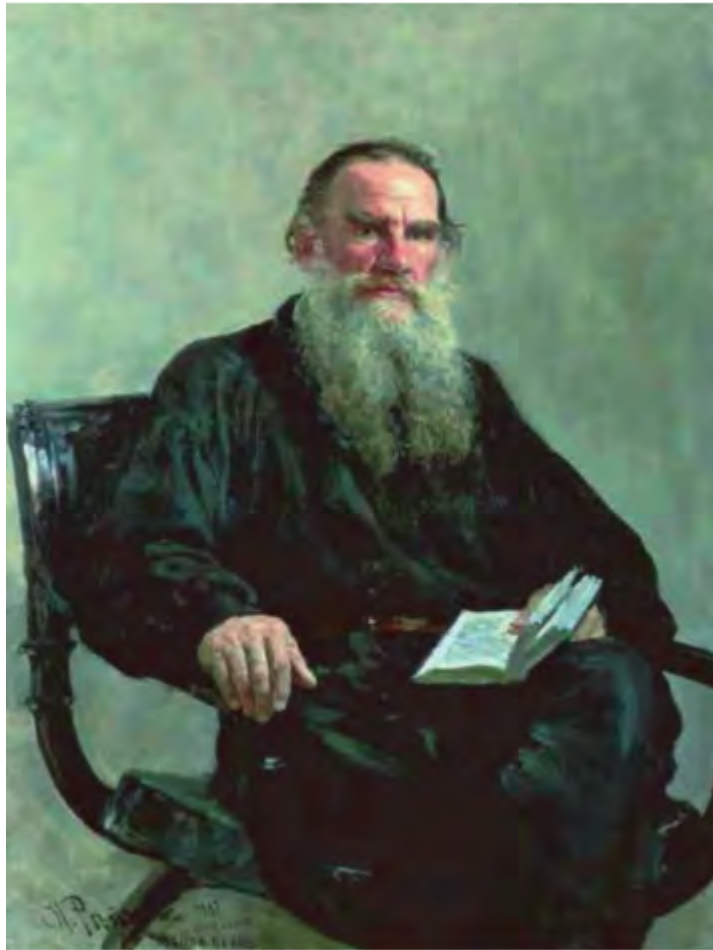
Perhaps no other writer has been as worshipped and also so demonized as Dostoevsky. His insights into the inner life and prophecies about the outer were so violent that he had to reinvent the novel form in order to contain them. Down the decades to this very day Dostoevsky has inspired, enchanted and outraged readers, but never left them unmoved. His writings have been called mystery plays, novel-tragedies, carnivals and polyphonies, to list only the polite names. In this course you will enter into the mysteries and excesses of Dostoevsky yourself through an exploration of his best books.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students.
Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Fall 2021
MTh 9:55-11:10***

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.

*Thomas Hodge. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students.
Distribution: LL.*

Not Offered 2021-2022

Vladimir Nabokov

Russian 286 (in English)



“Ah, what a wicked deed I’ve done! Am I indeed a tempter and a rogue, Because I have made the whole world dream about my hapless little girl? O, yes, I know that people fear me, And burn my kind for sorcery, And as from poison in a hollowed emerald Perish from my artistry.”

~Vladimir Nabokov

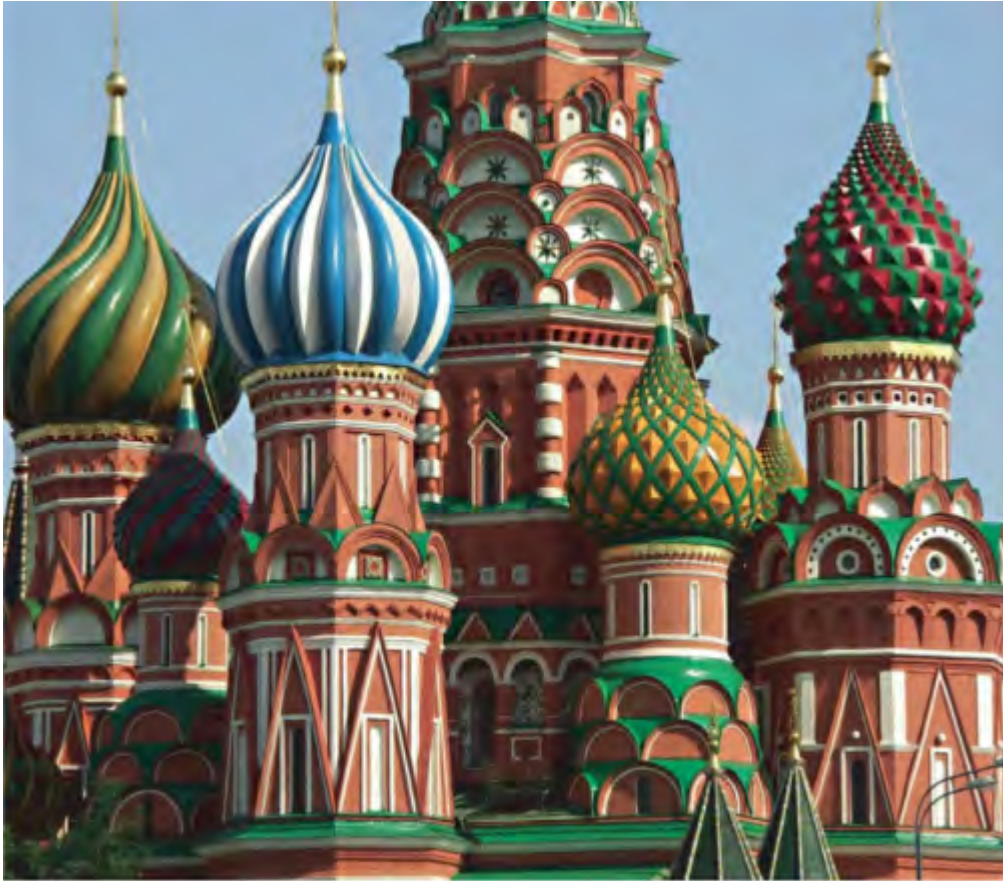
Students will explore Nabokov’s English-language novels (*Lolita*, *Invitation of a Small Guest*, *Pnin*, *Pale Fire*) and the authorized English translations of his Russian works (*The Defense*, *Despair*, *Invitation to a Beheading*).

Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.

Not Offered 2021-2022

Advanced Russian: Moscow

Russian 301



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, syntax, and vocabulary expression 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.

Alla Epsteyn. Taught in Russian. Three periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: 201-202 or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.

Offered Fall 2021

TF 12:45-2:00, W 1:30-2:20

Advanced Russian: Children and Laughter in Russia

Russian 302



Students will enter the world of Russian children's folklore, literature, songs, film, and animation. We will start with lullabies, 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. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: RUSS 301 or 305, or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.

***Offered Spring 2022
TF 12:45-2:00***

Advanced Russian: St. Petersburg

Russian 305



An inquiry into the unique history, traditions, and myth of St. Petersburg. Students will explore Russia's second capital through readings, films, and songs. 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.

Alla Epsteyn. Taught in Russian. Three periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: 201-202 or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.

Not Offered 2021-2022

Advanced Russian: Russian Comedy Blockbusters

Russian 306



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. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisites: RUSS 301 or 305, or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.

Not Offered 2021-2022

Nineteenth-Century Russian Narrative Poetry: Tales of Mystery and Imagination

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 “Eastern” 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.

Thomas Hodge. One period. 0.5 units of credit. Taught in Russian. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301 or 302, or with permission of the instructor. Distribution: LL.

Offered Fall 2021

W 11:30-12:45

Russian Film

Russian 355 (in Russian)



This course explores the great works of Russian film in the original Russian. We will view, analyze and discuss films by Vertov, Eisenstein, Pudovkin, Tarkovsky, Parajanov, Sokurov, the brothers Vasiliev, Kalatozov, Khutsiev, Shepitko, Mamin, Mikhalkov, Muratova, German, and Zviagintsev. Students will deepen their knowledge of Russian history, from the October Revolution to modern-day Russia, and develop a foundation in film theory and analysis. They will also improve their passive and active Russian. All classroom discussion, writing assignments and oral presentations will be in Russian.

Adam Weiner. One period. 0.5 units of credit. Taught in Russian. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301 or 302, or with permission of the instructor. Distribution: ARS.

Offered Spring 2022

Th 6:00-7:15

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. 0.5 units of credit. Prerequisite: RUSS 301 or 302. Distribution: LL.

Not Offered 2021-2022

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.

*Thomas Hodge. One period. 0.5 units of credit. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301 or 302.
Distribution: LL.*

Not Offered 2021-2022

Vladimir Nabokov's Short Stories

Russian 386 (in Russian)



In this course students will enter the world of Nabokov's short fiction and learn his explosive literary style, obsessive themes, and artistic strategies. Students will increase their passive and active vocabulary and improve their speaking, writing, and reading fluency in Russian. We will discuss one work of short fiction (about 20 pages) each week of the semester. Students will translate excerpts from each work discussed. Each student will write a short essay on a story of her choosing and present it to the class. Class meets twice weekly for 75 minutes. All work will be in Russian.

*Adam Weiner. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301 or 302.
Distribution: LL.*

Not Offered 2021-2022

Research or Individual Study

Russian 250, 250H or Russian 350, 350H



250: 200-level independent study for 1.0 unit of credit
250H: 200-level independent study for 0.5 units of credit

350: 300-level independent study for 1.0 unit 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 the department. See Departmental Honors.