RUSS205 Murder and Adultery: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and the 19th-Century Russian Novel
The 19th-century novel is widely regarded as the supreme achievement of Russian literature. This course will trace its development from Pushkin’s elegant, witty novel in verse, EUGENE ONEGIN, through the grotesque comedy of Gogol, to the realist masterpieces of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, with their complex depiction of human psychology and the philosophical struggles of late 19th-century society. We will consider the historical background in which the novels were produced and the tools developed by Russian critical theory, especially the Russian formalists and Mikhail Bakhtin, for understanding 19th-century Russian prose.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS205, RULE205
Prereq: None

RUSS206 A Matter of Life and Death: Fiction in the Soviet Era
The great Russian writers of the 20th century risked their lives insisting on moral absolutes to counter Soviet doctrine. Zamyatin’s WE inspired BRAVE NEW WORLD and 1984; Bulgakov’s MASTER AND MARGARITA remained hidden for 27 years; Solzhenitsyn dared to submit IVAN DENISOVICH during Khruschev’s Thaw--each decade has its characteristic masterpiece. (Students who wish to read excerpts from the course readings in the original Russian should see the instructor to enroll in a 0.5 credit tutorial.)
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS206, RULE206
Prereq: None

RUSS209 The Fantastic: Hoffmann and Gogol (Russian)
This course will follow the evolution of realism in the first half of the 19th century starting with E. T. A. Hoffmann’s effect on Pushkin’s and Gogol’s Petersburg stories. Through close reading, we will see how Russian authors of the naturalist school reworked the devices of German literature to create their own tradition. Conducted in Russian, the course is designed for both advanced students of Russian and native speakers.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS209
Prereq: RUSS302

RUSS212 The Short Course: Readings in 20th-Century Fiction
Supplementary to RUSS206, this course should ideally be taken concomitantly with it, since the readings will be excerpts from RUSS206 to be done in Russian. Designed for Russian majors to do advanced work with the texts they read in RUSS206, the discussion will focus on close stylistic analysis.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES

Identical With: RUSS212
Prereq: (RUSS202 AND [RUSS206 or REES206 or RULE206])

REES216 Secularism: An Introduction
This course traces the idea and ideal of secularism as an ideological project from classic Enlightenment texts to its contemporary incarnations. We begin with philosophical arguments for the separation of church and state as well as the utopian ideas of secular humanism. We then trace how these underpinnings were embodied in state-sponsored atheism in the Soviet Union, as well as in liberal democratic principles in the U.S. and Europe. Finally, we examine critiques of the secular project, focusing on secularism as a realpolitik approach to governing multireligious societies and the idea of religious freedom as a universal human right.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI271
Prereq: None

REES218 Imperial Russia, 1682-1917
This course will survey central issues in Russian history from Peter the Great’s reign in the late 17th century to the Revolution of 1917, following Russia’s development, expansion, and transformation. How and why did Russia come to dominate a vast Eurasian space? How did Russia’s rulers exert control over the diverse cultures, languages, religions, and peoples that came under their influence? What role did national identity play in the relationship between the imperial center and its peripheries? In addition to exploring Russia’s imperial legacy, the course will explore the classic problems in the study of Russian imperial history: the nature of autocratic rule and the attempts of Russia’s leaders and thinkers to identify Russia’s special path and overcome “backwardness”; the conflict between Slavophiles and Westerners to find a basis for Russian identity; the experience of revolutionary change in the political, social, and cultural spheres in the 18th through 20th centuries; late and rapid industrialization and urbanization; and the possibilities and limits of reform from within the system.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST218
Prereq: None

REES219 Russian and Soviet History, 1881 to the Present
Reversals of fortune have defined Russian history perhaps more so than for any other nation. Though the Russian Empire began the 19th century as an emerging European superpower that defeated Napoleon, it ended that same century as a backward state plagued by political, economic, and social strife that ultimately brought the Romanov dynasty to a revolutionary collapse. A similar trajectory describes the “short” Soviet 20th century that began with the promise of a qualitatively new political order that sought to transform social relations and human nature and concluded with a spectacular implosion that some heralded as the end of history itself.

This course will follow the story of how the Soviet Union emerged from the ruins of the Russian imperial order to become the world’s first socialist society, the most serious challenge to imperialism, liberalism, and capitalism, and, arguably, modernity’s greatest political experiment. We will cover the following topics: the emergence and fate of Russian national identity; the origins and dynamics of Russia’s revolutions; the political, economic, and cultural challenges of the Soviet project; the role of the party and ideology in politics and everyday life; the nationalities question and the challenges of governing a socialist empire; Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War and the rebirth of the nation (and nationalism); the emergence of the Soviet Union as a Cold War superpower; the country’s
historical attempts to reform (and the frequent failure of these attempts); and the
dynamics of the system's collapse.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST219
Prereq: None

REES220 Speak, Memory: The Russian Memoir
Memoirs offer a chance for the individual to make sense of his or her relationship
to larger historical forces and allow writers of fiction and poetry to reflect on
the tensions between biography and the creative process. We will read prison
memoirs by Fyodor Dostoevsky and Eugenia Ginzburg; visions of childhood by
Lev Tolstoy, Vladimir Nabokov, and poets Osip Mandelstam, Marina Tsvetaeva,
and Joseph Brodsky; and works of autobiography by Viktor Shklovsky and Sergey
Gandlevsky that create their own poetic world. The course will also consider the
theoretical problems of autobiographical writing. Students will write a memoir of
childhood (3–5 pages) to better understand the technical problems faced
by Tolstoy in writing about his childhood. Students will also write a piece of
memoristic prose, or a parody or imitation of one of the writers in the course
(minimum 10 pages), as one of their three papers. We will devote one class
session to a writing workshop session on the creative project.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RUSS
Identical With: RUSS220, RULE220
Prereq: None

REES222 Dr. Jekyll vs. Dr. Frankenstein: Doubles in Literature
This course will trace the evolution of the idea of the literary double from its
origins in German Romanticism, observing the degradation of the opposition
between ideal and real into the struggle of good vs. evil. The entire process is
parodied in Nabokov’s LOLITA.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RUSS
Identical With: RUSS222, RULE222
Prereq: None

REES232 The Real McCoy: Constructing Identity
We are what we read: The critical reader has the ability to form his or her
identity consciously, while literary characters are destroyed by failing to
recognize the forces and assumptions shaping them. Active interpretation of
texts allows the reader to become an author instead of a character.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RUSS
Identical With: RUSS232, RULE232
Prereq: None

REES234 Woody Allen and the Russian Novel
In addition to parodies of other films, Woody Allen’s films are full of literary
references. We will read the great Russian novels that inspired some of them and
analyze the way Allen transposes the Russian material. Will our analysis make the
films even funnier? This course includes thirteen evening screenings.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RUSS
Identical With: RUSS234, RULE234

REES240 Reading Stories: Great Short Works from Tolstoy to Petrushevskaya
This course is designed to help students improve their writing through the close
reading and analysis of short stories and novellas by Russian masters of the form.
In each class, we will discuss one or two literary works. Students will be asked
to bring to each class their ideas on how to construct an argument that could
be developed into a written interpretation of the work. These discussions, along
with work on English grammar and style as elucidated by Strunk & White and
R. L. Trask, will inform students’ own writing (four 5-page papers). We will read
works in the realist tradition from the mid-19th century to the late 20th century
that include Tolstoy’s novellas of faith, adultery, and facing death; Chekhov’s
subtle psychological tales; Bunin’s reflections from exile on a lost Russia; Babel’s
stories of the Civil War and of Jewish Odessa; Bulgakov’s sketches of life as a
country doctor; and Petrushevskaya’s modern stories of the tortured lives of
women in the late Soviet period.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS240, RULE240
Prereq: None

REES251 Dostoevsky
Dostoevsky is widely recognized as one of the world’s greatest novelists. His
career begins at the end of Russian Romanticism, is interrupted by nine years
of prison and exile in Siberia, and resumes at the beginning of the age of the
great realist novel. Dostoevsky’s major works grapple with the themes of sin and
crime, the disintegration of the family, and the difficulty of believing in God in a
world full of evil.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RUSS
Identical With: RUSS251, RULE251
Prereq: None

REES252 Tolstoy
During the 19th century when Tolstoy wrote his novels and stories, literature
was viewed in Russia as the intelligentsia’s primary medium for debating its big
questions (such as how to resolve the inequalities that had been institutionalized
under serfdom, or how to choose between new and old values as Russia
experienced modernization). Writers like Tolstoy and Dostoevsky willingly
assumed the responsibility to address a broad range of political, historical,
and philosophico-religious questions in their fiction, and they wrote novels
with radical formulations as well as solutions to these questions. However,
they also viewed literature, particularly the novel, as a medium with rich
potential for innovative formal experimentation, and so they resisted the call
for conventional ideological novels. Each of Tolstoy’s best works is an innovative
formal experiment that creates an unprecedented, new type of novel. This
course will study how Tolstoy’s writings both responded to and transcended their
times by creating new novelistic forms and new truths within those forms.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RUSS
Identical With: RUSS252, COL262, RULE252
Prereq: None

REES255 Empire, Love, and War: 20th-Century Novels from Central and Eastern
Europe
This course is a survey of 20th-century prose fiction of Central and Eastern
Europe, with an emphasis on the Czech novel. The novels we will read make
history come alive through the eyes of vividly individual characters. In Joseph
Parody is a form of artistic expression that has played a major role in literary history, largely through its power of critical revision. According to Russian formalist theorists of the early 20th century, parody is a driving force in literary evolution. Linda Hutcheon’s formulation, that parody is “repetition with critical distance, which marks difference rather than similarity,” provides perhaps the broadest and most fruitful point of departure. The course will consider various definitions of parody offered by Russian and Western theorists. After examining parody as pure humor (Woody Allen, MAD magazine, Hot Fuzz) and parody as a tool of literary evolution (Gogol and Dostoevsky), we will study the more complicated case of “restorative parody,” as exemplified in the medieval practice of parodia sacra (sacred parody), discussed by theorists Mikhail Bakhtin and Olga Freidenberg. We will look at the modern manifestation of parodia sacra in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s Jesus Christ Superstar, and of restorative parody in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Hamilton. The course will also include discussion of legal issues raised by parody, in the case of 2 Live Crew / Roy Orbison (which led to a 1994 Supreme Court decision, Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, in which Justice David Souter offered his own definition of parody). At the end of the semester, students will present their own research or creative projects related to parody.
REES280 Russian Politics
The course begins with a brief review of the dynamics of the Soviet system and the reasons for its collapse in 1991. The traumatic transition of the 1990s raised profound questions about what conditions are necessary for the evolution of effective political and economic institutions. The chaos of the Yeltsin years was followed by a return to authoritarian rule under President Putin, although the long-run stability of the Putin system is also open to question. While the focus of the course is Russia, students will also study the transition process in the other 14 states that came out of the Soviet Union. Topics include political institutions, social movements, economic reforms, and foreign policy strategies.

The course will include a role-playing simulation of Kremlin decision making that will run over several weeks.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: GOVT274
Prereq: None

REES282 Modern Shamanism: Ecstacy and Ancestors in the New Age
The wise and mysterious native shaman has long held a particular fascination for Western scholars of religion, but does this figure even exist? What does it mean to be a practicing shaman today? Beginning with Eliade’s definition of “archaic ecstasy,” we examine the idea of the shaman, its role in the New Age movement, and the challenges faced by contemporary indigenous shamans, from negotiating international intellectual property rights law to Ayahuasca tourism. Course materials are supplemented by A/V materials from the instructor’s fieldwork in Siberia.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI239
Prereq: None

REES284 Pushkin
This seminar is for students who are at or above the third year of language study. We will spend the semester reading EVGENY ONEGIN in the original Russian. Class discussions will be in Russian to the degree possible; some biographical reading will be in English. There will be regular listening assignments as well as written ones.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUS250
Prereq: RUS202

REES289 Imagining Communities: National Religions and Political Rituals
From the Catholic-Protestant troubles in Northern Ireland, Christian nationalism in Serbia, Buddhist-Christian conflict in Sri Lanka, and the Taliban in Afghanistan, religious nationalism often produces virulent and violent conflict. Yet the Virgin of Guadalupe is a national symbol of Mexico, Catholicism was central to the Polish Solidarity movement, and America defines itself as “one nation under God.” How are we to understand the relationship between religion and national identity, and how do political rituals, both religious and secular, help form communities? The seminar will analyze popular and religious political science analysis define religious nationalism as dangerous and secular nationalism as good. We will investigate this claim over the course of the semester by asking what the study of religion and ritual can bring to the topic. Are religious and secular political rituals really different as they seem? We will read and discuss the classic social theories of Samuel Huntington, Benedict Anderson, Emile Durkheim, Victor Turner, Clifford Geertz, and Talal Asad, and these readings will be interspersed with case studies that illustrate how these theories help us understand the world. Case studies include the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the arrest and trial of the punk band Pussy Riot in Russia, and the Yasukuni shrine in Japan, where the souls of kamikaze pilots and World War II war criminals are enshrined. In addition, students will pick a case study of their own for a research project. This project will be conducted through multiple small assignments over the course of the semester that will be combined into a final research paper and class presentation.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI299
Prereq: None

REES328 Russian Politics
The course begins with a brief review of the dynamics of the Soviet system and the reasons for its collapse in 1991. The traumatic transition of the 1990s raised profound questions about what conditions are necessary for the evolution of effective political and economic institutions. The chaos of the Yeltsin years was followed by a return to authoritarian rule under President Putin, although the long-run stability of the Putin system is also open to question. While the focus of the course is Russia, students will also study the transition process in the other 14 states that came out of the Soviet Union. Topics include political institutions, social movements, economic reforms, and foreign policy strategies.

The course will include a role-playing simulation of Kremlin decision making that will run over several weeks.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI289
Prereq: None

REES332 Stalinism
This seminar examines the Stalin period in Soviet history, from the late 1920s to 1953. As one of the most brutal dictators of the 20th century, Stalin has been at the center of historians’ attempts to make sense of the Soviet Union, socialism, and totalitarianism. This course will not only examine the biography and personality of Stalin as the ruler and shaper of the Soviet Union, but also explore the political, social, cultural, economic, and intellectual life of Soviet socialism to gain a deeper understanding of the ways that people in the Soviet Union lived, worked, died, survived, fought in wars, and participated in the construction of a new civilization and way of life. The readings of this seminar will combine historians’ conflicting interpretations of Stalin and Stalinism with fiction, diaries, memoirs, music, and films from the period.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST332
Prereq: None

REES340 Reading Theories
In this survey of theories that have shaped the reading of literature and the analysis of culture, emphasis is on key concepts—language, identity, subjectivity,
gender, power, and knowledge—and on key figures and schools such as Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, Saussure, Barthes, Gramsci, Benjamin, Althusser, Foucault, Lacan, Deleuze, Jameson, postmodernism, and U.S. feminism.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL295, COL339, CCIV393, CEAS340, FIST290, GRST231, RUSS340, RULE340
Prereq: None

REES344 If there is no God, then everything is permitted? Moral Life in a Secular World
In Fyodor Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov, Dmitri Karamazov famously poses the question of what would happen to mankind “without God and immortal life,” asking whether this means that “all things are permitted.” Made famous by Dostoevsky, the question of whether we can be moral without God has always haunted secularism and has consistently been the most vocal criticism of unbelief. From papal condemnations of secularism and “godless Soviets,” to the contemporary consensus that belief in God is evidence of moral goodness and its absence a sign of a broken ethical barometer, the assumption has been that transcendental authority is all that stands between us and moral abyss. When the atrocities committed by “totalitarian” regimes are cited as evidence of this, it is only the most radical articulation of a broader narrative of secular modernity.

One of modernity’s master narratives is that people go from being under the care of the church to being under the care of the state, and our focus will be on historical cases where the question of secular values was explicitly engaged by the state. We will examine individual and collective articulations of morality in three prominent models of secularism: American civil religion, French laïcité, and Communist official atheism. What constitutes the moral foundation of a world without God? Can religion’s moral and spiritual function be performed by a different kind of belief system?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST395, RELI393
Prereq: None

REES353 The Communist Experience in the 20th Century
Two decades have passed since the collapse of Communism, its empire, and its utopian vision of the kingdom of heaven on Earth. Indeed, the Communist collapse was heralded as not just the end of the Cold War but the end of history itself. Yet how do we understand the nature of the communist way of life, the causes of its decline, and the meaning of its demise? This course will trace the development of Communism’s answer to capitalist modernity from the 1917 Revolution through the Soviet collapse. It will seek to shed light on the birth, life, and death of Communist modernity through history, literature, and art, by exploring the world socialism created as an ideological model and a way of life. The emphasis of the course will be on the lived experience of Communism, primarily within the Soviet Union, but also beyond it (in Eastern Europe and Asia). In the global conflict between capitalism and Communism, how did people understand the competing demands of ideology and reality, individual and society, private and public, production and consumption, labor and leisure? How did the state manage the contradictions that arose when lofty ideologies encountered everyday life, and how did citizens make sense of these ideological transformations? What killed Communism: bombs and diplomacy, or refrigerators and Finnish shoes?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST353
Prereq: None

REES375 The End of the Cold War, 1981–1991
In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the relative stability that prevailed between the United States and Soviet Union since the end of the Cuban missile crisis (and more fundamentally, since the East and West German governments were formed in 1949) broke down. By mid-1982, well-informed figures in both Washington and Moscow feared nuclear war. Hostility between the two governments only intensified over the succeeding months. Yet by mid-1988, the Cold War ended and a new mode of cooperation between the Soviet and U.S. leaders emerged. How and why did this profound transformation occur? This seminar will concentrate on this question. It will call into question both the liberal and the conservative explanations for these developments that have reigned in the United States over the past two decades.

Students will read secondary works, memoirs of negotiators, and primary documents from both sides. In the concluding weeks, each student will do a research essay.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST375
Prereq: None

REES401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REES402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REES407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

REES408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

REES409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REES410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REES411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Grading: OPT

**REES465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate**

Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.

Offering: Host

Grading: OPT