RUSSIAN (RUSS)

RUSS101 Elementary Russian I
This beginning course in Russian language teaches basic grammar while providing extensive practice in speaking and listening to contemporary Russian. Because of the intensive workload, the student earns 1.5 credits for this course.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Prereq: None

RUSS102 Elementary Russian II
This beginning course in Russian language teaches basic grammar while providing extensive practice in speaking and listening to contemporary Russian. Because of the intensive workload, the student earns one and half credits for this course.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Prereq: RUSS101

RUSS201 Intermediate Russian I
This course presents a continued study of Russian grammar with an emphasis on a complete analysis of the verb system. Exercises in class and in the language lab develop fluency in speaking and understanding spoken Russian while teaching the rules of Russian grammar. The readings used for analysis of the verb system are classic short stories by Chekhov, Tolstoy, Zoschenko, and others.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Prereq: (RUSS101 AND RUSS102)

RUSS202 Intermediate Russian II
Exercises in class and in the language lab develop fluency in speaking and understanding spoken Russian while teaching the rules of Russian grammar. Readings for the course (short works of Russian prose and poetry) will be listened to as well as read.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Prereq: RUSS101 AND RUSS102 AND RUSS201

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: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE205, REES205
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 Khrushchev'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: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES206, RULE206
Prereq: None

RUSS208F Otherness & Belonging (FYS)
One of the many haunting utterances of Fyodor Dostoevsky's most famous antihero, the Underground Man, is "I am alone, I thought, and they are everyone." Like him, the other protagonists of this course are outcasts, dissenters, and strangers - jaded office clerks and repressed misanthropes, queer activists and "enemies of the state" - who refuse to conform to societal norms, disrupt conventions by saying the unsayable, and write and make art from the margins, the realm of undesirables. Focusing mainly on Russia and Eastern Europe, we will analyze representations of otherness and belonging in fiction, non-fiction, and film. We will explore narratives of undesirability through the thematic prisms of exile and immigration; gender and sexuality; mental illness; prison writing; ethnic difference; religion; and unrequited love. The concept of undesirability will also be our point of entry for constructing arguments about community, privilege, and a society without outsiders.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES208F, RULE208F
Prereq: None

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: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES212
Prereq: (RUSS202 AND [RUSS206 or REES206 or RULE206])

RUSS220 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 Ginsburg; 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 memoiristic 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: Host
Grading: OPT
RUSS233 Introduction to Russian and Soviet Cinema
This course provides an introduction to the history and poetics of Soviet and Russian cinema. From the avant-garde experimentation of Lev Kuleshov, Sergei Eisenstein, and Dziga Vertov to the masterpieces of Andrei Tarkovsky, Sergei Parajanov, and Kira Muratova, the course will explore the development of Russian film as artistic medium and as national tradition. The discussion and comparative analyses of different forms and genres, including silent cinema, propaganda films, blockbusters, and auteur cinema, will be situated within the cultural, political, and aesthetic contexts of the Soviet Union and contemporary Russia.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES233, RULE233
Prereq: None

RUSS235 Queer Russia
Russia is accustomed to playing the role of the "evil empire." The current ongoing war in Ukraine has resurrected the Cold War-era narratives about Russia as a dark, aggressive, and ruthless military power. The notorious legislation of recent years—whose functions range from barring Americans from adopting Russian orphans to criminalizing the so-called "gay propaganda"—have further solidified Russia's reputation as a country with little regard for human rights. Yet generations of Russian poets, artists, and writers have transformed the country's systematic oppression and violence into spectacular forms of protest and self-expression. This course focuses on gender and sexuality in exploring an alternative cultural history of Russia, which highlights its queer legacy from the nineteenth century to the present. We will examine poetry, fiction, art, memoirs, plays, films, performances, and discursive texts that showcase uniquely Russian conceptions of marriage, gender relations, gender expression, and sexual identity. Attention will be paid to the ways in which Russian and Western narratives of queerness align and diverge. In English. No knowledge of Russian is required or expected.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE235, FGSS234, REES235
Prereq: None

RUSS240 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: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE240, REES240
Prereq: None

RUSS250 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: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES250
Prereq: None

RUSS251 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 philosophical-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: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE251, REES251
Prereq: None

RUSS252 Nobel Laureates: The Politics of Literature
This course examines key cultural and socio-historical moments in the development of twentieth-century Russian literature by focusing on the prose and poetry of authors awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature-Ivan Bunin (1933), Boris Pasternak (1958), Mikhail Sholokhov (1965), Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1970), Joseph Brodsky (1987), and Svetlana Alexievich (2015). Additionally, the students will read Lev Tolstoy, who rejected being nominated for the prize, as well as Vladimir Nabokov and Anna Akhmatova, who arguably merited the award but never received it. On the broader level, the class will ponder literature's relevance for shaping public discourse on cultural policies, national identities, and international relations.
Offering: Crosslisting
parody as pure humor (Woody Allen, MAD magazine, Hot Fuzz) and parody
broadest and most fruitful point of departure. The course will consider various
forms of characters; in Witold Gombrowicz’s TRANS-ATLANTYK and Aleksandar
Hemon’s THE QUESTION OF BRUNO, the main characters find themselves in a
foreign land when their home countries (Poland and Yugoslavia, respectively) are
torn apart by war. All the works we will read exemplify the high level of narrative
sophistication, in realist, absurdist, and experimental modes, that is a hallmark of
Central and Eastern European literature.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES255, RULE255
Prereq: None

RUSS260 Dostoevsky’s BRAT’IA KARAMAZOVY
In this seminar devoted to close reading of the original text of Dostoevsky’s
1879–80 novel, all students will be required to read the entire text in English,
each week specific passages will be read in Russian. In class, we will analyze
and discuss the text in Russian. Students will give presentations about critical
works related to the novel and to Dostoevsky’s work in general. The class is
conducted in Russian.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES260
Prereq: RUSS301

RUSS263 Nabokov and Cultural Synthesis
This course will trace the development of Nabokov’s art from its origins in
Russian literature by close readings of the motifs that spiral outward through his
(principally English-language) novels.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE263, COL265, REES263
Prereq: None

RUSS267 Parody: Humor, Artistic Evolution, and Restoration of the Sacred
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.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES267, RULE267
Prereq: None

RUSS277 Gogol and His Legacy: Witches, Con Men, and Runaway Noses
This course will include close reading and analysis of the works of Nikolai
Gogol (1809–1852), who created a phantasmagorical world of devils and
witches coexisting with the gritty details of life in St. Petersburg and the Russian
provinces. We will also read works by later writers who either explicitly or
implicitly placed themselves in the Gogolian tradition: Fyodor Dostoevsky,
Fyodor Sologub, Andrei Bely, Mikhail Bulgakov, and Vladimir Nabokov. Gogol’s
satirical observations delighted socially conscious contemporary critics, while his
linguistic experimentation and subversion of the rules of logic inspired modernist
writers of the 20th century. We will consider Gogol’s response to Romantic
aesthetics, his interest in the demonic, the influence of his formal and linguistic
experimentation on later writers, and the history of his reception by Russian and
Western writers and critics.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE277, REES277
Prereq: None

RUSS301 Third-Year Russian I
This course reviews and reinforces grammar and develops speaking and writing
skills while reading Russian literary texts.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE301, REES301
Prereq: RUSS202

RUSS302 Third-Year Russian II
Conducted in Russian, this course will focus on reading and composition and on
such topics as verbal aspect, functional word order, and word formation. The
course requires language lab work.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RULE302, RUSS302
Prereq: RUSS301

RUSS340 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,
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL  
Identical With: ENGL295, COL339, CCIV393, CEAS340, RL&L290, GRST231, RULE340, REES340  
Prereq: None  

**RUSS401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate**  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

**RUSS402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate**  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

**RUSS407 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  

**RUSS408 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  

**RUSS409 Senior Thesis Tutorial**  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

**RUSS410 Senior Thesis Tutorial**  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

**RUSS411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate**  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

**RUSS412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate**  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

**RUSS465 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  

**RUSS466 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  

**RUSS491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial**  
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member’s course for academic credit.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  

**RUSS492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial**  
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member’s course for academic credit.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT