

RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES MAJOR

MAJOR DESCRIPTION

The Major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REES) provides students with a thorough, interdisciplinary understanding of contemporary Russia and other post-Soviet states, their culture, society, history, politics, and economic institutions. REES faculty specialize in the literature, history, politics, music, cinema, art, dance, and religion of this region. Students are expected to achieve an advanced level of fluency in Russian or another language of the region and learn to work with target-language sources and media to conduct original research in their chosen area of specialization. Study abroad in the region is encouraged when appropriate.

Students drawn to the REES major bring an interdisciplinary orientation, strong critical thinking and analytical abilities, and a curiosity about learning languages. They may have a cultural interest in the region's rich history, literature, or artistic traditions. Alternatively, they may want to focus on the role of this region--as it transformed from the Russian Empire to the Soviet Union and to its successor states--in global affairs and the worldwide economy.

The REES major can provide insights into different worldviews and social systems, preparing graduates for advanced study or careers in research and cultural analysis, education, law, artistic production, diplomacy and public service, business, and communication.

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR

Students normally declare a major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies in the spring of sophomore year. Interested students should begin their study of Russian language as early as possible and should consult a REES faculty member before declaring the major. To be accepted into the program, students must have a minimum overall average of B in courses related to the major.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

There are two possible concentrations in the REES major.

- Language, literature, and culture. Majors must complete three years of college-level Russian or the equivalent, as well as five more courses, three of which must be in literature & culture (including either a course or a full-credit tutorial conducted in Russian) and two of which must be in social sciences. If a student places out of one or more semesters of language, they must take enough courses in REES to add up to a total of 11. For example, a student who places out of two semesters of first-year Russian would take four more semesters of language plus seven more courses.
- Social sciences. Majors must complete two years of college-level Russian or the equivalent, as well as seven more courses. These courses must include at least three in the category of social sciences and two in the category of literature & culture. If a student places out of one or more semesters of language, they must take enough courses in REES to add up to a total of 11. For example, a student who places out of two semesters of first-year Russian would take two semesters of language plus nine more courses.

Students who wish to fulfill the language requirement by studying a language of Eastern Europe or Central Asia other than Russian may do so, subject to approval by the chair.

REES COURSES

Code	Title	Hours
Social Sciences		
GOVT274	Russian Politics	1
RELI225	Socialist Utopias: Transcendence and Religion in Communist States	1
RELI225F	Socialist Utopias: Transcendence and Religion in Communist States (FYS)	1
RELI271	Secularism: Godlessness from Luther to Lenin	1
RELI239	Modern Shamanism: Ecstasy and Ancestors in the New Age	1
RELI289	Indigenous Religions: Politics, Land, Healing	1
HIST151	Introduction to History: The "Russian World" Past and Present	1
HIST219	Russian and Soviet History, 1881 to the Present	1
HIST318	The Politics of Death: The Living, the Dead, and the State	1
HIST353	The Communist Experience in the 20th Century	1
RELI299	Imagining Communities: National Religions and Political Rituals	1
HIST395	"If there is no God, then everything is permitted?" Moral Life in a Secular World	1
Literature and Culture in English		
MUSC121	Queering Russian Music	1
MUSC296	Soundscapes of Islam	1
MUSC297	Music of Central Asia: From Throat-singing to Heavy Metal	1
REES205	Murder and Adultery: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and the 19th-Century Russian Novel	1
REES208F	Otherness & Belonging (FYS)	1
REES220	Speak, Memory: The Russian Memoir	1
REES223	After Communism: Animals, Avatars, Hybrids	1
REES224	Performing Russian Culture: From Peter the Great to the Russian Revolution	1
REES233	Introduction to Russian and Soviet Cinema	1
REES235	Queer Russia	1
REES240F	Reading Stories: Great Short Works from Gogol to Petrushevskaya (FYS)	1
REES251	Dostoevsky	1
REES252	Tolstoy	1
REES254	Nobel Laureates: The Politics of Literature	1
REES255	Prague, Vienna, Sarajevo: 20th-Century Novels from Central and Eastern Europe	1
REES256	The Soviet Century	1
REES267	Parody: Humor, Artistic Evolution, and Restoration of the Sacred	1
REES268	Nabokov	1
REES276	Contemporary Russian Literature	1
REES277	Gogol and His Legacy: Witches, Con Men, and Runaway Noses	1
REES279	Chekhov: Prose vs. Drama	1

REES321	Moscow/Berlin: Dreamworld and Catastrophe	1
Courses Conducted in Russian		
REES260	Dostoevsky's BRAT'IA KARAMAZOVY	1
CGST234	Introduction to Russian and Soviet Cinema (CLAC.50)	0.5
CGST330	Reading Tolstoy in Russian (CLAC .50)	.5
CGST350	Twentieth-Century Russian Poetry (CLAC .50)	.5
CGST352	The Communist Experience in the Soviet Union (CLAC.50)	.5
Language		
RUSS101 & RUSS102	Elementary Russian I and Elementary Russian II	3
RUSS201 & RUSS202	Intermediate Russian I and Intermediate Russian II	2
RUSS301 & RUSS302	Third-Year Russian I and Third-Year Russian II	2

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

The major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies is designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of contemporary Russian culture and society, its history, its political and economic institutions, and its place in the world. At the end of their studies students should have achieved an advanced level of fluency in the language and should be able to work with Russian sources to conduct original research in their chosen area of specialization. They should be able to read or watch Russian media and understand the historical and cultural references that frame Russians' understanding of their world. Students should also have a basic familiarity with the historical, cultural, social, and political developments of the other post-Soviet states beyond Russia and have the opportunity to explore these countries in more detail if they so desire.

STUDY ABROAD

Given the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine, students should consult with the faculty about any plans for study abroad. Students may study in Eastern Europe or Central Asia as long as the program includes a language component. For a semester of study abroad on an approved program, four credits will count toward graduation, of which two will count toward the REES major. For a summer of study abroad on an approved program, two credits will count toward graduation, of which one will count toward the REES major.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Majors must complete two or three years of college-level Russian or the equivalent, depending on their major track. Minors must complete one year of college-level Russian or the equivalent.

PRIZES

Scott Prize, Priscilla Meyer Fund

HONORS

To qualify to receive honors or high honors in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies (REES), a student must write a senior thesis that will be evaluated by a committee consisting of the tutor, a second reader from the REES faculty, and one additional reader either from REES or from the faculty at large. This committee makes the final decision on departmental honors. Only a two-semester senior thesis may be submitted for honors in REES.

CAPSTONE

No capstone is required. Available capstone experiences include study abroad, seminars conducted in Russian, and senior honors theses.