RUSSIAN (Div I)
Chair: Professor Janneke van de Stadt

Professors: J. van de Stadt and J. Cassiday; Assistant Professor: O. Kim; Bolin Dissertation Fellow: Kamal Abdul Kariem; Teaching Associate: Dilara Karashashova

LANGUAGE STUDY
The department provides language instruction to enable students to acquire all five linguistic skills: understanding, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. Russian 101-W88-102 covers the basics of Russian grammar. Russian 103 through 202 offer additional instruction in grammar and vocabulary acquisition, and provide extensive practice in reading and conversation.

STUDY ABROAD
The department strongly encourages students who want fluency in Russian to spend a semester or year studying in Russia or one of the former Soviet republics. Students generally apply to one of several approved foreign study programs. Russian 104 or the equivalent and junior standing are normally prerequisite for study abroad.

FAQ
Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?
No, generally not until after a student returns and can provide course material for review (e.g. completed work such as exams, portfolios, lab reports and the like).

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?
In Addition to course title and description, we always have a conversation with our students about the actual work they completed since sometimes syllabi are vague, or not followed with complete thoroughness.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?
Yes, four courses.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?
No.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?
No, the only candidate for this would be the Senior Seminar, and it has never been an issue.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)
No.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:
None to date.

LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN TRANSLATION
The department regularly offers courses on Russian literature, culture, and politics in English for those students who have little or no knowledge of Russian, but who wish to become acquainted with Russian literary, cultural, and social history.

THE CERTIFICATE IN RUSSIAN
To enhance a student’s educational and professional profiles, the Certificate in Russian offers a useful tool for using the language in a wide variety of disciplines. The sequence of language and culture courses is designed to supplement a student’s major at Williams by enabling the student to expand their knowledge in a related field.

Students who enter Williams with previous training in Russian may substitute more advanced courses for all the 100-level courses; they can also be exempted from up to two of the required courses. Thus, in order to earn a certificate a student must take no fewer than five courses (including three courses in Russian) after enrolling at Williams. The student must achieve proficiency at the level of a B in RUSS 251 or the equivalent.
Required Courses

101
102
103
104

one additional course conducted in Russian

Elective Courses

at least one course on Russian cultural history

at least one course on Russian intellectual, political, or social history, or post-Soviet economics

THE MAJOR

The Russian major offers students an interdisciplinary approach to the intellectual and cultural history of Russia and the former Soviet republics. Students complete the major by combining courses in Russian language and literature with courses in history, political science, music, economics, and art. The major requires a minimum of ten courses of which at least six must be conducted in Russian, at least two must be at the 300-level, and one at the 400-level. In addition, students may take up to four related courses offered by other departments and taught in English.

Examples of appropriate courses in other departments are:

- HIST 241 Imperial Russia
- SOC 248 Post-Soviet Paradoxes
- HIST 337 After Stalin: Soviet History
- PSCI 286 Russian Politics and Foreign Policy under Vladimir Putin

Students selecting the major must typically complete Russian 104 or 152 (or the equivalent) by the end of the junior year. Majors will normally be expected to take the 400-level seminar offered in their senior year, even if they have previously taken another version of it. Russian majors may receive major credit for summer language study (in consultation with the department) and for as many as four courses taken during study abroad.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN RUSSIAN

At the beginning of the second semester of the senior year, students may nominate themselves to candidacy for the degree with honors. By the end of the junior year at the latest, however, they will have established in consultation with the department their qualifications for embarking on the project, the pattern of study to be followed, and the standards of performance.

Students earn a degree with honors by submitting a senior thesis (493-W31-494) of honors quality.

RUSS 101 (F) Elementary Russian I

An introduction to contemporary standard Russian, this course provides opportunities to acquire basic proficiency in all five language skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—through immersion, intensive use of authentic materials, and a strong emphasis on the spoken word in all class activities. Greater emphasis is placed on writing in the second semester. For students who already know some Russian, consultation with the department is required before registering for any Russian language course in the sequence 101 through 252.

Class Format: class meets five times a week;
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, regular summative exercises, written and oral final exercises
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: first-and second-year students; students expressing an interest in the Russian major or certificate; students who need to learn Russian for research purposes
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes: students registered for RUSS 101-102 are required to attend and to pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (RUSS 101 and 102) are taken.

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 102 (S) Elementary Russian II
An introduction to contemporary standard Russian, this course provides opportunities to acquire basic proficiency in all five language skills-listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—through immersion, intensive use of authentic materials, and a strong emphasis on the spoken word in all class activities. Greater emphasis is placed on writing in the second semester. For students who already know some Russian, consultation with the department is required before registering for any Russian language course in the sequence 101 through 203.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, tests, and a final exam

Prerequisites: RUSS 101 or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: students expressing an interest in the Russian major or certificate

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: credit granted only if both semesters (RUSS 101 and 102) are taken

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Olga Kim

RUSS 103 (F) Intermediate Russian I
This course develops all five skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—for students who have completed at least one year of college-level Russian. Coursework includes a systematic review of Russian grammar, as well as an examination of a variety of authentic materials from Russian culture, current events, and daily life.

Requirements/Evaluation: daily homework assignments, review tests after each chapter, presentations

Prerequisites: students who passed RUSS102 or its equivalent

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Students who major or are planning to major in Russian

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 11:50 am Olga Kim

RUSS 104 (S) Intermediate Russian
This course continues to develop all five skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—for students who have completed at least three semesters of college-level Russian. Coursework includes the ongoing study of Russian grammar, especially of increasing complexity, as well as an examination of a variety of authentic materials from Russian and Soviet culture, current events, and daily life. Significant attention will be devoted to vocabulary expansion. Students who complete the yearlong sequence of RUSS 103 and RUSS 104 should be well prepared to undertake study abroad in Russia and are encouraged to do so.
RUSS 151 (F) Continuing Russian I
This course develops all five skills--listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture--for students who have completed at least one year of college-level Russian. Coursework includes a systematic review of Russian grammar, as well as an examination of a variety of authentic materials from Russian and Soviet culture, current events, and daily life. Intermediate students will concentrate on expanding their vocabulary, while more advanced students will focus on reading and writing about unabridged texts in Russian. Students who complete the yearlong sequence of RUSS 151 andRUSS 152 should be well prepared to undertake study abroad in Russia and are encouraged to do so. Each year this course is custom-designed to meet the needs of those students who enroll, so that both intermediate and advanced students can benefit from taking RUSS 151 and/or RUSS 152 more than once, which may be done with the permission of the instructor.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments and summative exercises
Prerequisites: completion of at least one year of college-level Russian (RUSS 101-102) or the equivalent, or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 14
Enrollment Preferences: Russian majors and certificate seekers
Expected Class Size: 4-6
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 152 (S) Continuing Russian II
This course develops all five skills--listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture--for students who have completed at least one year of college-level Russian. Coursework includes a systematic review of Russian grammar, as well as an examination of a variety of authentic materials from Russian and Soviet culture, current events, and daily life. Intermediate students will concentrate on expanding their vocabulary, while more advanced students will focus on reading and writing about unabridged texts in Russian. Students who complete the yearlong sequence of RUSS 151 and RUSS 152 should be well prepared to undertake study abroad in Russia and are encouraged to do so. Each year this course is custom-designed to meet the needs of those students who enroll, so that both intermediate and advanced students can benefit from taking RUSS 151 and/or RUSS 152 more than once, which may be done with the permission of the instructor.

Class Format: the class meets four hours a week, three with the professor and the fourth with the Russian Teaching Associate (time to be arranged)
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, and a final exam
Prerequisites: RUSS 151 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 4-6
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
RUSS 201  (F)  Advanced Russian I
This course continues to develop all five skills--conversation, listening comprehension, reading, culture, and writing--for students who have completed at least two years of college-level Russian or the equivalent. Coursework includes the study of higher-level Russian grammar, as well as an examination of a variety of materials-print and other media-from Russian and Soviet culture, current events, history, and the arts.
Class Format: Class meets with the instructor two or three times per week, and once a week with the Teaching Associate at a time and place TBA.
Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance, active class participation, completion of daily homework, 2-3 short essays, 2-3 summative exercises, and 2 oral assessments
Prerequisites: Russian 152 or 104 or the equivalent, consult with the instructor if unsure
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Russian majors and language certificate seekers; students of Russian language, history, and culture
Expected Class Size: 5
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 202  (S)  Advanced Russian II
This course continues to develop all five skills--conversation, listening comprehension, reading, culture, and writing--for students who have completed at least two years of college-level Russian or the equivalent. Coursework includes the study of higher-level Russian grammar, as well as an examination of a variety of materials-print and other media-from Russian culture, current events, history, and the arts.
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, oral and written exams
Prerequisites: RUSS 201 or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Russian majors and students of Russian language, history, and culture
Expected Class Size: 5
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Julie A. Cassiday

RUSS 203  (F)  Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature
Cross-listings: COMP 203  RUSS 203
Primary Cross-listing
This course will introduce you to some of the most influential literary texts of the nineteenth-century Russian literature that became moral, ideological, and aesthetic touchstones for all later periods of Russian culture. We will study the works of Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Turgenev, Chernyshevsky, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov with attention to their thematic and aesthetic preoccupations, socio-political and philosophical contributions, and historical contexts. Topics of particular interest include Russia's national and imperial identity; Russia's experiment in Westernization; questions of religion and science; the fluctuating meanings of social class and rebellion. By the end of this course, you will have acquired a basic understanding of the history, aesthetics, and politics of nineteenth-century Russian literary culture, as well as its broader legacy. You will have strengthened your reading and writing skills through training to read primary texts closely and analytically. All readings are in English.
Requirements/Evaluation: participation, reading responses on Glow, one presentation, one short paper, final research paper
Prerequisites: none
RUSS 204  (S)  To See the Past: Russian and Soviet Cinema on History
Cross-listings: RUSS 204  COMP 204  GBST 204

Primary Cross-listing
This course surveys Soviet and Russian cultural history of the 20th- and 21st-centuries through the history of the cinematic medium. We will watch and analyze key films of this period--films by Eisenstein, Vertov, Tarkovsky, Muratova, Balabanov, Zviagintsev, and Fedorchenko among others--from a double perspective. On the one hand, we will study the cultural and historical contexts of the Soviet Union and Russia; on the other hand, we will learn the formal and stylistic aspects of the cinematic medium as it developed historically (from silent, to sound, to color, to digital etc.). From this double perspective, we will try to answer a larger question that underlies this course: What kind of historical thinking can we learn through cinema as a medium? In other words, we will take cinema neither simply as a direct reflection of state ideology nor as pure aesthetic form or entertainment for the masses. Rather, we will approach the films of this period as audio-visual texts that are rich in historical content and require our informed and attentive interpretation.

Requirements/Evaluation: For each class you'll watch 1 or 2 film(s) and read typically 1 article under 20 pages. You will submit short viewing response before each class. Additionally, there will be short viewing or creative assignments to familiarize students with formal aspects of film. Evaluation will be based on participation, one presentation, short sequence analysis, and final paper or video essay

Prerequisites: none, open to all students
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: declared or prospective Russian or Comparative Literature majors, Russian Certificate seekers, Global Studies concentrators
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
RUSS 204 (D1) COMP 204 (D1) GBST 204 (D2)
Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives
Not offered current academic year

RUSS 213  (F)  Why do Pussies Riot and What is "Homosexual" Propaganda? Gender and Sexuality in Putin's Russia
Cross-listings: COMP 257  GBST 213  WGSS 214  RUSS 213

Primary Cross-listing
Since Vladimir Putin's rise to power, the media has highlighted events in Russia that at first glance resemble oddly sexualized jokes. At the same time that the Kremlin has reinstated authoritarian policy reminiscent of the Soviet Union, the Western press has chronicled Putin's topless vacations in Siberia, protests by the feminist collectives Pussy Riot and Femen, a 2011 ban on women's lacy underwear, federal legislation from 2013 prohibiting "homosexual" propaganda, and a 2017 court decision that outlawed a meme of Putin as a "gay clown." This course examines the Putin regime's ongoing attempts to police gender expression and private sexual behavior, as well as how Russian citizens' performance of gender and sexuality has changed in the past twenty years. We will consider gender and sexuality as distinctive features of Putinism, which have contributed to a biopolitical
turn in official policy and inspired resistance and protest among Russian feminists and queers. All readings will be in English, and all films with have English subtitles.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active participation in class discussions, several response papers, two short papers (3-5 pages each), and a final project

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** Those majoring in Russian and/or WGSS, as well as Global Studies concentrators.

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

COMP 257 (D1) GBST 213 (D1) WGSS 214 (D2) RUSS 213 (D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The course engages in cultural comparison, explores how power and privilege are allocated differently in post-Soviet Russia than in the West, and critically theorizes contemporary Russian culture and discourse.

**Attributes:** GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

**RUSS 217**  
**Indigeneity Today: Comparative Indigenous Identities in the US and Russia** (DPE) (WS)

**Cross-listings:** RUSS 217  GBST 219  ANTH 217

**Primary Cross-listing**

Indigenous movements for land, rights, and cultural preservation have spread to and originated in all corners of the world. However, the global nature of these movements at times obscures ways of being Indigenous in differing contexts. This course analyzes Indigeneity in both the United States and Russia today. Through reading and analyzing ethnography, theory, and literature, it focuses on Indigenous peoples in a comparative context. Rather than prioritizing concern with Indigenous peoples emerging from the US, it attempts to demonstrate what Indigeneity has been in both the United States and Russia and what it is and means today. It asks the following questions: what is Indigeneity and who is Indigenous; how is Indigenous identity constructed and by whom; and what convergences and divergences exist in Indigeneity between the US and Russia or for that matter in other contexts? To help answer these questions, in this course we will grapple with Indigeneity as a social category and other social formations, especially ethnicity, nationality, and race. Topics include: Indigeneity and the State, Revitalization and Resurgence, Indigenous People and Nature Protection, and Hemispheric and Global Indigeneities.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Weekly post to the Glow discussion page, 1 short presentation, 1 extended project with regular short writing submissions, 1 final paper and final presentation

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

**Enrollment Preferences:** Majors and certificate-seekers in Russian, then majors in Anthropology and Sociology, and then Global Studies concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** 10-12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

RUSS 217 (D1) GBST 219 (D2) ANTH 217 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** This course has the following assignments: Weekly post to the Glow discussion page, 1 short presentation, 1 extended project with regular writing submissions, 1 final paper and final presentation. For the extended project, we will have both peer-review and instructor feedback for all project assignments. In peer-review and instructor feedback, comprehension of the material and the content of the writing, improvement in writing style and clarity, and development of voice will be discussed.

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** In the course, students will learn about Indigeneity as a context-specific social formation. It understands Indigeneity as a category of difference with past and present importance. We will read about, discuss, and write about Indigeneity as a social category, along with other social categories it arose alongside (such as race, ethnicity, and nationality), and how it has been mobilized by both those who identify as Indigenous and by those who designate others as Indigenous.
RUSS 218 (S) Extreme Persuasions: The Far Right in the United States and Russia (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: RUSS 218 AMST 219 WGSS 217

Secondary Cross-listing

The purpose of this course is to explore the unexpected recent confluence of the American and Russian far-right movements, among advocates for authoritarianism in both countries who have traditionally understood the ‘other’ superpower to be an implacable enemy. How have nationalist movements in the United States come to see the Russian Federation as a vanguard for ‘whiteness’ and traditional masculinity in European identity, overturning the perception of Russia as a racial Other that was prevalent among American conservatives during the Cold War? What are the affinities between the imperial and openly patriarchal aspirations of Putinism and the goals of American religious Reconstructionism, with its interpretation of the Confederacy as a God-given model for racial separatism and gender complementarianism? We will discuss repressive historical legacies and homophobia in both countries, devoting particular attention to debates about protest art and the removal of monuments, and to movements that situate themselves in opposition to neoliberal forms of ethno-nationalism.

Requirements/Evaluation: On average, there will be 100 pages of reading per week. Over the course of the semester, students will be required to view three films, which will be discussed in class. Class participation counts for 25% of the course grade; each of the first three response papers, 15%; the term paper, 25%; the in-class presentation of the term paper, 5%.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Majors and concentrators in AMST, Russian, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

RUSS 218 (D2) AMST 219 (D2) WGSS 217 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: The written work is comprised of three response papers (5-7 pages each), a rough draft of the term paper (8-10 pages) that will be ungraded but extensively commented upon, and the term paper itself (10-15 pages). Each student to discuss their writing strategies prior to the deadlines for the essay assignments. For the essays, students may choose from among a range of prompts, or design a topic of their own.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will use the assigned readings as points of departure for analyzing and responding to traditionalist configurations of gender and ethno-nationalism in the United States and the Russian Federation. Particular attention will be devoted to the proliferation of different conceptions of power and privilege in both countries, and to ways in which a parsing of them may facilitate an engagement with the arguments of far right movements while retaining the concept of social justice.

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 219 (F) Cults of Personality (WS)

Cross-listings: COMP 215 RUSS 219

Primary Cross-listing

First uttered by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in 1956, the phrase "cult of personality" was formulated to discredit the hero-worship that accompanied Joseph Stalin's iron-listed rule of the Soviet Union. Since then, the phrase has gained currency as a condemnation of a variety of seemingly all-powerful leaders in oppressive political regimes, including China's Mao Zedong, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, and the ruling Kim family in North Korea. In this course, we will examine the phenomenon of the cult of personality from a variety of perspectives, beginning with the cult surrounding Stalin and ending with that of Vladimir Putin. Our course material will encompass scholarship from multiple disciplines, including history, sociology, political science, cultural and media studies, as well as artistic expression typically labeled propaganda in literature, the visual arts, and film.

Although our course will begin in the Soviet Union and end in contemporary Russia, we will explore how the cult of personality has been adapted and updated for different cultural and political purposes in fascist Germany and Spain, China, Iran, North Korea, and Cuba. All readings will be in English, and all films will have English subtitles.

Requirements/Evaluation: completion of weekly reading and writing assignments, as well as active engagement during tutorial sessions
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: first-year students
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 215 (D1) RUSS 219 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will be writing papers (5-6 pages) every other week and receiving detailed feedback on their writing with the expectation that they will identify areas in need of improvement and work on these throughout the semester. The course will also require that students write one paper together with their tutorial partner and that they rewrite two different papers, one at midterm and the other at the end of the term.

Fall 2022
TUT Section: T1    TBA    Julie A. Cassiday

RUSS 251  (F)  Continuing Russian I
The same course as RUSS 151 but for students at the advanced level. See RUSS 151/152 for full course description.
Class Format: Class meets four hours a week, three with the professor and the fourth with the Russian Teaching Associate (time to be arranged).
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, and a final exam
Prerequisites: RUSS 152 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Russian majors and certificate seekers
Expected Class Size: 4-6
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Not offered current academic year

RUSS 252  (S)  Continuing Russian II
The same course as RUSS 152 but for students at the advanced level. See RUSS 151/152 for full course description.
Class Format: the class meets four hours a week, three with the professor and the fourth with the Russian Teaching Associate (time to be arranged)
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, and a final exam
Prerequisites: RUSS 251 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 4-6
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
Not offered current academic year

RUSS 305  (F)  Dostoevsky and the Meaning of Life
Cross-listings: RUSS 305  COMP 305
Primary Cross-listing
This course surveys the works of the great Russian writer Fyodor Dostoevsky, whose oeuvre represents a life-long quest to uncover the meaning of life. Readings include Dostoevsky's major novels, Crime and Punishment, The Idiot, and The Brothers Karamazov, as well as several shorter works, including Notes from Underground. We will also examine Dostoevsky's journalism, so that we understand how he answers life's most troubling
prepare to alternately fall in love and lock horns with this illustrious nineteenth-century Russian author. He is worth it. Whether searching for the meaning of life, interrogating what it means to love another human being or struggling with religious faith, Tolstoy was a busy, busy man and a prolific writer. This course will examine his life and major works in the broader context of Western intellectual history. Readings will include his two great novels, War and Peace and Anna Karenina, as well as a number of shorter works, such as The Cossacks and The Death of Ivan Ilych. We will also consider some of Tolstoy’s aesthetic and religious writing as we examine his constant, rich, and at times surprising development as one of the greatest artists and thinkers of the 19th-century.

Requirements/Evaluation:  timely completion of all reading assignments, active and substantive class participation, discussion leading, 4-5 short essays, and a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: RUSS and COMP majors, then students studying Russian

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

RUSS 306 (D1) COMP 306 (D1)

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 345 (S) Bagging the Monsters : Tolstoy's Other Prose

War and Peace and Anna Karenina, which Henry James famously described as "baggy monsters," are works that are immediately identified with Leo Tolstoy, a giant of nineteenth-century Russian literature. But Tolstoy wrote so much more! From short works of adult fiction, to stories for children, pedagogical essays, political tracts, aesthetic treatises, and philosophical musings. He produced variously and prodigiously throughout his life and that's not even counting his fascinating diaries and personal correspondence. Our course readings will probe this exceptional variety with the goal of understanding the scope of Tolstoy's thinking in greater depth. All readings and discussion will be in Russian.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active and substantive class participation, leading discussion, weekly short writing assignments, and 1-2 longer writing pieces of 4-5 pages.
Prerequisites: Three years of college Russian or the equivalent. Students who have not taken Russian language at Williams must consult the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Russian majors and certificate seekers, then comparative literature majors.

Expected Class Size: 5

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 348  (F) Altering States: Post-Soviet Paradoxes of Identity and Difference (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: RUSS 348  GBST 348  SOC 348

Secondary Cross-listing

Critics and apologists of Soviet-style socialism alike agree that the Soviet ideology was deeply egalitarian. Putting aside for a moment the very reasonable doubts about how justified this perception actually was, it is still worth asking, how did people who lived in the world in which differences in rank, class, gender or ethnicity were not supposed to matter, make sense of their postsocialist condition, one in which new forms of difference emerged, and old ones assumed greater prominence? And how do these encounters with difference impact current events, such as the war Russia is currently waging on Ukraine, or the persistent tensions between East and West Germans? This tutorial will examine new dilemmas through ethnographic studies and documentary films that aim to capture in real time the process of articulating and grappling with newly discovered divides. We will focus especially closely on Russia, but will also read studies on East Germany, Bulgaria, Poland, and Ukraine. This course fulfills the DPE requirement by exploring comparatively the ways in which people in different countries made sense of the social, cultural and political heterogeneity of the postsocialist condition.

Requirements/Evaluation: 5-page paper every other week, written comments on the partner's paper in alternate weeks

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology, Sociology, and Russian majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)  (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

RUSS 348 (D1) GBST 348 (D2) SOC 348 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: This is a tutorial course, with plenty of opportunities to work on writing and argumentation. Tutorial papers receive written feedback from both the instructor and the tutorial partner, and are workshopped during the tutorial meetings.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will learn to identify and interrogate processes of social differentiation and exclusion as they take place across Russia and Eastern Europe. We will also train ourselves to identify parallels, as well as differences, between responses to the social and economic uncertainty ushered by the fall of socialism, and the discontents triggered by similar conditions closer to home.

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Fall 2022

TUT Section: T1    TBA    Olga Shevchenko

RUSS 401  (F) National in Form, Socialist in Content: The History of Soviet Republics Through Cinema

The USSR consisted of fifteen republics whose cultural production was meant to be "national in form and socialist in content." This course examines the cultural history of the multinational Soviet state by focusing on the history of film production in the regions beyond Moscow. How did Soviet nationality policy change over time? What kind of films did such policy yield and how should they be interpreted? What was the dynamic between the center and periphery? And finally, what are the implications of this shared history today? These are some key questions that we will discuss in this course. To do so we will read historical documents and scholarly materials on Soviet nationality policies and film production. We also will watch and analyze films produced in the republics. The course is conducted in Russian.
Requirements/Evaluation: completion of all reading and viewing assignments, weekly reading responses and active participation in class discussions, two presentations, final team project subtitling a film produced in one of the republics

Prerequisites: RUSS 252 or the permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: those majoring in Russian or pursuing a Certificate in Russian

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Olga Kim

RUSS 493  (F)  Senior Thesis: Russian

Russian senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022

HON Section: 01  TBA  Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 494  (S)  Senior Thesis: Russian

Russian senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023

HON Section: 01  TBA  Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 497  (F)  Independent Study: Russian

Russian independent study.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022

IND Section: 01  TBA  Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 498  (S)  Independent Study: Russian

Russian independent study.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023

IND Section: 01  TBA  Janneke van de Stadt
RUSS 25  (W) Williams in  Georgia

Williams has a unique program in the Republic of Georgia, which offers students the opportunity to engage in three-week internships in a wide variety of fields. Our students have helped in humanitarian relief organizations like Save the Children, interned in journalism at The Georgian Times, taught unemployed women computer skills at The Rustavi Project, documented wildlife, studied with a Georgian photographer, done rounds at the Institute of Cardiology, and learned about transitional economies at the Georgian National Bank. In addition to working in their chosen fields, students experience Georgian culture through museum visits, concerts, lectures, meetings with Georgian students, and excursions. We will visit the sacred eleventh-century Cathedral of Svetitskhoveli and the twentieth-century Stalin Museum, see the birthplace of the wine grape in Kakheti, and explore the region where Jason sought the Golden Fleece. Participants are housed in pairs with English-speaking families in Tbilisi, Georgia’s capital city. Students will submit weekly reports on their work while in the country (6 pages in total or the equivalent in another medium), as well as an overall reflection (4 pages or the equivalent in another medium) upon their return from Georgia.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly reports on their work while in Georgia (6 pages in total or equivalent in another medium); overall reflection (4 pages or equivalent in another medium) upon return

Prerequisites: none; knowledge of Georgian or Russian is not required

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: interested students must attend an informational meeting and submit a short essay about their interest in the course

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: pass/fail only

Materials/Lab Fee: $3,340

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses  TRVL Winter Study Travel Course

Winter 2023

TVL Section: 01  TBA  Julie A. Cassiday

RUSS 30  (W) Honors Project: Russian

May be taken by candidates for honors other than by thesis route.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2023

HON Section: 01  TBA  Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 31  (W) Senior Thesis: Russian

To be taken by students registered for Russian 493-494.

Class Format: thesis

Grading: pass/fail only

Distributions: (D1)

Winter 2023

HON Section: 01  TBA  Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 88  (W) Russian Sustaining Program

Students registered for RUSS 101-102 are required to attend and pass the Russian Sustaining Program. However, students are also required to register for a regular Winter Study course. Once the regular Winter Study registration process is complete, the Registrar's Office will automatically enroll you in the Sustaining Program. Check your class schedule to confirm enrollment.
Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance and active participation required to earn a "Pass"

Grading: pass/fail option only

Winter 2023
LAB Section: 01    TBA    Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 99 (W) Independent Study: Russian
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2023
IND Section: 01    TBA    Janneke van de Stadt