RUSSIAN (Div I)

Chair: Professor Janneke van de Stadt

Professors: J. van de Stadt and J. Cassiday; Assistant Professor: O. Kim; Teaching Associate: Daria Zharova.

J. Cassiday (on leave in the Spring).

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 151 through 252 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 152 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
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 quizzes, a written and oral final exam.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: first-and second-year students; 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: 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.
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 252.

Class Format: Class meets remotely five days a week.

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)

RUSS 103 (F) Intermediate Russian 1

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: 7

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

Distributions: (D1)

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.

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: Daily class participation and preparation, completion of all assignments and exercises, in and out of class, two oral
RUSS 140 (S) Crime and Punishment in Russian History (WS)

Cross-listings: RUSS 140 HIST 140

Secondary Cross-listing

For centuries, people have used crime in Russia and the Russian state's response to crime as lenses through which to examine Russian history and the Russian experience. This tutorial will follow in this tradition, but will adopt a more critical approach to question how or if crime and deviance can speak to the nature of the Russian state and its relationship to Russian society writ large. To answer this question, we will read a combination of original historical sources and recent scholarship that cover the entirety of Russian history: from the creation of the first legal code in Medieval Muscovy to the publication of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's Gulag Archipelago in 1962 and beyond. By semester's end, students will have developed an understanding of both the major historical actors and events in Russian criminal and legal history, and the intellectual debates that they sparked among contemporaries and present day scholars alike.

Requirements/Evaluation: a student either will write and present orally a 3- to 5-page essay on the assigned readings or will be responsible for offering an oral critique of their partner's work

Prerequisites: first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students, and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

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

RUSS 140 (D2) HIST 140 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Each student will write five 5-to-7-page papers on which the instructor will provide written feedback regarding grammar, style, and argument. Each student will write five 3-page critiques of their partners' papers. As the final assignment, each student will revise one of their five papers. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives HIST Group C Electives - Europe and Russia

Not offered current academic year

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 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 format for this course is hybrid and will combine online and in-person components.

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)

Not offered current academic year

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.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance, active class participation, completion of daily homework, 2-3 short essays, and 2-3 in-class written exercises

Prerequisites: Russian 152 or 104 or the equivalent, consult with the instructor if unsure

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Russian majors and students of Russian language, history, and culture

Expected Class Size: 5

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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01 MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 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 2022
SEM Section: 01  MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm  Olia Kim

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
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: students majoring or considering a major in Russian or Comparative literature
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:
COMP 203 (D1) RUSS 203 (D1)
Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Fall 2021
SEM Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Olia Kim

RUSS 204  (S) To See the Past: Russian and Soviet Cinema on History
Cross-listings: RUSS 204  GBST 204  COMP 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.
Class Format: The class meets synchronously on campus twice a week. Remote students will be able to join each synchronous session via zoom. Synchronous sessions will consist of discussion and visual analysis of short clips. All films and reading materials will be available online.

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) GBST 204 (D1) COMP 204 (D1)

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

This course is 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 will 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

This course is not offered current academic year.

RUSS 218 (S) Extreme Persuasions: The Far Right in the United States and Russia

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 (S) 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-fisted 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.

Class Format: remote
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.

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 232  (S)  Phantasmagoria, Madness, and the Absurd in Russian Literature and Film

Cross-listings: RUSS 232 COMP 271

Primary Cross-listing
In one of Nikolai Gogol's most famous stories, a man wakes up one day to find that his own nose has left his face and taken on a life of its own. This situation, which we might label bizarre or absurd, just as easily shows how reality often fails to meet our expectations and even suggests that the story's leading character might have gone mad. But what then is insanity? Likewise, one of Dostoevsky's socially marginal characters contemplates the fact that only sick people see ghosts, which, in his opinion, "only proves that ghosts cannot appear to anyone but sick people, not that they themselves do not exist." This course aims to analyze the rich tradition, typified by Gogol and Dostoevsky, of the absurd, the fantastic, and madness in Russian literature and film of the 19th-21st centuries. Addressing the aesthetic, historical, and political circumstances that nurtured this tradition in Russian literature and cinema, our course material will explore new dimensions of reality, point out the many paradoxes and absurdities of human existence, and question our perceptions, as well as the assumption that we are sane. Close analysis of literary and cinematic texts will lead us to a broader discussion of the relationship between reality and representation, as well as the notions of the absurd and madness. Authors/directors will include Alexander Pushkin, Nikolai Gogol, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Anton Chekhov, Mikhail Bulgakov, Lyudmila Petrushevskaya, Andrey Tarkovsky, and Kira Muratova, among others. All readings will be in English, and all films will have English subtitles.

Requirements/Evaluation: class attendance and participation; two analytical papers (3-5 pages); leading class discussion; a creative assignment; an oral presentation; a final paper (6 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D1)

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

RUSS 232 (D1) COMP 271 (D1)

Attributes: FMST Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 240  (S) The Soviet Experiment

Cross-listings: RUSS 240 HIST 240

Secondary Cross-listing
In 1917, the former Russian Empire became the site of the world's first socialist revolutionary government and the twentieth century's largest multiethnic state. Over the next quarter century, the Soviet Union witnessed the rise of one of history's most violent dictatorships, an apocalyptic war that claimed upwards of 26 million lives, and communist expansion into Eastern Europe and the decolonizing world. It also became the site of vibrant and optimistic utopian cultural projects, flights into space, bitter and hilarious political satire, and a society that was, for the most part, economically equal. Then in 1991, everything fell apart. This course will survey the origins, life, and collapse of the Soviet Union, paying particular attention to the ideas that shaped its development, the mark its architects' and leaders' policies left both at home and abroad, and the impact it had on the people who lived and didn't live to tell the tale.

Class Format: Format: seminar; Each week, students will watch a pre-recorded asynchronous lecture that will provide context for the readings due that week. Students will be assigned to a small group of no more than 8 students which will "meet" with the instructor for a weekly, tutorial-style discussion on Zoom.
RUSS 241 (F) Imperial Russia: State and Society between Europe and Asia

Secondary Cross-listing

Russia. The name alone evokes wonder, fear, romance, and history itself. Over the past ten centuries, the territory that we now call the Russian Federation has witnessed dramatic transformations that underwrote its transition from feudal backwater to global superpower. Its journey from tribalism to imperialism, feudalism to autocracy, agrarianism to industrialization, monarchy to parliamentarianism, Orthodox Christianity to revolutionary atheism, left a mark not just on the collective Russian conscious, but on a world that has grown accustomed to viewing Russia as a site for ideas, projects, and processes both exemplary and tragic. How did Russian state power borrow and depart from west European norms? How did foreign and domestic norms contribute to the creation of a "Russian" identity? How did Russian elites and ordinary people resist, collaborate with, or develop an apathy towards the Russian state, and to what success? This course will seek to answer these questions through a survey of Russian Imperial history from its founding in Kievan Rus' in the 10th century to the October Revolution of 1917.

Class Format: Each week, students will watch a pre-recorded asynchronous lecture that will provide context for the readings due that week. Students will be assigned to a small group of no more than 5 students which will "meet" with the instructor for a weekly, tutorial-style discussion on Zoom.

Requirements/Evaluation: class attendance and participation, two short papers (3-5 pages), ~80 pages of reading a week, one take-home midterm exam essay and one take-home final exam essay

Prerequisites: none, open to all students

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: History majors.

Expected Class Size: 15

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

HIST 241 RUSS 241

Attributes: HIST Group C Electives - Europe and Russia

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 248 (F) Altering States: Post-Soviet Paradoxes of Identity and Difference (DPE) (WS)

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 Russia-Ukraine conflict 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, Latvia 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.

Class Format: The course will meet remotely for the most part, although in-person meetings with the appropriate precautions may be arranged at the tutorial partners' and instructor's discretion.

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: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
SOC 248 (D2) GBST 247 (D2) RUSS 248 (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

Not offered current academic year

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: The class will be taught remotely. 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
RUSS 275 (S) Russian and Soviet Cinema  
Cross-listings: COMP 287 RUSS 275  

Primary Cross-listing  
In this course, we will survey over a hundred years of Russian and Soviet film to explore how cinema has reflected and, at times, created the country's most important historical events and cultural myths. We will pay close attention to Russian filmmakers' varied reactions to Hollywood cinema, as well as to the lively body of cinema theory that these reactions generated. Our survey will begin in the pre-Revolutionary era and include representative films from the time of the Bolshevik Revolution, Stalinism and World War II, the Thaw and Stagnation, Glasnost, and the Putin era. In addition to studying films by auteur filmmakers, such as Sergei Eisenstein, Andrei Tarkovsky, and Aleksandr Sokurov, we will watch movies made for the masses, which have helped to form Russians' understanding of their country and themselves. All readings will be in English and all films will be viewed with English subtitles.  

Requirements/Evaluation: completion of all viewing and reading assignments, active participation in class discussions, two short papers, and a final research project  
Prerequisites: none  
Enrollment Limit: none  
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:  
COMP 287 (D1) RUSS 275 (D1)  
Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives  
Not offered current academic year

RUSS 305 (F) Dostoevsky: The Riddle of the Self and the Other  
Cross-listings: RUSS 305 COMP 305  

Primary Cross-listing  
This course offers a comprehensive survey of Fyodor Dostoevsky's literary and intellectual legacy. We will read his major works including Notes from Underground, Crime and Punishment, Demons, The Brothers Karamazov and a selection of celebrated short works. Close textual analysis will be accompanied by a discussion of aesthetic, philosophical, and psychological aspects of Dostoevsky's oeuvre. The problem of the self-other relationship in the artistic, philosophical and religious contexts of Russia and Western Europe is one of the key themes that we will trace in this course. More broadly we will look into the problems of the modern individual and modernity in the times of Dostoevsky as well as in our times. All readings are in English translation.  

Class Format: This will be a hybrid course for in-person and remote students. We will meet in small groups (4-5 students) once a week synchronously (in-person with students who are on campus, and via zoom with students who are enrolled remotely) and will have variety of asynchronous activities (viewing short lectures, writing reading responses, participating in written and video discussion forums)  
Requirements/Evaluation: Participation, reading responses in the form of blog posts, three short papers, final project  
Prerequisites: none, open to all students  
Enrollment Limit: 15  
Enrollment Preferences: RUSS and COMP majors, and Russian Certificate-seekers  
Expected Class Size: 15  
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option  
Distributions: (D1)  
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
RUSS 306  (S)  Rise and Shine with Tolstoy
Cross-listings: RUSS 306  COMP 306

Primary Cross-listing
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 *Hadji Murad*. 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 19th-century Europe.

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

Spring 2022
SEM Section: 01  MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am  Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 331  (S)  The Brothers Karamazov
Cross-listings: COMP 331  ENGL 371  RUSS 331

Primary Cross-listing
 Widely hailed as one of the greatest novels ever written, Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* contains a series of enigmas, not the least of which is precisely who murdered the Karamazov father. In addition to exploring the shared guilt of all four of the brothers Karamazov in the crime of patricide, Dostoevsky poses the most probing questions of his day: Are families tied together merely by blood or by deeper spiritual bonds? Is religious faith possible in an age of reason, science, and technology? Can man's earthly laws ever carry out divine justice? Is humanity prepared to bear the burden of responsibility that comes with freedom? This tutorial will spend an entire semester exploring Dostoevsky's masterwork, and we will read a variety of secondary sources alongside *The Brothers Karamazov*, including history, philosophy, and literary theory. Our goal will be to understand Dostoevsky's answers to these so-called "accursed questions" through the unique artistic form of *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Requirements/Evaluation:  completion of weekly reading and writing assignments, as well as active engagement during tutorial sessions
Prerequisites: at least one 200-level literature class
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences:  students majoring or considering a major in Russian, Comparative Literature, or English
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option
Distributions:  (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 331 (D1) ENGL 371 (D1) RUSS 331 (D1)
RUSS 337 (F) After Stalin: Soviet History from "Thaw" to Collapse

Cross-listings: HIST 337 RUSS 337

Secondary Cross-listing

When Joseph Stalin died in 1953, the crowd of people that gathered to view his embalmed body on Moscow's Red Square grew so large, it provoked a stampede that killed nearly 500 people. This moment embodies the uncertainty and challenges that ordinary citizens and state officials faced when they imagined what a post-Stalin future might bring to the Soviet Union. For all the suffering that his rule infected on the Soviet people, Stalin remained for many a reliable constant in a life dominated by revolution and war. Stalin's successors faced a classic dilemma: how to reform and breathe new life into a system without disturbing the foundation it needs to stand intact? Despite superpower status and some stunning achievements at home and abroad, the fault lines in Soviet society ran deep. This course will consider the experiences that grew out of the uncertainty that emerged after Stalin's death. We will examine how the "Soviet experiment" evolved - politically, legally, socially, culturally - once the last of the original Bolshevik revolutionaries left the Kremlin. What opportunities did the post-Stalin moment open up for political elites, members of the professional class, the intelligentsia, and citizens from Soviet republics and satellite states? What obstacles did they face, and how successful were they at overcoming them? In what ways did the spirit of the October and Stalinist Revolutions persist or erode from 1953 until 1991? Most importantly, how did the "children of the revolution" participate in, check out of, or contest the socialist system whose birth their parents witnessed first hand? After all, more generations experienced the Soviet Union without Stalin as their leader than generations who only knew a life with the "Vozhd" in power. Through secondary and primary source readings, we will attempt to recover the voices of those whose lives both shaped and were shaped by the nearly four decades after Joseph Stalin's death.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, two short essays (2-3 pages), and three long essay (5-7 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: History Majors

Expected Class Size: 10-19

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

HIST 337 (D2) RUSS 337 (D2)

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives HIST Group C Electives - Europe and Russia

Not offered current academic year

RUSS 341 (F) Collapse: The Fall and Afterlife of the Soviet Union

Cross-listings: HIST 341 RUSS 341

Secondary Cross-listing

On Christmas Day 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev ended two things: his tenure as President of the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union itself. In the years that followed, the Soviet Union's fifteen national republics splintered overnight into more than a dozen nation states along uneven and highly contest ethnic lines. In Russia, Boris Yeltsin assumed office as the first president of the Russian Federation, and without delay, began to institute radical economic and social reforms. Under his watch, the country privatized national industry, cut the state budget, and courted foreign multinational businesses. The world most commonly used to describe Russia in the early 1990s is "disappear": money, jobs, food, and people. The very things that Soviet-style socialism had committed itself to providing for started to vanish as a result of invisible and market forces. Russian nationalism replaced Soviet internationalism as a guiding national idea. This course will explore what emerged in the spaces left empty after Soviet-style socialism's demise in three parts. The first part of the semester will examine the origins of the Soviet Union's collapse and its breakup into fifteen successor states. The second part of the semester will survey the political, economic, and social processes that followed the collapse. Finally, the third part of the course will focus on Putin's ascendancy to the presidency and its consequences for Russian citizens at home and Russia's image abroad. Three themes will occupy a prominent place in the course: political-economy, nationalism, and identity. By semester's end, students will have acquired the content and analytical literacy to place the former Soviet Union in its specific historical context and identify multiple sources of causation that may help explain Russia's transition from socialism to capitalism to Putinism during the past quarter century.
Class Format: Each week, students will watch a pre-recorded asynchronous lecture that will provide context for the readings due that week. Students will be assigned to a small group of no more than 5 students which will “meet” with the instructor for a weekly, tutorial-style discussion on Zoom.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, three short essays (3-5 pages), and one long essay (10-12 pages)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: History majors

Expected Class Size: 15

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

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 341 (D2) RUSS 341 (D2)

Attributes: GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives HIST Group C Electives - Europe and Russia

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.

Class Format: This is a hybrid upper-level seminar that can be taken in-person or online.

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 401  (F) Senior Seminar: Queer Russia  (DPE)

This seminar explores queerness as both a cultural concept and social reality in Russia and the Soviet Union from the nineteenth century to the present. We will begin with the history of LBGTO+ Russians, as well as an overview of texts produced by queer writers, in the Russian Empire and Soviet Union. We will then investigate queerness in post-Soviet Russia, where non-normative sexuality has become a hotly contested political concept over the past three decades. In addition to reading texts and viewing films by about and by LGBTQ+ Russians, we will examine the genesis, implementation, and impact of the 2013 ban on “homosexual propaganda,” which has placed homophobia at the center of national identity in the Russian Federation. We will also read theoretical works to help us understand not only the unique formations and expressions of queerness in Russia, but also how local Russian queerness plays out on the global stage.

Requirements/Evaluation: completion of all reading and viewing assignments, preparation for and active participation in class discussions, two 4-5 page papers, and a final 20-minute presentation based on students’ independent research

Prerequisites: RUSS 252 or the permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

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

Expected Class Size: 5
Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This seminar explores how gender and sexuality have been conceptualized and experienced in Russia with a particular emphasis on how non-normative gender and sexuality have become tools in the struggle for social and political power in post-Soviet Russia. Our exploration of queerness in Russia over the past two centuries will help students to develop critical skills for assessing how gender and sexuality are currently conceptualized in the United States.
May be taken by candidates for honors other than by thesis route.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Grading:** pass/fail only

*Not offered current academic year*

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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)

*Not offered current academic year*

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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

*Not offered current academic year*

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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

*Not offered current academic year*