

# RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

(Barnard equivalents: Russian Language and Literature, Russian Regional Studies\*)

This major is intended for students who aim to attain maximal proficiency in the Russian language. Intensive language training is complemented by an array of elective courses in Russian culture that allow students to achieve critical understanding of contemporary Russian society and of Russian-speaking communities around the world. If your main interest is learning to speak Russian as well as you can -- including by learning about the cultural contexts that have shaped the Russian language -- this is the major for you.

Since this major emphasizes language acquisition, it is not appropriate for native Russian speakers.

\*Barnard students please note: Although Barnard and Columbia Slavic majors share classes, professors, and many of the same requirements, they are subject to different requirements for the B.A. degree. Barnard students should consult the major and minor requirements listed on the website of the Barnard Slavic Department.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The program consists of 15 courses, 8 of which meet language requirements. Of the remaining 7 courses, 2 are introductory surveys, and the other 5 are electives, chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The course requirements are distributed as follows:

### Course List

- Eight semesters of coursework in Russian language (from First- through Fourth-year Russian) or the equivalent
- Two survey courses, one of which must be in Russian literature (RUSS UN3220 and RUSS UN3221)
  - **RUSS UN3220** Literature and Empire (19<sup>th</sup>-century literature)
  - **RUSS UN3221** Literature and Revolution (20<sup>th</sup>-century literature)

- **RUSS UN3223** Magical Mystery Tour: The Legacy of Old Rus'
- **SLCL UN3001** Slavic Cultures
- **RUSS GU4006** Russian Religious Thought, Praxis, and Literature
- **CLSL GU4011** Experimental Cultures
- **CLRS GU4022** Russia and Asia: Orientalism, Eurasianism, Internationalism
- **CLSL GU4075** Soviet and Post-Soviet, Colonial Post-Colonial Film
- **RUSS GU4107** Russian Literature and Culture in the New Millenium
- **HSSL GU4280** Religion in Russia: Culture, History and Institution.

*Contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies for a list of currently offered survey courses.*

- Five additional courses in Russian culture, history, literature, art, film, music, or in linguistics. At least one of the selected courses should be taught in Russian.

#### **NOTES:**

*To complement these courses, students are urged to spend a semester, year, or summer, studying abroad. The Russian Language Coordinator is available to help you choose a suitable program.*

# RUSSIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

(Barnard equivalent: Russian Language and Literature\*)

The major in Russian Literature and Culture is designed to make you conversant with a variety of Russian literary, historical and theoretical texts in the original, and to give you a critical understanding of Russian literature, culture, and society. It is addressed to students who would like to complement serious literary studies with intensive language training. If you plan to pursue an academic career (PhD program) in the field of Russian literature or culture, this is the major for you.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The program consists of 15 courses, 6 of which meet language requirements. Of the remaining 9 courses, 3 are introductory surveys in Russian literature and culture (in translation), and the other 6 are electives, chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The course requirements are distributed as follows:

### Course List

- Six semesters of coursework in Russian language (from first- through third-year Russian) or the equivalent.
- Select three of the following surveys; two of which must be in Russian literature (RUSS UN3220 and RUSS UN3221)
  - **RUSS UN3220** Literature and Empire (19<sup>th</sup>-century literature)
  - **RUSS UN3221** Literature and Revolution (20<sup>th</sup>-century literature)
  - **RUSS UN3223** Magical Mystery Tour: The Legacy of Old Rus'
  - **SLCL UN3001** Slavic Cultures
  - **RUSS GU4006** Russian Religious Thought, Praxis, and Literature
  - **CLSL GU4011** Experimental Cultures
  - **CLRS GU4022** Russia and Asia: Orientalism, Eurasianism, Internationalism
  - **CLSL GU4075** Soviet and Post-Soviet, Colonial Post-Colonial Film
  - **RUSS GU4107** Russian Literature and Culture in the New Millennium
  - **HSSL GU4280** Religion in Russia: Culture, History and Institution.

- Six additional courses in Russian literature, culture, history, film, art, music, or in advanced Russian language, chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. At least one course should be taught in Russian

**NOTES:**

- *Students considering graduate study in Russian literature are strongly advised to complete 4 years of language training.*
- *To complement these courses, students are urged to spend a semester, year, or summer, studying abroad. The Russian Language Coordinator is available to help you choose a suitable program.*

# SLAVIC STUDIES

*(Barnard equivalent: Slavic and East European Literature and Culture, Slavic and East European Regional Studies\*)*

This flexible major track provides opportunities for interdisciplinary studies within the Slavic field. Students are encouraged to choose one target language (Czech, Polish, Russian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, or Ukrainian), though there are possibilities for studying a second Slavic language as well. Generally, the major has one disciplinary focus in history, political science, economics, religion, anthropology, sociology, art, film, or music. In addition, this program allows students to focus on a particular Slavic (non-Russian) literature and culture, or to do comparative studies of several Slavic literatures, including Russian. Students should plan their program with the director of undergraduate studies as early as possible, since course availability varies from year to year.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The program consists of **15** courses, **6** of which meet language requirements. Of the remaining **9** courses, **2** should be history courses targeting Russia, Eastern and Central Europe, or Eurasia, **2** should be literatures or culture courses in Slavic, and the other **5** should be relevant electives, chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

Students may also opt to include a second Slavic language in their program, in which case they may count up to two language courses as electives toward their major requirements.

The course requirements are distributed as follows:

### Course List

- Six semesters of coursework in one Slavic language (from first- through third-year Russian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Czech, Polish, or Ukrainian) or the equivalent.
- Two relevant courses in Russian, East/Central European or Eurasian history.

- Two relevant literature or culture courses in Slavic, preferably related to the target language.

- Five additional courses with Slavic content in history, political science, economics, literature, religion, anthropology, sociology, art, film, or music, chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. Two of these electives may be language courses for students who opt to include a second Slavic language in their program.

Altogether students should complete four courses in a single discipline, including, if appropriate, the required history or literature/culture courses.

**NOTES:**

*Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities that now exist to spend a semester or summer studying in the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, or the countries of the former Yugoslavia. Consult the coordinator of the relevant language program for information about programs and other resources.*

# BA/MA in Slavic Studies

Columbia and Barnard undergraduate students with a deep interest in Slavic languages, literatures, and cultures may pursue a BA/MA option. The BA/MA option allows current undergraduate students to begin taking graduate-level courses during their senior year and earn credits that will count towards their MA program after they graduate with their BA.

The MA degree in Slavic qualifies students to engage in professional careers associated with Eastern Europe and Russia, from diplomacy to NGOs. It also sufficiently prepares them for PhD graduate programs.

The Department offers three MA degrees: Slavic Languages (track in Russian literature and track in Slavic languages and cultures), Slavic Cultures, and Russian Translation (currently not admitting new students).

## Eligibility

Typically, students can apply for the BA/MA option during their junior year, but they can also do it during the first semester of their senior year. You do not have to be a major/minor in Slavic to apply for the BA/MA program.

For the MA in Slavic Languages and Russian Translation, applicants to the BA/MA program should demonstrate an intermediate high/advanced low language proficiency in Russian or another Slavic language (the equivalent of 3 years of college-level language classes). The MA in Slavic Cultures does not have a language requirement.

## Requirements

30 credits comprised of 9-10 courses at the 4000-level or higher. An MA thesis is optional. If a student decides to write an MA essay, they are granted 4 credits for the directed research toward its completion.

## Transfer credit

Up to three courses (9-12 credits) related to Slavic Studies taken before declaring the BA/MA option can be transferred toward the MA degree. Transfer credit will be granted **ONLY** for courses taken in excess of the 124-credit requirement for the Columbia or Barnard bachelor's degree (i.e.,

courses that did not count toward the undergraduate major, concentration, or general education requirements). Transfer credit courses must be taken for a letter grade, and the grade received must be B or better.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies or visit the [GSAS website](#) for information about Columbia's BA/MA programs.



# Minor in Slavic and Eastern European Language and Culture

The minor in Slavic and Eastern European Language and Culture provides a foundation for future engagement with the languages, literatures, and cultures of Eastern Europe. The goals of the minor are that upon its completion a student will be able to:

- Use an Eastern European language at a level of proficiency commensurate with two years of college education;
- Have a basic descriptive and critical understanding of Slavic literature and/or cultures, in their aesthetic, historical, and social contexts;
- Use basic principles of literary and/or cultural theory to analyze and interpret a variety of texts;
- Express their ideas, analyses, and interpretation through clear oral exposition and effective critical writing.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The minor requires a total of seven courses, including two as prerequisites, or between twenty-one and twenty-four points.

- The minor requires as a prerequisite two semesters of language at the introductory level (or demonstration of equivalent proficiency via departmental placement examination or prior coursework), either
  - o RUSS UN1101x – UN1102y, First Year Russian I and II, or
  - o RUSS UN3430x-UN3431y: Russian for Heritage Speakers I and II, or
  - o BCRS UN1101x-UN1102y: Elementary Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, I and II, or
  - o CZCH UN1101x-UN1102y: Elementary Czech, I and II, or
  - o POLI UN1101x-UN1102y: Elementary Polish, I and II, or
  - o UKRN UN1101x-UN1102y: Elementary Ukrainian, I and II.
- Two further semesters of language, either
  - o RUSS UN2101x-UN2102y: Second-year Russian, I and II, or
  - o BCRS UN2101x-UN2102y: Intermediate Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, I and II, or

- o CZCH UN2101x-UN2102y: Intermediate Czech, I and II, or
- o POLI UN2101x-UN2102y: Intermediate Polish, I and II, or
- o UKRN UN2101x-UN2102y: Intermediate Ukrainian, I and II

If a student places out of the intermediate level of the language, they are expected to take either two further courses in the language or two further electives of their choice.

- Students must take one course that the department considers a “survey,” a list which may change or for which they can petition the DUS for something else to count. The list includes

- o RUSS UN3220 Literature and Empire (19th-century literature)
- o RUSS UN3221 Literature and Revolution (20th-century literature)
- o RUSS UN3223 Magical Mystery Tour: The Legacy of Old Rus'
- o SLCL UN3001 Slavic Cultures
- o RUSS GU4006 Russian Religious Thought, Praxis, and Literature
- o CLSL GU4011 Experimental Cultures
- o CLRS GU4022 Russia and Asia: Orientalism, Eurasianism, Internationalism
- o CLSL GU4075 Soviet and Post-Soviet, Colonial Post-Colonial Film
- o RUSS GU4107 Russian Literature and Culture in the New Millennium
- o HSSL GU4280 Religion in Russia: Culture, History and Institution.

- Finally, students must take two other elective courses from our department, which may be language courses. (Extra-departmental courses discouraged and subject to approval by the DUS)

## **Minor in Slavic and Eastern European Culture**

The minor in Slavic and Eastern European Culture provides a foundation for future engagement with the literatures and cultures of Eastern Europe. The goals of the minor are that upon its completion a student will be able to:

- o Have a basic descriptive and critical understanding of Slavic literature and/or cultures, in their aesthetic, historical, and social contexts.
- o Use basic principles of literary and/or cultural theory to analyze and interpret a variety of texts.

- o Express their ideas, analyses, and interpretation through clear oral exposition and effective critical writing.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The minor requires a total of five courses, with no prerequisites, or between fifteen and twenty points.

- Students must take two courses that the department considers a “survey,” a list which may change or for which they can petition the DUS for something else to count. The list includes

- o RUSS UN3220 Literature and Empire (19th-century literature)
- o RUSS UN3221 Literature and Revolution (20th-century literature)
- o RUSS UN3223 Magical Mystery Tour: The Legacy of Old Rus'
- o SLCL UN3001 Slavic Cultures
- o RUSS GU4006 Russian Religious Thought, Praxis, and Literature
- o CLSL GU4011 Experimental Cultures
- o CLRS GU4022 Russia and Asia: Orientalism, Eurasianism, Internationalism
- o CLSL GU4075 Soviet and Post-Soviet, Colonial Post-Colonial Film
- o RUSS GU4107 Russian Literature and Culture in the New Millennium
- o HSSL GU4280 Religion in Russia: Culture, History and Institution.

- Students must take three other elective courses from our department. (Extra-departmental courses discouraged and subject to approval by the DUS).