Slavic Languages and Literatures

Chairman: Robert Bird, F 405, 702.8195, bird@uchicago.edu
Departmental Adviser: Bozena Shallcross, F 402, 702.7734, bshallcr@uchicago.edu
Coordinator of Slavic Language Courses:
Steven Clancy, G-B 438, 702.8567, sclancy@uchicago.edu
Departmental Coordinator: Kitty Ahmed, F 406, 702.8033

Program of Study

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers courses in the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Polish, and Russian languages and literatures, and in Slavic linguistics and other general Slavic and East European subjects. The department also offers a program leading to the BA degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Students choose one of three areas of concentration to meet the requirements of this major: Russian language and linguistics; West Slavic (Czech and Polish) languages and literatures; or Interdisciplinary Studies in Balkan, Baltic, and Slavic.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Information follows the description of the major.

Study Abroad

Several study abroad opportunities are offered in subjects and geographic areas of interest to students who are majoring in Slavic Languages and Literatures, including those described below. For more information, students should consult with the study abroad advisers or visit study-abroad.uchicago.edu.

Europe East and West Program. A three-part sequence of courses is taught by University of Chicago faculty at the Chicago Center in Paris. The Europe East and West Program focuses on the history of cultural relations between East and West Europe and includes an excursion to a major East European capital city.

Smolny Institute. The University of Chicago sponsors one-quarter and yearlong programs at Smolny Institute, a joint Russian-American college in St. Petersburg. College-level courses are taught in Russian and English on a broad range of subjects.

Program Requirements

Slavic Languages and Literatures: Concentration in Russian Language and Literature or Russian Linguistics. This program is designed to teach students skills in written and spoken Russian, instruct them in Russian literature (or linguistics, as an option), and acquaint them with the main characteristics of Russian history and culture. The program is similar to the major in Russian Civilization, but it has a more humanistic emphasis. It is intended for students preparing for graduate work, those planning a career in government or industry in which knowledge of Russian is useful, and those whose primary aim is to read the masterpieces of Russian literature in the original or to study Russian linguistics as part of a humanistic education. Within the program there are two options: one with emphasis on literature and the other with emphasis on Russian linguistics.

Students interested in the following program are required to consult with the Departmental Adviser.

Students must take thirteen courses that meet the following requirements:

1. Second-, third-, and fourth-year Russian (or their equivalents). Under exceptional circumstances, students may petition the Departmental Adviser and coordinator of Russian language courses to be excused from the fourth-year Russian requirement.

2a. Students in Russian literature take four courses in literature including any two from RUSS 255xx, 256xx, or 257xx (survey of Russian literature). RUSS 29900 (BA Paper) cannot be counted toward this requirement except by written permission of the Departmental Adviser. RUSS 29700 (Independent Reading and Research) cannot be counted toward this requirement.

2b. Students in Russian linguistics must take SLAV 20100 (Introduction to Slavic Linguistics), RUSS 23000 or 23100 (Structure of Russian Phonology or Morphology of Russian), and two additional courses to be chosen from Russian literature, Slavic linguistics, and general linguistics. The last two must be approved in writing by the Departmental Adviser.

It is recommended that students fulfill their civilization studies requirement in general education with Russian civilization; they are advised to choose electives from such related fields as general linguistics, history, philosophy, political science, and literature. The department suggests that students planning to do graduate work in a Slavic-related field take a year of French, German, or a second Slavic language. All students must write an acceptable BA paper in their final year under supervision of a faculty member in the Slavic department. They may register for the BA preparation course (RUSS 29900) with approval of the supervisor; this course will confer general elective credit but will not count toward the thirteen courses required in the concentration.
Summary of Requirements for Slavic Languages and Literatures:
Concentration in Russian Language and Literature or Russian Linguistics

General Education

SOSC 24000-24100 (recommended)

Concentration

3 RUSS 20100-20200-20300 or RUSS 20400-20500-20600 (second-year Russian)*
3 RUSS 20702-20802-20902 (third-year Russian)*
3 RUSS 21002-21102-21202 (fourth-year Russian)
4 courses from one of the options below: either
the Russian Literature option (two courses chosen from RUSS 255xx, 256xx, or 257xx; plus two additional Russian literature courses);
or the Russian Linguistics option (SLAV 20100; plus RUSS 23000 or 23100; plus two approved courses in Russian literature, Slavic linguistics, or general linguistics)

– BA paper

13

* Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.

Slavic Languages and Literatures: Concentration in West Slavic (Czech or Polish) Languages and Literatures. The program in West Slavic studies aims to give students essential skills in written and spoken Czech or Polish, as well as a close acquaintance with Czech or Polish literature, culture, and history. The program is ideal for students preparing for graduate study, as well as for those interested in a career in government, diplomacy, or business in which knowledge of Czech or Polish is useful.

Students interested in the following program are required to consult with the Departmental Adviser.

Students must take twelve courses that meet the following requirements:

(1) Students will be required to demonstrate proficiency in their primary language of study (Czech or Polish) equivalent to three years of college study. The first two years typically will be acquired by taking the elementary and second-year language courses; and the third year may be acquired by independent study (CZEC or POLI 29700) or study abroad (as approved by the Departmental Adviser). Students with suitable achievement on the language placement test for the first year of Czech or Polish may begin their language study with the second year of Czech or Polish followed by independent study or study abroad (as approved by the Departmental Adviser) to complete the requirement for a third year of the language.

(2) Two quarters of a survey or of other general courses in the literature of the primary language of study.

(3) Two further literature or culture courses in the primary language of study, to be approved by the Departmental Adviser.

(4) Two courses in Slavic literature, culture, or linguistics in the department; one of these must be a course in General Slavic (SLAV).

Students are expected to fulfill the course requirements above with regular courses offered by the Slavic department. Reading courses (CZEC or POLI 29700) will not count toward the twelve courses required for the concentration except by special permission of the Departmental Adviser. Students planning to do graduate work in Slavic or a related field are strongly advised to use some of their electives for studying Russian, German, or French language; or for studying Russian literature.

All students in their final year must write an acceptable BA paper under supervision of a faculty member in the Slavic department. They may register for the BA preparation course (CZEC 29900 or POLI 29900) with approval of the supervisor; this course will confer general elective credit but will not be counted toward the twelve courses required for the concentration.

Summary of Requirements for Slavic Languages and Literatures:
Concentration in West Slavic (Czech or Polish) Languages and Literatures

General Education

HIST 13100-13200-13300 (recommended)

Concentration

6 CZEC 20100-20200-20300 (second-year Czech)* or POLI 20100-20200-20300* (second-year Polish); and completion of the third year of Czech or Polish as described in number 1 of the preceding section
2 survey or general courses in the literature of the primary language of study
2 Czech or Polish literature or culture courses
2 courses in Slavic literature or culture, or linguistics; one of which must be a General Slavic (SLAV) course

– BA paper

12

* Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.

Slavic Languages and Literatures: Concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies. This program comprises instruction in a Balkan, Baltic, or Slavic language and in the cultures of the region, with an emphasis in the humanities. It is intended
for students preparing for graduate work in Slavic or in comparative humanistic studies, for those planning a career in which knowledge of the region and its languages is useful, and for those with an interest in the culture of Central and Eastern Europe. Students wishing to declare the concentration in interdisciplinary studies must first meet with the Departmental Adviser.

Students must take twelve courses that meet the following requirements:

(1) Second and third year (or equivalent) of one Balkan, Baltic, or Slavic language.

(2) Four approved courses in art, film, and/or literature comprising a coherent course of study in the Slavic and East European area.

(3) Two additional approved courses in the humanities or social sciences with focus on Eastern Europe or Russia.

All students in their fourth year must write an acceptable BA paper under supervision of a faculty member in the Slavic department. With approval of their BA supervisor, students may register for SLAV 29900. This course will confer general elective credit but will not be counted toward the twelve courses required for the concentration.

Summary of Requirements for Slavic Languages and Literatures:
Concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies

General Education
SOSC 24000-24100 (recommended)

Concentration
3 second-year courses in a Balkan, Baltic, or Slavic language*
3 third-year courses in a Balkan, Baltic, or Slavic language*
4 approved courses in art, film, and/or literature
2 elective courses in the cultures of the region
BA paper
12

* Or credit for the equivalent as determined by petition.

Grading. Students in Slavic Languages and Literatures must take quality grades in the courses required for any Slavic concentration.

BA Paper. All students must write an acceptable BA paper in their final year under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Students must submit the BA paper to the department no later than Friday of seventh week in Spring Quarter of their fourth year. In Autumn Quarter of their fourth year, students should begin the BA process by consulting with the Departmental Adviser. Students may register for the BA Paper course (29900) with approval of the supervisor. This course will confer general elective credit, but it will not count toward the Slavic Languages and Literatures major.

This program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and consent is obtained from both program chairs. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Honors. To be eligible for honors in any Slavic concentration, students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher overall, and 3.5 or higher in the major. Students must submit applications to the Departmental Adviser, typically not later than first quarter of their fourth year. If the completed bachelor’s paper is judged by the supervisor and a second faculty member to be a distinguished example of original research or criticism, the student is recommended to the College for graduation with honors in Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Advising. Students wishing to declare the major in Interdisciplinary Studies must first meet with the Departmental Adviser. Further information on the undergraduate program is available in the Departmental Office (F-406, 702-8033). Questions about placement, competency, and proficiency examinations in Russian should be directed to the coordinator of Russian language courses; for more information about Czech, Polish, or other Slavic languages, consult the Departmental Adviser.

Minor Program in Slavic Languages and Literatures

The minor in Slavic Languages and Literatures requires seven courses beyond the first-year language sequence in the primary language of study, including at least three language courses at the 20000 level or higher and at least one course in Slavic literature, culture, or linguistics.

Students who elect the minor program must meet with the Departmental Adviser before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. Students choose courses in consultation with the Departmental Adviser. The Departmental Adviser’s approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student’s College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the College adviser.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.
The following groups of courses would comprise a minor in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Other programs may be designed in consultation with the Departmental Adviser. Minor program requirements are subject to revision.

**Slavic Languages and Literatures Sample Minor**
- RUSS 20100-20200-20300. Second-Year Russian
- RUSS 20700-20800-20900. Third-Year Russian
- RUSS 255xx

**Slavic Languages and Literatures Sample Minor**
- RUSS 20400-20500-20600. Russian through Literary Readings
- RUSS 255xx, 256xx, and 257xx (survey of Russian literature)
- SLAV 23000. Language, Power, and Identity in Southeastern Europe

**Slavic Languages and Literatures Sample Minor**
- CZEC 10100-10200-10300. Elementary Czech
- POLI 20100-20200-20300. Second-Year Polish
- SLAV 24100. Comparative West Slavic Linguistics

**Slavic Languages and Literatures Sample Minor**
- BCSN 20100-20200-20300. Intermediate Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- EEUR 20900. Structure of Albanian
- SLAV 22000. Old Church Slavonic
- SLAV 23000. Language, Power, and Identity in Southeastern Europe
- SLAV 28600. Kitsch

**Joint Degree Program**

Students who demonstrate a record of uncommon excellence in the fulfillment of their undergraduate degree requirements are eligible to apply for the BA/MA joint degree in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. After discussing their options with the College BA/MA adviser and the Departmental Adviser, qualified students in the College should apply to the Division of the Humanities no later than first quarter of their third year. Students will receive an admission decision from the Division of the Humanities. Students must meet the following requirements:

1. To be accepted for admission, students must maintain a 3.5 or higher grade point average in their College work, including the Slavic Languages and Literatures major.

2. Students must earn a total of forty-eight course credits toward the joint degree. Nine of these courses should be at the graduate level, typically including the Advanced Russian sequence and one other course required for the MA. A maximum of four graduate-level courses may be counted toward the BA

3. By the beginning of their third year, students should have completed at least two courses toward their undergraduate major in addition to the language.

4. Students must also complete all requirements for the MA as stipulated in the Departmental Graduate Degree Requirements for the appropriate program of study (Linguistics, Literature, or Interdisciplinary Studies).

5. The MA thesis counts as the BA paper only in Interdisciplinary Studies. Students must submit the paper no later than the end of seventh week of Spring Quarter of their fourth year.

6. All courses for the joint program must be completed three quarters after entering the program.

7. Students must pass an examination demonstrating a reading knowledge of French or German.

**Faculty**


**NOTE:** For a more complete listing of courses offered by the department, consult the graduate Announcements.

**Courses: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCSN)**

**Language**

10100-10200-10300/31000-31100-31200. Elementary Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian I, II, III. Knowledge of a Slavic language and background in linguistics not required. The major objective of the course is to build a solid foundation in the basic grammatical patterns of written and spoken Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, while simultaneously introducing both the Cyrillic and Latin alphabets. This course is complemented with cultural and historical media from the Balkans and is designed for students with a wide range of interests. Screenings of movies and other audio-visual materials are held in addition to scheduled class time. N. Petkovic. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

20100-20200-20300/32000-32100-32200. Intermediate Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian I, II, III. PQ: BCSN 10300 or consent of instructor. The first quarter is devoted to an overview of grammar, with emphasis on verbal morphology and syntax, through the reading of a series of literary texts in both the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets. The second and third quarters are devoted to further developing active mastery of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian through continued readings, grammar drills, compositions, and conversational practice. Study of word formation, nominal and adjectival morphology, and syntax are emphasized. Screenings of movies and other audio-visual materials are held in addition to scheduled class time. N. Petkovic. Autumn, Winter, Spring.
29700. Reading and Research Course. PQ: Consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

30100-30200-30300. Advanced Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian I, II, III. PQ: BCSN 20300 or consent of instructor. This course is tailored to the needs of the students enrolled, depending on their concentration in the field. It enhances language acquisition with continuous reading and translation of essays, newspaper articles, literary excerpts, letters and other selected writings. Vocabulary building is emphasized by the systematic study of nominal and verbal roots, prefixes and suffixes, and word formation thereafter. Discussion follows each completed reading with a written composition assigned in relation to the topic. N. Petkovic. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

Courses: Czech (czech)

Language

10100-10200-10300. Elementary Czech I, II, III. This course is an introduction to the basic grammar of Czech with attention given to all four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, as well as exposure to Czech culture. Winter and Spring Quarters include work with Czech film and literature. Students gain some familiarity with the major differences between literary and spoken Czech as they learn to use the language both as a means of communication and as a tool for reading and research. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

20100-20200-20300. Second-Year Czech I, II, III. PQ: CZEC 10300 or consent of instructor. The main goal of this course is to enable students to read Czech proficiently in their particular fields. Conversation practice is included. The program is flexible and may be adjusted according to the needs of the students. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

Literature and Linguistics

Courses: General Slavic (slav)

Literature and Linguistics

20100/30100. Introduction to Slavic Linguistics. (=LING 26400/36400) The main goal of this course is to familiarize students with the essential facts of the Slavic linguistic history and with the most characteristic features of the modern Slavic languages. In order to understand the development of Proto-Slavic into the existing Slavic languages and dialects, we focus on a set of basic phenomena. The course is specifically concerned with making students aware of factors that led to the breakup of the Slavic unity and the emergence of the individual languages. Drawing on the historical development, we touch upon such salient typological characteristics of the modern languages such as the rich set of morphophonemic alternations, aspect, free word order, and agreement. L. Grenoble. Autumn.

20400/30400. Contemporary Central Asia. (=HIST 25600/35600, NEHC 20762/30762) This survey course covers the period from approximately 1700 AD to the present. We emphasize the genesis of the modern nations of Central Eurasia, including the post-Soviet republics and adjacent areas in the periphery of Central Eurasia. K. Arik. Winter.

21700/31700. Human Being, Language, and Mind: An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics. (=LING 26700/36700) This course explores the
relatively new framework of cognitive linguistics. Topics include metaphor and metonymy, prototypes, polysemy, categorization and conceptualization, blends, constructions, the embodiment of meaning, construal, grammaticalization, and language pedagogy. Readings are drawn from the works of Croft, Janda, Fillmore, Lakoff and Johnson, Langacker, Sweetser, Talmey, Turner, Wierzbicka, and others. S. Clancy. Winter.

22000/32000. Old Church Slavonic. (=LGLN 25100/35100) PQ: Knowledge of another Slavic language or good knowledge of one or two other old Indo-European languages required; SLAV 20100/30100 recommended. This course introduces the language of the oldest Slavic texts. It begins with a brief historical overview of the relationship of Old Church Slavonic to Common Slavic and the other Slavic languages. This is followed by a short outline of Old Church Slavonic inflectional morphology. The remainder of the course is spent in the reading and grammatical analysis of original texts. Texts in Cyrillic or Cyrillic transcription of the original Glagolitic. V. Friedman. Winter.

23000/33000. Language, Power, and Identity in Southeastern Europe: A Linguistics View of the Balkan Crisis. (=ANTH 27400/37400, HUMA 27400, LING 27200/37200) This course familiarizes students with the linguistic histories and structures that have served as bases for the formation of modern Balkan ethnic identities and that are being manipulated to shape current and future events. This course is informed by the instructor’s thirty years of linguistic research in the Balkans, as well as experience as an adviser for the United Nations Protection Forces in Former Yugoslavia and as a consultant to the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Crisis Group, and other organizations. Course content may vary in response to current events. V. Friedman. Winter.

24501/34501. Lyric Genres from Classical Antiquity to Postmodernity. (=CLCV 27109, CMLT 24501/34501) This course meets the critical/intellectual methods course requirement for students who are majoring in Comparative Literature. Moving beyond the modern perception of lyric as a direct expression of the poet’s subjectivity, this course confronts the remarkable longevity of poetic genres that have remained in use over centuries and millennia, such as the hymn, ode, pastoral, elegy, epistle, and epigram. What kept these classical genres alive for so long and, conversely, what made them serviceable to poets working in very different cultural milieus? In an effort to develop a theory and a history of Western lyric genres, we sample such poets as Sappho, Horace, Marvell, Holderlin, Whitman, Mandel’shtam, Brodsky, and Milosz. Texts in English. Optional discussion sessions offered in the original (i.e., Greek, Latin, German, Russian). B. Maslov. Spring.

25900/35900. Words and Images: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Approaches. (=ISHU 25901/35901) This course explores theories of the verbal-visual axis. While we focus on major contemporary approaches to inter- and multidisciplinary studies, special attention is given to the historical development of interart discourse. We read texts by Horace, Lessing, Panofsky, Praz, W. J. T. Mitchell, and others. B. Shallcross. Winter.

26700/36700. Left-Wing Art and Soviet Film Culture of the 1920s. (=ARTH 28100/38100, CMLT 22200/32200, CMST 24701/34701) This course considers Soviet “montage cinema” of the 1920s in the context of coeval aesthetic projects in other arts. How did Eisenstein’s theory and practice of “intellectual cinema” connect to Fernand Léger and Vladimir Tatlin? What did Meyerhold’s “biomechanics” mean for filmmakers? Among other figures and issues, we address Dziga Vertov and Constructivism, German Expressionism and Aleksandr Dovzhenko, and Formalist poetics and FEKS directors. Film screenings are three hours a week in addition to scheduled class time. Y. Tsivian. Spring.

29700. Reading and Research Course. PQ: Consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

29900. BA Paper. PQ: Open to fourth-year students who are majoring in Slavic Languages and Literatures with consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. This course must be taken for a quality grade. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

31500. Teaching in Slavic Languages and Literatures. This course is primarily intended to prepare graduate students to teach a broad range of courses in the department and in the profession. Regular sessions and guest lectures address issues related to teaching courses in Slavic languages, linguistics, literature, culture, and visual media. Topics include course design and structure, day-to-day teaching and administrative activities, and teaching methods and pedagogical approaches suited to the particular problems of teaching in Slavic Studies. Students gain experience in structuring class time, designing activities and assignments, leading discussions, grading and assessment, and the development of effective teaching styles and rapport with students. Course requirements include written assignments and short papers, in addition to mock teaching demonstrations, readings, and participation in class discussions. S. Clancy. Spring.

Courses: Polish (POLI)

Language

10100-10200-10300. Elementary Polish I, II, III. This course teaches students to speak, read, and write in Polish, as well as familiarizes them with Polish culture. It employs the most up-to-date techniques of language teaching (e.g., communicative and accelerated learning, and learning based on students’ native language skills), as well as multileveled target-language exposure. J. Kurwoska-Młynarczyk. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

20100-20200-20300. Second-Year Polish I, II, III. PQ: POLI 10300 or equivalent. This course includes instruction in grammar, writing, and translation, as well as watching selected Polish movies. Selected readings are drawn from the course textbook, and students also read Polish short stories and press articles. In addition, the independent reading of students is emphasized and reinforced
by class discussions. Work is adjusted to each student’s level of preparation. J. Kurowska-Mlynarczyk. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

30100-30200-30300. Advanced Polish I, II, III. PQ: POLI 20300 or equivalent. Students in this course discuss selected readings (primarily short stories chosen by the instructor) in Polish during the week. The level of work is adjusted to each student’s level of preparation. All work in Polish. J. Kurowska-Mlynarczyk. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

Literature and Linguistics

25200/35200. Joseph Conrad. Conrad’s works are discussed in the context of the novelist’s European experience. The inquiries include: How did Conrad perceive national and “continental” identities (European, African, Asian), and how did he present them in his fiction? How had his own complex identity (Polish, English, European) influenced his view on Europe and Europe’s political Other? Primary readings include, among others, the novels Heart of Darkness, Lord Jim, Under Western Eyes, and The Secret Agent; the short stories “Amy Foster,” “Prince Roman,” and “An Outpost of Progress”; and the political essays “Autocracy and War” and “The Crime of Partition.” The readings also include Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment and excerpts from his The Writer’s Diary. J. Kurowska-Mlynarczyk. Autumn.

25301/35301. Gombrowicz: The Writer as Philosopher. (=FNDL 26903) The spell exercised by Witold Gombrowicz over his readers has to do, at least in part, with the brilliant linguistic enactment of philosophical discourse in his fiction. Through a reading of his novel Ferdydurke, we analyze how he moves away from traditional philosophical approaches to (inter)subjectivity, order, and chaos to articulate his own creative dissolutions. Gombrowicz’s A Guide to Philosophy in Six Hours and Fifteen Minutes serves as the ironic and provoking introduction to the course and, for those uninstructed, to philosophy. B. Shallcross. Winter.

29201/39201. Traumatic Everyday: The Holocaust in Polish Literature. (=ISHU 29201) In this course, the Polish perspective is juxtaposed to that of Polish Jewry. Our investigation of the search for adequate means of representing and conceptualizing the Holocaust ranges from the poetics of absence to testimonial accounts and traumatic memorization. Cinematic, literary, and pictorial representations of the Holocaust run from Borowski’s real life experience in Auschwitz through Grynberg’s sense of mission as a survivor to Polanski’s filmic vision seemingly unrelated to his own survival. We also reconstruct the realities of the Holocaust against the post-Holocaust mechanics of idealization and aesthetization, trace the emergence of the new approach to the “other,” and read recent theories (e.g., Agamben, Rothberg). B. Shallcross. Autumn.

29700. Reading and Research Course. PQ: Consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.
in context and emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in a culturally authentic context. Excerpts from popular Soviet/Russian films and clips from Russian television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian; some aspects of grammar explained in English. Drill practice is held twice a week. V. Pichugin. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

21002-21102-21202. Fourth-Year Russian through Short Story I, II, III. 
PQ: Three years of Russian or equivalent. This course treats some difficult issues of grammar, syntax, and stylistics through reading and discussing contemporary Russian short stories. This kind of reading exposes students to contemporary Russian culture, society, and language. Vocabulary building is also emphasized. Classes conducted in Russian. Conversation practice is held twice a week. V. Pichugin. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

21302-21402-21502. Advanced Russian through Media I, II, III. 
PQ: RUSS 21200 or consent of instructor. This course, which is designed for fifth-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. It emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in culturally authentic context. Clips from Russian/Soviet films and television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian. Conversation practice is held twice a week. V. Pichugin. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

21600. Russian for Heritage Learners. 
PQ: Ability to speak Russian fluently required; formal training in Russian not required. This course examines the major aspects of Russian grammar and stylistics essential for heritage learners. Students engage in close readings and discussions of short stories by classic and contemporary Russian authors (e.g., Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Platonov, Bulgakov, Erofeev, Tolstaya), with special emphasis on their linguistic and stylistic differences. All work in Russian. Autumn.

Literature and Linguistics

22302/32302. War and Peace. (=FNDL 27103, ISHU 22304) PQ: Consent of instructor. Written in the wake of the Crimean War (1856) and the emancipation of the serfs (1861), Tolstoy’s War and Peace represents Russia’s most important national narrative. This course focuses on both the artistic and the intellectual facets of War and Peace. Reading War and Peace we not only learn a lot about Russian history and culture, but we also have a rare chance to visit the writer’s workshop and witness the creation of a completely original, organic work of art. All work in English. L. Steiner. Spring.

24000/34000. Nabokov. A survey of Vladimir Nabokov’s work from his Russian novels of the 1930s to the very latest and controversial Original of Laura (posthumously published and fragmentary, 2009). Reading and discussion intensive, the course understands the limits of survey courses and means to milk the form for all it’s worth, hoping against hope that it provides a credit bearing excuse to be exhaustive and exhausted, soaking till uncommon in the glow and afterglow of reading Nabokov. Works include: Zaschitna Luzhina (The Defense, 1930); Priglashenije na kazn’ (Invitation to a Beheading, 1936); The Real Life of Sebastian Knight (1941); Pnin (1957); Nabokov’s Dozen: A Collection of Thirteen Stories (1958); Pale Fire (1962); Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisited (1967); Ada or Ardor: A Family Chronicle (1969); Strong Opinions (1973); excerpts from various compiled lectures on literature (1980–83); and The Original of Laura (2009). Written work is limited to response papers no longer than one page single-spaced per title (or group of titles, e.g., the stories, the lectures, the strong opinions constituting one “title”) to be posted electronically as extemporaneous or impromptu discharges and a final examination styled in homage to Nabokov’s own final examinations for his courses in literature at Wellesley and Cornell universities. All works are read in English, though those with a knowledge of Russian are encouraged to read the original Russian where such designation applies, or the Russian self-translations. Note: Nabokov’s arguably most famous novel, Lolita, is not featured because of the self-standing course available with fair regularity on that novel alone. M. Sternstein. Spring.

25100-25200. Introduction to Russian Civilization I, II. (=HIST 13900-14000, SOCS 24000-24100) Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required. This sequence meets the general education requirement in civilization studies. This two-quarter, interdisciplinary course studies geography, history, literature, economics, law, fine arts, religion, sociology, and agriculture, among other fields, to see how the civilization of Russia has developed and functioned since the ninth century. The first quarter covers the period up to 1801; the second, since 1801. The course has a common lecture by a specialist in the field, usually on a topic about which little is written in English. Two weekly seminar meetings are devoted to discussion of the readings, which integrate the materials from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. The course attempts to inculcate an understanding of the separate elements of Russian civilization. Emphasis is placed on discovering indigenous elements of Russian civilization and how they have reacted to the pressures and impact of other civilizations, particularly Byzantine, Mongol-Tataric, and Western. The course also considers problems of the social sciences, such as the way in which the state has dominated society, stratification, patterns of legitimization of the social order, symbols of collective social and cultural identity, the degrees of pluralism in society, and the autonomy an individual has vis-à-vis the social order. Also examined are such problems as the role of the center in directing the periphery and its cultural, political, and economic order; the mechanisms of control over the flow of resources and the social surplus; and processes of innovation and modernization. This course is offered in alternate years. R. Hellie. Autumn, Winter.

25200/35200. Russian Literature to 1600. PQ: Knowledge of Russian. This survey of pre-modern writing from the East Slavic lands focuses on the major works in the tradition, from Hilarión’s Sermon on Law and Grace to the works of the Time of Troubles. We focus on the changes in the written language, for instance after the Second South Slavic Influence. We also analyze the development of all major genres of writing including homiletics, hagiography, chronicles, histories,
and tales. Special attention is paid to the mysterious Lay of Igor’s Campaign and the controversies surrounding it. Winter.

25400/35400. Eighteenth-Century Russian Literature. This course surveys all major genres of the tumultuous eighteenth century, from Fedor Prokopovich to Nikolai Karamzin. We examine the rise of a Western-style system of genres at the hands of Trediakovskiy, Lomonosov, and Sumarokov; the development of enlightenment culture in a country undergoing rapid modernization; and the rise of sentimentalism in Derzhavin and Karamzin. Literary works are contextualized in their cultural milieu, including the rich tradition of court spectacles. Spring.

25500/35500. Russian Literature from Classicism to Romanticism. (=HUMA 24000, ISHU 22400) Russia acquired a modern literature in the eighteenth century, during the ascendency of the neo-classicist aesthetics, leading to a flowering of literary culture in the 1830s at the hands of such writers as Pushkin, Lermontov, and Gogol. The so-called “Golden Age” of Russian literature existed in a creative tension both with the neo-classical heritage and with contemporary developments in Western Europe, most notably Romanticism. This survey of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Russian literature includes works by Lomonosov, Derzhavin, Radishchev, Karamzin, Zhukovskii, Pushkin, Griboedov, Baratynskii, Lermontov, and early Gogol. Texts in English and the original. Optional Russian-intensive section offered. Autumn.

25600/35600. Realism in Russia. (=HUMA 24100, ISHU 23100/33100) From the 1830s to the 1890s, most Russian prose writers and playwrights were either engaged in the European-wide cultural movement known as “realistic school,” which set for itself the task of engaging with social processes from the standpoint of political ideologies. The ultimate goal of this course is to distill more precise meanings of “realism,” “critical realism,” and “naturalism” in nineteenth-century Russian through analysis of works by Gogol, Turgenev, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Aleksandr Ostrovsky, Goncharov, Saltykov-Shchedrin, and Kuprin. Texts in English and the original. Optional Russian-intensive section offered. Winter.

25700/35700. Russian Literature from Modernism to Post-Modernism. (=HUMA 22600, ISHU 22600) Given the importance of the written word in Russian culture, it is no surprise that writers were full-blooded participants in Russia’s tumultuous recent history, which has lurched from war to war, and from revolution to revolution. The change of political regimes has only been outpaced by the change of aesthetic regimes, from realism to symbolism, and from socialist realism to post-modernism. We sample the major writers, texts, and literary doctrines, paying close attention to the way they responded and contributed to historical events. This course counts as the third part of the survey of Russian literature. Texts in English. Spring.

2732. Russia under the Western Eye. (=HIST 23604) Semyonov. Spring.

28300/38300. Russian Symbolism. From 1894 to 1913, Symbolism was the dominant artistic movement in Russia. Though it is most closely associated with the poetic works of Bal’mont, Gippius, Sologub, Annensky, and Blok (among others), it also found vivid expression in painting, performance, and even music. It was the first artistic school in Russia to receive full development as an aesthetic doctrine, especially at the hands of Briusov, Belyi, and Ivanov. Moreover, Russian Symbolism can hardly be understood without study of its Western and Eastern European precedents. We sample all the major authors, genres and media of Russian Symbolism and consider major scholarly approaches to arrive at a conceptualization of the movement as a whole. R. Bird. Winter.

28400/38400. Symbolism, Acmeism, and Futurism. In 1910 Russian Symbolism, the dominant literary trend of its day, underwent a very public crisis, eventually resulting in the rise of two rival movements, Acmeism and Futurism, which dominated the Russian literary scene into the 1920s. We survey late symbolist writing and read as much as possible by the Acmeists and Futurists, contextualizing the readings in broader cultural history, particularly developments in the visual arts. We also use the three movements as an example of literary history. Winter.

29700. Reading and Research Course. PQ: Consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

29900. BA Paper. PQ: Open to fourth-year students who are majoring in Slavic Languages and Literature with consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. This course must be taken for a quality grade. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

Courses: South Slavic (sosl)

Literature and Linguistics

26800/36800. Balkan Folklore. This course is an overview of Balkan folklore from ethnographic, anthropological, historical/political, and performative perspectives. We become acquainted with folk tales, lyric and epic songs, music, and dance. The work of Milman Parry and Albert Lord, who developed their theory of oral composition through work among epic singers in the Balkans, help us understand folk tradition as a dynamic process. We also consider the function of different folklore genres in the imagining and maintenance of community and the socialization of the individual. We also experience this living tradition first hand through our visit to the classes and rehearsals of the Chicago-based ensemble “Balkanske igre.” A. Ilieva. Winter.

27200-27300/37200-37300. The Other within the Self: Identity in Balkan Literature and Film. This two-course sequence examines discursive practices in a number of literary and cinematic works from the South East corner of Europe through which identities in the region become defined by two distinct others: the “barbaric, demonic” Ottoman and the “civilized” Western European.
27200/37200. Returning the Gaze: The Balkans and Western Europe. (=CMLT 23201/33201, ISHU 27406, NEHC 20885/30885) This course investigates the complex relationship between South East European self-representations and the imagined Western “gaze” for whose benefit the nations stage their quest for identity and their aspirations for recognition. We also think about differing models of masculinity, the figure of the gypsy as a metaphor for the national self in relation to the West, and the myths Balkans tell about themselves. We conclude by considering the role that the imperative to belong to Western Europe played in the Yugoslav wars of succession. Some possible texts/films are Ivo Andric, *Bosnian Chronicle*; Aleko Konstantinov, *Baj Ganyo*; Emir Kusturica, *Underground*; and Milcho Manchevski, *Before the Rain. A. Ilieva. Autumn.*

27300/37300. The Burden of History: A Nation and Its Lost Paradise. (=CMLT 23401/33401, ISHU 26606, NEHC 20573/30573) This course begins by defining the nation both historically and conceptually, with attention to Romantic nationalism and its flourishing in Southeastern Europe. We then look at the narrative of original wholeness, loss, and redemption through which Balkan countries retell their Ottoman past. With the help of Freud’s analysis of masochistic desire and Žižek’s theory of the subject as constituted by trauma, we contemplate the national fixation on the trauma of loss and the dynamic between victimhood and sublimity. The figure of the Janissary highlights the significance of the other in the definition of the self. Some possible texts are Petar Njegoš’s *Mountain Wreath*; Ismail Kadare’s *The Castle*; and Anton Donchev’s *Time of Parting. A. Ilieva. Spring.*

27400/37400. Magic Realist and Fantastic Writings from the Balkans. (=CMLT 22201/32201, ISHU 27405) In this course, we ask whether there is such a thing as a “Balkan” type of magic realism and think about the differences between the genres of magic realism and the fantastic, while reading some of the most interesting writing to have come out of the Balkans. We also look at the similarities of the works from different countries (e.g., lyricism of expression, eroticism, nostalgia) and argue for and against considering such similarities constitutive of an overall Balkan sensibility. *A. Ilieva. Spring.*

27600/37600. Cinema from the Balkans. (=CMLT 22601/32601, ISHU 27603) This course is designed as an overview of major cinematic works from Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Rumania, former Yugoslavia and Turkey. While the main criterion for selection is the artistic quality of the work, the main issues under consideration are those of identity, gender, the poignant relation with the “Western World,” memories of conflict and violence, and socialism and its disintegration and subsequent emigration. We compare the conceptual categories through which these films make sense of the world, especially the sense of humor with which they come to terms with that world. Directors whose work we examine include Vulchanov and Andonova (Bulgaria); Kusturica, Makavejev, and Grlac (Former Yugoslavia); Guney (Turkey); Boulmetis (Greece); and Manchevski (Macedonia). *A. Ilieva. Winter.*

27610/37610. Gender in the Balkans through Literature and Film. (=CMLT 23901/33901, GNDR 27702/37700, ISHU 27610) This introductory course examines the poetics of femininity and masculinity in some of the best works of the Balkan region. We contemplate how the experiences of masculinity and femininity are constituted and the issues of socialization related to these modes of being. Topics include the traditional family model, the challenges of modernization and urbanization, the socialist paradigm, and the post-socialist changes. Finally, we consider the relation between gender and nation, especially in the context of the dissolution of Yugoslavia. All work in English. *A. Ilieva. Winter.*

29700. Reading and Research Course. PQ: Consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29900. BA Paper. PQ: Open to fourth-year students who are majoring in Slavic Languages and Literature with consent of instructor and Departmental Adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. This course must be taken for a quality grade. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*