

Russian Major and Slovak Studies Minorwww.slavic.pitt.edu/undergraduate/russian

Revised: 05/2016

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers a major in Russian and a minor in Slovak studies. Deserving of special mention is the department's program in Slovak language, literature, and culture, which is the only such program in the United States. Students have the opportunity to study the languages, literatures, and cultures of Russia and Eastern Europe, including Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Serbia, and Croatia. During the fall and spring terms, the department offers courses in Russian, Polish, Slovak, and Ukrainian, with Serbian available through the Language Acquisition Institute (LAI). Additionally, summer term intensive courses in Polish, Slovak, Serbian, Bulgarian, Russian, and Ukrainian are also available. Offered in June, July, and the first part of August, the Summer Language Institute (SLI) covers an entire year of study for first through fourth year levels of Russian language, and the first, second, or third year level of other Slavic languages. For prospective majors, the SLI affords the opportunity to make rapid progress through the language in order to qualify for advanced courses or study-abroad opportunities. The SLI also offers a study abroad component to Russia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Slovakia.

Prospective majors in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures include students who are primarily interested in language or literature, students who wish to enhance their career opportunities in a special way, students who have an interest in the politics and culture of Russia and Eastern Europe, and students with a desire to explore their ethnic heritage. Many Russian majors continue their studies in graduate school or go on to careers in law, engineering, business, and government. Students of Polish, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian, and Russian find knowledge of those languages valuable in working for local western Pennsylvania institutions and in politics, business, health related professions, and the media, because of the large population in this region which traces its roots to the various Slavic nations of Eastern Europe. Students interested in the major should begin language study early to gain as complete a command of the language as possible. Prospective majors are encouraged to take RUSS 0800-0810 (Masterpieces of Russian Literature) as early as possible to get an introduction to Russian literature.

Required courses for the Russian major

The Russian major requires the completion of 33 credits distributed as follows.

Language courses

RUSS 0400 Advanced Russian 1
 RUSS 0410 Advanced Russian 2
 RUSS 0420 Russian Newspapers and Magazines
 RUSS 0430 Readings in Russian Literature
 RUSS 1420 Fourth Year Russian 1
 RUSS 1430 Fourth Year Russian 2

Core literature and culture courses

RUSS 0800 Masterpieces of 19th Century Russian Literature
 RUSS 0810 Masterpieces of 20th Century Russian Literature
 RUSS 0850 Early Russian Culture
 RUSS 0860 Modern Russian Culture
 RUSS 1000-level elective course

Grade requirements: A grade of C or better is required in each course that counts toward the major. A grade of B- or better in language courses is required to advance to the next level. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: No course that counts toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement: RUSS 0800 and RUSS 0810 satisfy the W-course requirement for the major.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Honors major requirements: Honors in Russian is granted if, in addition to fulfilling all requirements for the major, the student:

- maintained a GPA of 3.75 or above in RUSS courses;
- maintained an overall GPA of 3.25 or above;
- completed at least one additional RUSS 1000-level course;
- completed a 20-page paper involving Russian primary-source research and a two-page summary in Russian, under the supervision of an appointed faculty committee; and
- consulted with the undergraduate advisor in their junior year.

Advising: Gerald McCausland
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 412-624-5906
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Study abroad: Students are encouraged to participate in an approved study-abroad program for a semester or the summer term. The department will adjust the course requirements in individual cases to accommodate this participation without delaying the student's graduation. Majors often apply for Nationality Rooms Program Scholarships for summer study abroad. The Summer Language Institute (SLI) offers generous scholarships as well. The following represents a partial list of study abroad opportunities available to our students.

- **Summer study in Moscow:** The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures currently sponsors a ten-credit summer-study program as part of the SLI in Pittsburgh (5 weeks) and Moscow (5 weeks) at the Moscow State University. Students may study first through fourth year Russian, covering one full year language study in ten weeks. Similar programs exist for study in Poland and Bulgaria. The Slavic department can be reached at 412-624-5096 or via e-mail at slavic@pitt.edu.
- **The University of Pittsburgh** is affiliated with a number of organizations holding both summer and semester, or year-long study in Russia. The Study Abroad Office, located in 802 WPU, can be reached at 412-647-7413.
- **The Russian and East European Study Center** regularly organizes summer study abroad programs in languages and social sciences in locations from the Czech Republic to Slovakia. REES makes scholarships available for many of these programs. Nadia Kirkov, the REES undergraduate advisor, can be reached at 412-648-7418.
- **The Nationality Rooms Program** offers a wide variety of competitive scholarships for summer study abroad in many parts of the world, including Central and Eastern Europe. Applications are due in January. The NRP, located in 1209 CL, can be reached at 412-624-6510.

For the Slavic studies major requirements, see the separate handout available in the Advising Center, 201 Thackeray Hall, or from the undergraduate advisor in room 1417 of the Cathedral of Learning.

Checklist for the Russian major

Prerequisite courses

- _____ RUSS 0010 (does not count toward the major)
- _____ RUSS 0020 (does not count toward the major)
- _____ RUSS 0030 (does not count toward the major)
- _____ RUSS 0040 (does not count toward the major)

Language courses

- _____ RUSS 0400
- _____ RUSS 0410
- _____ RUSS 0420
- _____ RUSS 0430
- _____ RUSS 1420
- _____ RUSS 1430

Literature and culture courses

- _____ RUSS 0800
- _____ RUSS 0810
- _____ RUSS 0850
- _____ RUSS 0860
- _____ RUSS 1_____ (1000-level elective)

Checklist for the Slovak studies minor

Slovak language option (15 credits)

- _____ SLOVAK 0010
- _____ SLOVAK 0020
- _____ SLOVAK 0030
- _____ SLOVAK 0040
- _____ SLOVAK 0400

Slovak culture option (15 credits)

- _____ SLOVAK 0010
- _____ SLOVAK 0020

Three (3) of the following

- _____ SLOVAK 0030
- _____ SLOVAK 0380
- _____ SLOVAK 0890
- _____ SLOVAK 1250
- _____ SLOVAK 1260
- _____ SLOVAK 1270
- _____ SLOVAK 1865

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation.