RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES

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wp.stolaf.edu/russian

The Russian Language and Area Studies Department, in keeping with the college mission to provide a “global perspective,” offers a variety of courses that build upon Russian language proficiency to give students the knowledge and tools for a successful career. Recent graduates have entered professions in higher education, business, government, the church, law, and the arts.

Russia continues to be a major player in the global community in many areas: politics, economics, space-age technology, and the development of new computer software. As the new Russia opens itself to the outside, college graduates are increasingly sought after for positions in government service, business and investment, journalism, environmental studies, education, and social service.

The department offers a major in Russian area studies and a major in Russian language, as well as courses on Russian literature taught in English. Taking Russian at St. Olaf means more than just studying a language. The study of Russian introduces you to one of the great cultures of the world — the culture of Tchaikovsky, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Kandinsky, Pasternak, Solzhenitsyn, and many others. Russian language is the key to reading more than one-fourth of all the published scientific literature in the world.

Students may satisfy general education requirements with Russian studies courses such as RUSSN 265 Introduction to Russian and Soviet Film (in English translation). RUSSN 231 or a higher numbered course taught in the Russian language or demonstrated proficiency satisfies the foreign language requirement for all students. Upper-level students may participate in the CIEE program in St. Petersburg, or with St Olaf programs in Novgorod and Irkutsk (Siberia).

Overview of the Majors

The Russian Language and Area Studies Department offers two majors: Russian language and Russian area studies. The aim of both is to prepare students to understand, interact with, and work in the Russian area from a foundation of cultural literacy. The multidisciplinary Russian area studies major provides students with a comprehensive view of the culture, history, and contemporary problems of the area.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Majors (http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/russian-language-major-ilos)

Requirements

Requirements for the Major in Russian Language

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>RUSSN 111</td>
<td>Beginning Russian I</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSSN 112</td>
<td>Beginning Russian II</td>
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<tr>
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<td>RUSSN 254</td>
<td>Russian Culture and Civilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSSN 372</td>
<td>Topics in Contemporary Russian Society</td>
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Two additional courses taught in Russian, normally taken in Russia during senior year: 2.00

Total Credits: 9

Requirements for the Major in Russian Area Studies

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Select five of the following political science, history, literature, or film courses approved for Russian language and area studies credit: 5.00

- HIST 230 Imperial Russia
- HIST 231 20th-Century Russia
- PSCI 282 Russian and Eurasian Politics
- RUSSN 250 Topics in Russian Literature (in English translation)
- RUSSN 251 Conversation and Composition
- RUSSN 254 Russian Culture and Civilization
- RUSSN 256 Theater in Russia: Interim Abroad

- RUSSN 261 Introduction to Russian Literature (in English translation)
- RUSSN 262 20th-Century Russian Literature (in English translation)
- RUSSN 265 Introduction to Russian and Soviet Film (in English translation)
- RUSSN 371 Dostoevsky (in English translation)
RUSSN 254: Russian Culture and Civilization
This course offers an introduction to grammar and reading through oral and written work. Class meets four times weekly. Offered annually in the fall semester.

Prerequisite: RUSSN 111 or equivalent.

RUSSN 251: Beginning Russian I
This course offers an introduction to grammar and reading through oral and written work. Class meets four times weekly. Offered annually in the fall semester.

Prerequisite: RUSSN 111 or equivalent.

RUSSN 231: Intermediate Russian I
Students continue their grammar, oral, and written work with an emphasis on conversation and reading selections from classical and contemporary Russian authors. Class meets four times weekly. Offered annually in the fall semester.

Prerequisite: RUSSN 112 or equivalent.

RUSSN 232: Intermediate Russian II
Students continue their grammar, oral, and written work with an emphasis on conversation and reading selections from classical and contemporary Russian authors. Class meets four times weekly. Offered annually in the spring semester. Also counts toward management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: RUSSN 231 or equivalent.

RUSSN 250: Topics in Russian Literature (in English translation)
This course examines the development of differing approaches to some aspect of Russian life and culture as presented in the classical texts of Russian literature. Actual topics vary according to year and instructor. Offered periodically. Counts toward Russian area studies major; does not count toward Russian language major.

Prerequisite: RUSSN 232 or permission of instructor.

RUSSN 251: Conversation and Composition
This course facilitates oral and written use of the language through conversation and composition, English to Russian translation, selections from Russian literature, and original themes. Offered annually in the fall semester. Counts toward Russian area studies major for students not simultaneously working toward Russian language major; also counts toward management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: RUSSN 232 or permission of instructor.
RUSSN 372: Topics in Contemporary Russian Society
This course covers a variety of topics that are both culturally and intellectually challenging. The goal of this course is to explore a variety of topics significant for Russian society and culture as well as to further develop the language of intellectual discourse through the treatment of complex issues in the press and social media. Taught in Russian. May be repeated if topic is different. Offered annually in the spring semester. Counts toward Russian language major and management studies concentration.
Prerequisite: RUSSN 254 or permission of the instructor.

RUSSN 394: Academic Internship

RUSSN 396: Directed Undergraduate Research
This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.
Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

RUSSN 398: Independent Research
Independent Research is required for all students seeking credit for a senior project.

Faculty
Chair, 2019-2020
Kari Lie Dorer
Associate Professor of Norwegian
Norwegian language and culture; applied linguistics; Sami studies; Nordic film.

Anna K. Kuxhausen (on leave Interim and spring)
Associate Professor of History
Russian history; women's history

Anna Pearce
Visiting Instructor in Russian Language and Area Studies

Marc Robinson (on leave)
Professor of Russian Language and Area Studies
Russian language; Russian film and literature; Russian theater

Anton Svinarenko
Visiting Instructor in Russian Language and Area Studies