

Wellesley College

RUSSIAN AREA  
STUDIES PROGRAM  
and  
RUSSIAN DEPARTMENT



*Course Offerings 2023-2024*

<https://www.wellesley.edu/russian>

<https://www.wellesley.edu/russianareastudies>



## **Welcome to our Russian Area Studies and Russian course offerings!**

Russia could hardly be a more active and consequential actor on the world stage. It is likely to continue to be the world's most successfully disruptive rogue state for at least another generation. The Russo-Ukrainian War, Europe's first major war since 1945, has engendered massive tectonic shifts. But Russia's singular global importance goes way beyond the war in Ukraine. It is the world's largest country by far, its second-largest producer of oil and natural gas, it maintains the world's biggest and most capable nuclear weapons stockpile, and is a major threat to the United States and its allies.

At the same time, Russia also has so much to offer to the world: the peerless beauty of her literature, art, music, dance, film; the unflinching quest for truth on the part of many of her artists and scholars; her extraordinarily rich history, spanning more than a millennium of pain, hope and wonder. Russia possesses a richness and an integrity of experience that must not be carelessly brushed aside at a moment when its state has gone rogue by unleashing and continuing to pursue this horrific war.

A strong and successful United States is in need of experts on Russia, and also must have a citizenry educated about this most important—and alas—deadly rival. The Russian Area Studies Program offers a scintillating array of courses and public events that explore that vast country, which Winston Churchill famously described as "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma."

Ours is an interdisciplinary program that explores Russian literature, language, film and the performing arts, as well as the histories, cultures and politics of Russia and Eurasia.

Please visit [wellesley.edu/russianareastudies](https://wellesley.edu/russianareastudies) to learn about our faculty, courses, students and the frequent fascinating programs on our events calendar. If you have any questions about the Russian Area Studies program or courses, please feel free to contact me, Nina Tumarkin (ntumarki@wellesley.edu), Director of Russian Area Studies, or our administrator, Katie Sango-Jackson (ksangoja@wellesley.edu).

I look forward to seeing you in our courses, and at our public lectures, concerts and feasts!



Nina Tumarkin  
Kathryn Wasserman Davis Professor of Slavic Studies,  
Professor of History and Director of Russian Area Studies

# *Contents*

Courses Offered 2023-2024.....	3
Russian Area Studies Courses.....	4
RAST Major Requirements.....	5
Non-Language Courses for Credit Toward the RAST Major.....	6
Comparative Literature Courses.....	10
History Courses.....	14
Russian Department Courses.....	20
Russian Major/Minor Requirements.....	21
Individual Study.....	41
Senior Thesis Research.....	42

# *Courses Offered 2023-2024*

## *Fall 2023*

<b>RAST 222/322</b> Firebird! The Russian Arts Under Tsars and Commissars.....	16
<b>HIST 248</b> The Soviet Union: A Tragic Colossus .....	16
<b>RUSS 101</b> Elementary Russian I.....	20
<b>RUSS 201</b> Intermediate Russian I.....	22
<b>RUSS 251</b> The Nineteenth-Century Russian Classics: Passion, Pain, Perfection.....	23
<b>RUSS 301</b> Advanced Russian I: Moscow.....	29
<b>RUSS 333H</b> Nineteenth Century Narrative Poetry: Tales of Mystery and Imagination.....	33

## *Wintersession 2024*

<b>RUSS 101W</b> Elementary Russian Wintersession.....	21
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## *Spring 2024*

<b>HIST 116Y</b> (FYS) Vladimir Putin: Personage, President, Potentate.....	13
<b>HIST 246</b> Vikings, Icons, Mongols, and Tsars.....	14
<b>RUSS 102</b> Elementary Russian II.....	20
<b>RUSS 202</b> Intermediate Russian II.....	22
<b>RUSS 255</b> Russian and Soviet Film (in English).....	24
<b>RUSS 272</b> Battle for the Russian Soul: Ideology and the 19th-Century Russian Novel.....	25
<b>RUSS 302</b> Advanced Russian II: Children and Laughter.....	30
<b>RUSS 355H</b> Russian Film.....	34



# *Russian Area Studies Courses*

# *Russian Area Studies Major Requirements*

## **Goals for Russian Area Studies Major**

*Successful Russian Area Studies majors can:*

- Evaluate and understand Russia's and Eurasia's place in today's interconnected world, challenges facing the region, global challenges posed by the region, and goals and values espoused by the citizenry and political leadership
- Describe the basic structures and dynamics of Russian and Eurasian historical development, including the nature of autocracy, dictatorship, and empire
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the nations and peoples of Russia and Eurasia have interacted over time with each other and with geographic regions beyond their borders
- Acquire sufficient proficiency in the Russian language for fluent conversation and advanced study of Russian literature
- Through extensive reading and analysis of primary and secondary texts, discover and delineate the major themes of nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first century Russian literature
- Read, understand, and critically interpret scholarly and literary texts
- Deploy methods used by scholars of literature, history, and the social sciences to formulate and compose analyses orally and in writing
- Affirm the importance of understanding foreign nations and cultures as a component of active civic responsibility

## **Requirements for Russian Area Studies Major**

A major in Russian Area Studies consists of a minimum of eight units. Majors are normally required to take RUSS 201-RUSS 202 and at least two of the following courses: RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 305, RUSS 306. In addition, a major's program should consist of at least four non-language units drawn from Russian Area Studies, Russian history, literature, and politics, as well as relevant courses in comparative literature (see listings on courses page). At least two of a major's units should come from outside the Russian department and the Comparative Literature program. Majors are normally required to take at least two units of 300-level coursework, at least one of which should be drawn from outside the Russian department.

## **Honors in Russian Area Studies**

Seniors who wish to graduate with honors in the major must write an honors thesis. Applicants for honors must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in all work in the major field above the 100 level; the department may petition on their behalf if their GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. Interested students should discuss their ideas and plans with their advisor, the program chair, or a member of the advisory committee as early as possible in their junior year.



## ***Non-Language Courses For Credit Toward the Russian Area Studies Major***

**CPLT 284** Magical Realism

**CPLT 294** Utopia and Dystopia in Literature

**HIST 116Y** First Year Seminar: Vladimir Putin: Personage, President, Potentate

**HIST 246** Vikings, Icons, Mongols, and Tsars

**HIST 247** Splendor and Serfdom: Russia Under the Romanovs

**HIST 248** The Soviet Union: A Tragic Colossus

**HIST 302** Seminar: World War II as Memory and Myth

**RAS 222/322** Firebird! The Russian Arts Under Tsars and Commissars

**RUSS 251** The Nineteenth-Century Russian Classics: Passion, Pain, Perfection (in English)

**RUSS 255** Russian and Soviet Film (in English)

**RUSS 272** Battle for the Russian Soul: Ideology and the Nineteenth Century Russian Novel (in English)

**RUSS 276** Fedor Dostoevsky: The Seer of Spirit (in English)

**RUSS 277** Lev Tolstoy: Russia's Ecclesiast (in English)

**RUSS 286** Vladimir Nabokov (in English)

**RUSS 333H** Nineteenth-Century Russian Narrative Poetry: Tales of Mystery and Adventure (in Russian)

**RUSS 355H** Russian Film (in Russian)

**RUSS 376H** Fedor Dostoevsky's Short Stories (in Russian)

**RUSS 377H** Lev Tolstoy's Short Stories (in Russian)

**RUSS 386H** Vladimir Nabokov's Short Stories (in Russian)

# *Firebird! The Russian Arts Under Tsars and Commissars*

*Russian Area Studies 222/322*



The magical Russian Firebird—with its feathers of pure gold—embodies the creative genius and salvational glory of the Russian performing arts. In this course we will explore Russian ballet, opera, music, and theater and their place in the culture and history of Russia and the Soviet Union, from the age of Tolstoy to the Putin era, from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* to Pussy Riot, the feminist protest group. In addition to larger themes and movements, we will consider the contexts, histories, meanings—and, in some cases, iconic afterlives—of selected works and their masterful creators.

*Nina Tumarkin. Distribution: ARS.*

*RAST 222: Open to all students.*

*RAST 322: Normally open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.*

***Offered Fall 2023***

***Th 2:20-5:00***

*Comparative Literary  
Studies Program  
Courses*

# *Translation and the Multilingual World*

*Comparative Literary Studies 275/375*



A study of translation in theory and in practice, in its literal and many metaphorical senses, and of the vast multilingual world in which translation takes place. Among the possible topics: translation of literary texts, translation of sacred texts, the history and politics of translation, the lives of translators, translation and gender, translation and colonialism, machine translation and Google Translate, endangered languages, the representation of translation in literature and film, invented languages. Students taking the course at the 300 level will do a substantial independent project: a translation, a scholarly inquiry, or a combination of the two.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: One course in literature (in any language) or permission of the instructor. Competence in a language or languages other than English is useful but not necessary. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Magical Realism*

*Comparative Literary Studies 284*



This course examines novels and stories whose basic reality is familiar up until the introduction of a magical element. The magic can take the form of a demon, a talisman, a physical transformation, a miraculous transition in space or time, etc. The appearance of a second plane of existence calls into question all assumptions about what we are accustomed to calling reality. Students will read Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Calvino's *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*, Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, and short stories by Borges, Cortazar and Nabokov.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.*

***Counts for credit towards the Russian Area Studies major.***

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Utopia and Dystopia in Literature*

*Comparative Literature 294*



In his *Republic*, Plato described his utopia as a land where people are divided into four classes depending on their intelligence, where a philosopher-king rules over all, and a guardian class spies and protects, where private property is forbidden and where children are taken from their parents to be raised for the state and taught only things that will increase their loyalty to the state. Eugenics is practiced; literature is banished. Plato's vision has inspired socialist utopian fantasies and dystopian warnings alike. Students will read Nikolai Chernyshevsky's *What's to Be Done?*, H.G. Wells' *Time Machine* and *A Modern Utopia*, Evgeny Zemyatin's *We*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, George Orwell's *1984*, and Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. We will examine the ideas and plans of Plato, Charles Fourier, Jeremy Bentham, Charles Darwin, Cecil Rhodes, and others as they take shape on the pages of the novels we read, and we will consider the extent to which the utopias we read are prophesy or proscription.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.*

*Counts for credit towards the Russian Major.*

*Not Offered 2023-2024*

# *History Department Courses*

# *Vladimir Putin: Personage, President, Potentate*

*History 116Y (First Year Seminar)*



With Russian military forces surging through Ukraine in an unprovoked and catastrophic war that few in Russia or the West had predicted, as President Vladimir Putin threatens the annihilation of Ukraine’s statehood and the possible use of tactical nuclear weapons, now is the time to plunge into a study of that authoritarian leader of the world’s largest country. What are the causes of this catastrophic conflict? How did Putin accumulate so much power? What have been his goals, values and operating principles? A product of Leningrad’s “mean streets,” the young Putin sought glory in the KGB, and after the demise of the Soviet Union—a collapse he rues to this day—moved into the heights of power. We will explore Vladimir Putin’s life path, political maneuvers and policies, ideas about Russia’s identity and place in the world, and his image as the epitome of both potent masculinity and the devil incarnate. Assignments will include biographical and autobiographical writings, speeches, videos and a plethora of images of this enigmatic, potent, and murderous leader.

*Nina Tumarkin. Open to First Year Students only. Distribution: HS.*

***Offered Spring 2024***

***W 1:30-4:10***



# *Vikings, Icons, Mongols, and Tsars*

*History 246*



A multicultural journey through the turbulent waters of medieval and early modern Russia, from the Viking incursions of the ninth century and the entrance of the East Slavs into the splendid and mighty Byzantine world, to the Mongol overlordship of Russia, the rise of Moscow, and the legendary reign of Ivan the Terrible. We move eastward as the Muscovite state conquers the immense reaches of Siberia by the end of the turbulent seventeenth century, when the young and restless Tsar Peter the Great travels to Western Europe to change Russia forever. We will focus on khans, princes, tsars, nobles, peasants and monks; social norms and gender roles; icons and church architecture; and a host of Russian saints and sinners.

*Nina Tumarkin. Open to all students. Distribution: HS.*

***Offered Spring 2024***

***TF 12:45-2:00***

# *Splendor and Serfdom: Russia Under the Romanovs*

*History 247*



An exploration of Imperial Russia over the course of two tumultuous centuries, from the astonishing reign of Peter the Great at the start of the eighteenth century, to the implosion of the Russian monarchy under the unfortunate Nicholas II early in the twentieth, as Russia plunged toward revolution. St. Petersburg—the stunning and ghostly birthplace of Russia’s modern history and the symbol of Russia’s attempt to impose order on a vast, multiethnic empire—is a focus of this course. We will also emphasize the everyday lives of peasants and nobles; the vision and ideology of autocracy; Russia’s brilliant intelligentsia; and the glory of her literary canon.

*Nina Tumarkin. Open to all students. Distribution: HS.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *The Soviet Union: A Tragic Colossus*

*History 248*



The Soviet Union, the most immense empire in the world, hurtled through the twentieth century, shaping major world events. This course will follow the grand, extravagant, and often brutal socialist experiment from its fragile inception in 1917 through the rule of Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev, after which the vast Soviet empire broke apart with astonishing speed. We will contrast utopian constructivist visions of the glorious communist future with Soviet reality. Special emphasis on Soviet political culture, the trauma of the Stalin years and World War II, and the travails of everyday life.

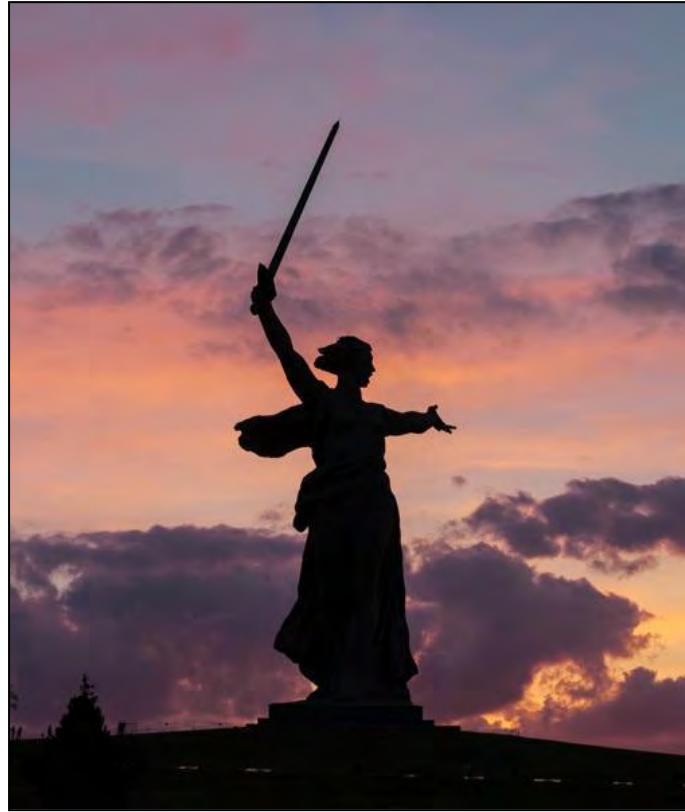
*Nina Tumarkin. Two periods. Open to all students. Distribution: HS.*

***Offered Fall 2023***

***TR 2:10-3:25***

# *Seminar: World War II as Memory and Myth*

*History 302*



This seminar explores the many ways that victors and vanquished, victims and perpetrators, governments, political groups and individuals have remembered, celebrated, commemorated, idealized, condemned, condoned, forgotten, ignored and grappled with the vastly complex history and legacy of World War II in the past half century. Our primary focus is the war in Europe, including Poland and Russia, although we will also consider the U.S. and Japan. We will investigate the construction of individual and collective memories about World War II and the creation and subsequent transformation of set myths about the war experience. In addition to books and articles, sources will include memoirs, primary documents, international relations and analyze the “monumental politics” of war memorials.

*Nina Tumarkin. Prerequisite: Normally open to juniors and seniors who have taken a 200-level unit in history and/or a 200-level unit in a relevant area/subject. Distribution: HS.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Russian Department Courses*

# *Russian Major/Minor Requirements*

## *Russian Major*

### **Goals for the Russian Major**

*A student majoring in Russian should be able to:*

- Converse fluently in Russian
- Comprehend important primary and secondary texts from the Russian literary tradition
- Discover and delineate the major themes of nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first century Russian literature and culture
- Express an understanding of Russian culture clearly and persuasively

### **Requirements for the Russian Major**

A student majoring in Russian must take at least **eight** units in the department above RUSS 102, including:

- Language courses through RUSS 202, and at least 2 units of language at the 300 level
- RUSS 251
- Two 200-level literature courses above RUSS 251
- At least 2 of the following half-unit courses: RUSS 333H, RUSS 355H, RUSS 376H, RUSS 377H, and RUSS 386H

RUSS 101 and RUSS 102 are counted toward the degree but not toward the Russian major.

Thus, a student who begins with no knowledge of Russian would typically complete the following courses to major in Russian: RUSS 101 and RUSS 102, RUSS 201 and RUSS 202, and two courses from among RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 305, RUSS 306; RUSS 251; two 200-level literature courses above RUSS 251; and one unit from 300-level literature courses.

### **Honors in Russian**

Students may graduate with honors in Russian by writing a thesis. To be admitted to the thesis program, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work in the major field above the 100 level; the department may petition on their behalf if their GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. Students who wish to attempt an honors thesis should consult the chair early in the second semester of their junior year. See Academic Distinctions.

## *Russian Minor*

### **Requirements for the Russian Minor**

A student minoring in Russian must take at least five units in the department above RUSS 102, at least one of which must be at the 300 level. RUSS 203 and RUSS 303 do not count towards the minor in Russian.

### **Non-Russian Classes for Credit Toward the Russian Major**

CPLT 284: Magical Realism; CPLT 294: Utopia and Dystopia in Literature

# *Elementary Russian*

*Russian 101-102*



These courses serve as a comprehensive introduction to Russian, which is spoken by nearly 300 million people worldwide, putting it in fifth place among the world's most widely spoken languages. We emphasize oral communication and self-expression. Students will complete oral and written exercises, read short stories and poems, and work with multimedia computer exercises in order to finish the course with the ability to read and write basic Russian as well as carry on everyday conversations. Elementary Russian opens the door to Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Turgenev, Gogol, Pushkin, Solzhenitsyn, Pasternak, Nabokov, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and many other legendary Russians.

*Thomas Hodge. Four periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Russian 101 may also be taken during Wintersession, if offered. Distribution: LL.*

***Russian 101 Offered Fall 2023; Russian 102 Offered Spring 2024***

***TF 8:30-9:45, W 8:30-9:20  
Conversation class: F 12:45-2:00***

# *Elementary Russian Wintersession*

*Russian 101W*



Intensive, on-campus introduction to Russian grammar through oral, written, and reading exercises; special emphasis on oral expression. The course covers exactly the same material as fall-semester Russian 101. For details see the course website here:

<https://www.wellesley.edu/russian/wintersession-russian-101>

*Thomas Hodge. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Wintersession 2024***

***January 2-19, 2024***

***MTWThF 9:00-2:00***



# *Intermediate Russian*

*Russian 201-202*



Conversation, composition, reading, music, comprehensive review of grammar; special emphasis on speaking and writing idiomatic Russian. Students perform a play in Russian in 201.

*Alla Epsteyn. Three periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: 101, 102, or the equivalent.  
Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Fall 2023, Spring 2024***

***TF 11:20-12:35, W 12:30-1:20***

# *The Nineteenth Century Russian Classics: Passion, Pain, Perfection*

*Russian 251 (in English)*



No knowledge of Russian language or literature is required. A survey of Russian fiction from the age of Pushkin (1820s-1830s) to Tolstoy's mature work (1870s) focusing on the role of fiction in Russian history, contemporaneous critical reaction, literary movements in Russia, and echoes of Russian literary masterpieces in the other arts, especially film and music. Major works by Pushkin (*Eugene Onegin*, "The Queen of Spades"), Lermontov (*A Hero of Our Time*), Gogol (*Dead Souls*), Pavlova (*A Double Life*), Turgenev (*Fathers and Sons*), Dostoevsky (*Crime and Punishment*), and Tolstoy (*Anna Karenina*) will be read.

*Thomas Hodge. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Fall 2023***

***TF 9:55-11:10***

# *Russian and Soviet Film*

*Russian 255 (in English)*



Vladimir Lenin characterized film as “the most important of the arts” for the fledgling Soviet state. Film has played a crucial role in documenting and shaping Russia’s Soviet and post-Soviet experience. This course will begin by exploring early Soviet masters of montage (Vertov, Eisenstein, and Pudovkin) and the impact of their revolutionary ideas on world cinema. We will study visionaries of the long take (Tarkovsky, Parajanov, and Sokurov) who later enchanted audiences with a more meditative cinematic sensibility. Along the way, we will consider masterpieces by such filmmakers as the brothers Vasiliev, Kalatozov, Khutsiev, Shepitko, Mamin, Mikhalkov, Muratova, German, and Zviagintsev. Students will deepen their knowledge of Russian history, from the October Revolution to modern-day Russia, and develop a foundation in film theory and analysis.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: ARS.*

***Offered Spring 2024***

***MR 11:20-12:35***

# *Battle for the Russian Soul: Ideology and the 19th-Century Russian Novel*

*Russian 272 (in English)*



Nineteenth-century Russian writers were locked in a desperate struggle for freedom under an extraordinarily repressive regime. Through an intensive analysis of the great ideological novels at the center of Russia's historic social debates from the 1840s to the end of the century, we will unearth the roots of Dostoevsky's fervent anti radicalism and Lenin's vision for translating nineteenth-century Russia's utopian dreams into real revolutionary change. The tension between literary realism and political exigency will be explored in the fictional and critical works of Chadaev, Herzen, Belinsky, Turgenev, Chernyshevsky, Dobroliubov, Pisarev, and Dostoevsky. Isaiah Berlin's famous essays on the Russian intelligentsia, as well as Tom Stoppard's *The Coast of Utopia* will supplement our reading and discussion.

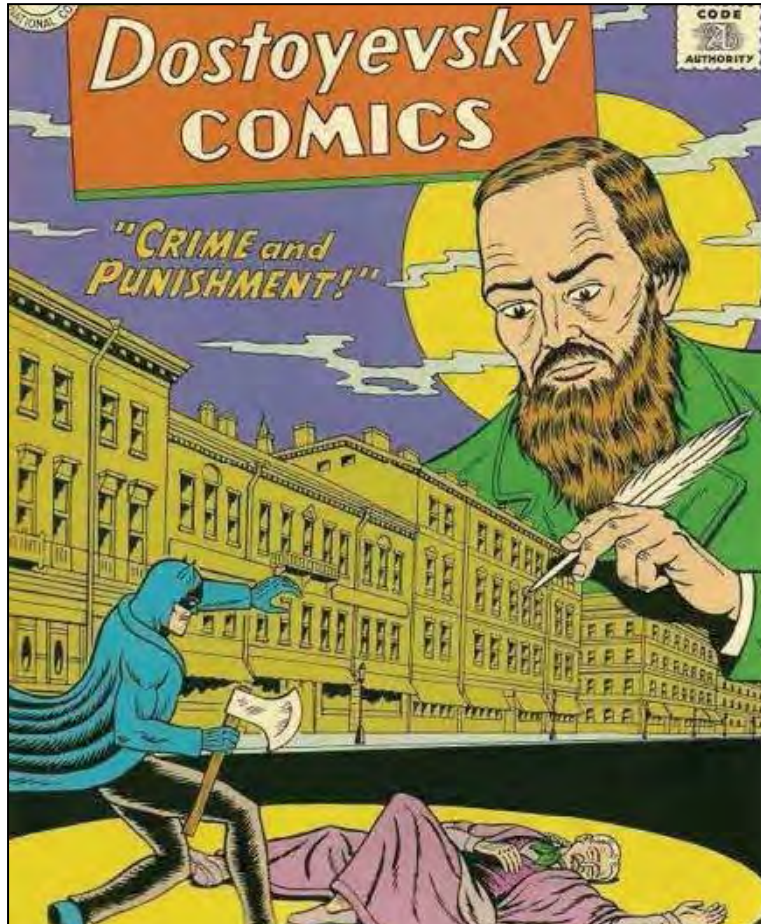
*Thomas Hodge. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Taught in English. Open to all students.  
Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Spring 2024***

***TF 9:55-11:10***

# *Fedor Dostoevsky: Seer of Spirit*

*Russian 276 (in English)*



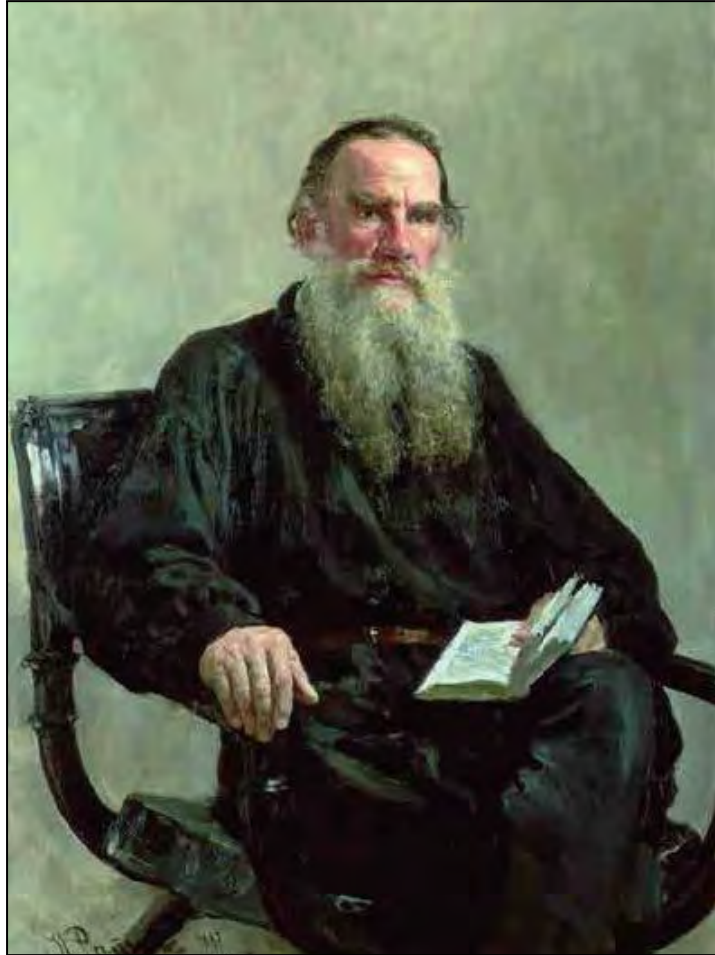
Perhaps no other writer has been as worshiped and also so demonized as Dostoevsky. His insights into the inner life and prophecies about the outer were so violent that he had to reinvent the novel form in order to contain them. Down the decades to this very day Dostoevsky has inspired, enchanted and outraged readers, but never left them unmoved. His writings have been called mystery plays, novel-tragedies, carnivals and polyphonies, to list only the polite names. In this course you will enter into the mysteries and excesses of Dostoevsky yourself through an exploration of his best books.

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Lev Tolstoy: Russia's Ecclesiast*

*Russian 277 (in English)*



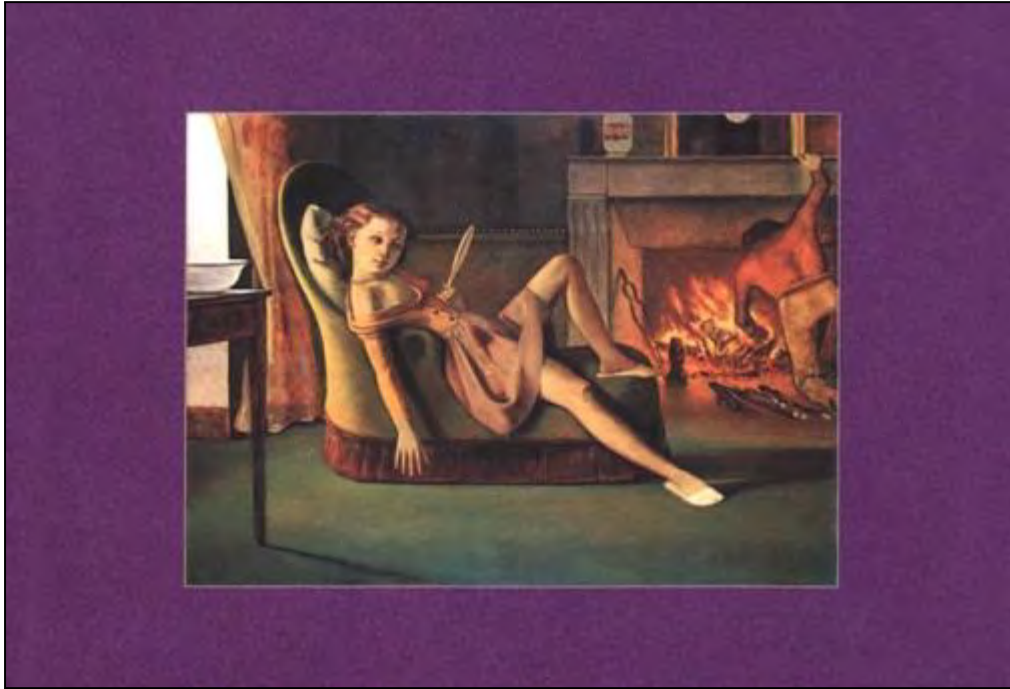
An odyssey through the fiction of the great Russian novelist and thinker, beginning with his early works (*Sevastopol Stories*) and focusing on *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, though the major achievements of Tolstoy's later period will also be included ("A Confession," *The Death of Ivan Ilich*). Lectures and discussion will examine the masterful techniques Tolstoy employs in his epic explorations of human existence, from mundane detail to life shattering cataclysm. Students are encouraged to have read the Maude translation of *War and Peace* (Norton Critical Edition) before the semester begins.

*Thomas Hodge. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Open to all students.  
Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Vladimir Nabokov*

*Russian 286 (in English)*



“Ah, what a wicked deed I’ve done! Am I indeed a tempter and a rogue, Because I have made the whole world dream about my hapless little girl? O, yes, I know that people fear me, And burn my kind for sorcery, And as from poison in a hollowed emerald. Perish from my artistry.”

~Vladimir Nabokov

Students will explore Nabokov’s English-language novels (*Lolita*, *Pnin*, *Pale Fire*) and the authorized English translations of his Russian works (*The Defense*, *Despair*, *Invitation to a Beheading*).

*Adam Weiner. Taught in English. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit.  
Open to all students. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Advanced Russian I: Moscow*

*Russian 301*



Students will become experts in one of the great overarching themes of Russian culture: Moscow. We will read and discuss texts, view films, listen to songs, and compose essays on the theme of Russia's historic capital. The course includes study of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary expression with strong emphasis on oral proficiency and comprehension. At the end of the semester each student will write a final paper and present to the class their own special research interest within the general investigation of Moscow's history, traditions, culture, and art.

*Alla Epsteyn. Taught in Russian. Three periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: RUSS 201-202 or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Fall 2023***

***TF 12:45-2:00, W 1:30-2:20***



# *Advanced Russian II: Children and Laughter in Russia*

*Russian 302*



Students will enter the world of Russian children's folklore, literature, songs, film, and animation. We will start with lullabies, verbal games, and tales by Pushkin and Tolstoy. We will then examine the contribution of Soviet authors from the early 1920s to the late '80s such as V. Maiakovsky, K. Chukovsky, S. Marshak, D. Kharms, M. Zoshchenko, A. Gaidar, N. Nosov, and E. Uspensky and their effect on the aesthetic development and ethical upbringing of Soviet children. The course emphasizes oral proficiency, extensive reading and weekly writing assignments. Students will write and present a final paper on their own special research interest.

*Taught in Russian. Two periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: RUSS 301 or 305, or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Spring 2024***

***TF 12:45-2:00***

# *Advanced Russian I: St. Petersburg*

*Russian 305*



An inquiry into the unique history, traditions, and myth of St. Petersburg. Students will explore Russia's second capital through readings, films, and songs. Special emphasis will be placed on oral proficiency. Each student will pursue their special research interest throughout the course and give an oral presentation on it at the end of the semester.

*Alla Epsteyn. Taught in Russian. Three periods. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisite: RUSS 201-202 or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Advanced Russian II: Russian Comedy Blockbusters*

*Russian 306*



This course explores Soviet and Russian popular film classics loved by generations of viewers that have become cultural symbols. We will study G. Aleksandrov's musicals of the 1930s; sentimental, detective and fantastic comedies by the masters of the genre, L. Gaidai, E. Riazanov, and G. Danelia in the 1950-80s; and post-Soviet crime comedies of the twenty-first century. We will attempt to determine the source of their enduring popularity and cult status through an examination of their aesthetics and of their social and political context.

*Taught in Russian. Alla Epsteyn. 1.0 unit of credit. Prerequisites: RUSS 301 or 305, or the equivalent. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Nineteenth-Century Russian Narrative Poetry: Tales of Mystery and Imagination*

*Russian 333H (in Russian)*



Students will immerse themselves in the famous *poemy* of Derzhavin, Zhukovskii, Pushkin, Lermontov, and Nekrasov, analyzing ballads and verse tales devoted to the natural and the supernatural. Exotic “Eastern” cultures as well as high and low Russian culture serve as the backdrop for these dramatic verse narratives. Russian painting, music, and history will enrich our discussions of Russian Romanticism in the poetry.

*Thomas Hodge. One period. 0.5 units of credit. Taught in Russian. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 305, RUSS 306, or permission of the instructor. Distribution: LL.*

***Offered Fall 2023***

***W 11:30-12:45***

# *Russian Film*

*Russian 355H (in Russian)*



This course explores the great works of Russian film in the original Russian. We will view, analyze and discuss films by Vertov, Eisenstein, Pudovkin, Tarkovsky, Parajanov, Sokurov, the brothers Vasiliev, Kalatozov, Khutsiev, Shepitko, Mamin, Mikhalkov, Muratova, German, and Zviagintsev. Students will deepen their knowledge of Russian history, from the October Revolution to modern-day Russia, and develop a foundation in film theory and analysis. They will also improve their passive and active Russian. All classroom discussion, writing assignments and oral presentations will be in Russian.

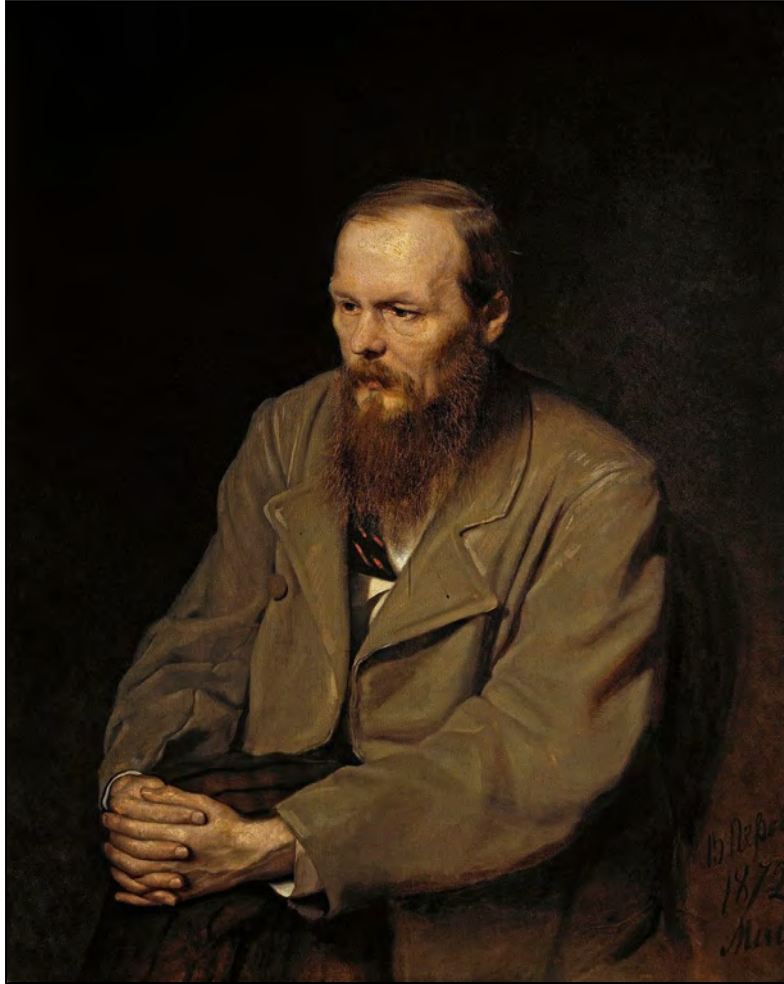
*Adam Weiner. One period. 0.5 units of credit. Taught in Russian. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301. RUSS 302, RUSS 305, RUSS 306, or permission of the instructor. Distribution: ARS.*

***Offered Spring 2024***

***R 6:30-7:45 p.m.***

# *Dostoevsky's Short Stories*

*Russian 376H (in Russian)*



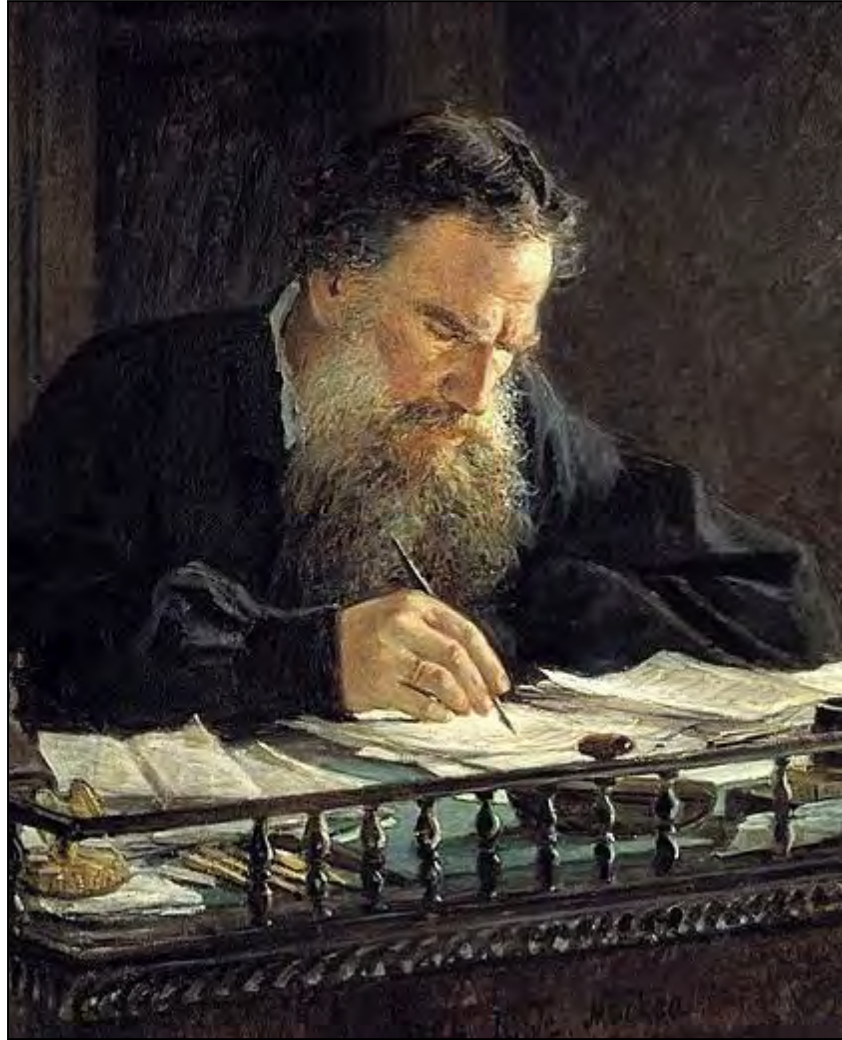
A Russian language course designed to supplement RUSS 276 above, though 376 may be taken independently. Students will read and discuss, in Russian, major short works by Dostoevsky.

*One period. 0.5 units of credit. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS, 305, or RUSS 306. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Lev Tolstoy's Short Stories*

*Russian 377H (in Russian)*



A Russian-language course designed to supplement 277 above, though 377H may be taken independently. Students will read and discuss, in Russian, major short works by Tolstoy.

*Thomas Hodge. One period. 0.5 units of credit. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 305, or RUSS 306. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***

# *Vladimir Nabokov's Short Stories*

*Russian 386H (in Russian)*



In this course students will enter the world of Nabokov's short fiction and learn his explosive literary style, obsessive themes, and artistic strategies. Students will increase their passive and active vocabulary and improve their speaking, writing, and reading fluency in Russian. We will discuss one work of short fiction (about 20 pages) each week of the semester. Students will translate excerpts from each work discussed. Each student will write a short essay on a story of their choosing and present it to the class. Class meets once weekly for 75 minutes. All work will be in Russian.

*Adam Weiner. One period. 0.5 units of credit. Prerequisite or corequisite: RUSS 301, RUSS 302, RUSS 305, or RUSS 306. Distribution: LL.*

***Not Offered 2023-2024***



# *Research or Individual Study*

*Russian 250, 250H or Russian 350, 350H*



250: 200-level independent study for 1.0 unit of credit  
250H: 200-level independent study for 0.5 units of credit

350: 300-level independent study for 1.0 unit of credit  
350H: 300-level independent study for 0.5 units of credit

Consult the Chair as early as possible if you are interested in any of these independent-study offerings.

# *Senior Thesis Research*

*Russian 360-370*



By permission of the department. See Departmental Honors.

