

Slavic Languages and Literatures Fall 2019



Russian 101-1-20 and 21 - Elementary Russian - Natalia Malinina - MTWF 9-9:50am or 2-2:50pm Elementary Russian 101-1 is the first in a three-quarter sequence designed to introduce students to the Russian language and contemporary Russian culture. In this course, students will develop the fundamentals of speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Emphasis is on practical communication so that students can function at a basic level in several authentic situations by the end of the year.

Russian 102-1 - Intermediate Russian - Nadia Vinogradova - MTWF 12-12:50pm Intermediate Russian 102-1 is the first in a three-quarter sequence designed to continue exploring the Russian language and contemporary Russian culture. In this course, students will continue to develop the skills of speaking, listening, writing, and reading through a variety of activities. They will be able to function in many authentic situations at an intermediate level by the end of the year.

Slavic 105-6 - First-Year Seminar - Elisabeth Elliott - MW 9:30-10:50am In this course we will explore some of the sociolinguistic issues in Slavic speaking countries and areas (the Russian Federation, the former Soviet Union, the former Czechoslovakia, etc.) and in Central Europe (specifically, Turkish in Germany). We will look at contemporary issues in Russia and the Ukraine, especially the annexation of the Crimea, anti-gay laws in Russia, and censorship of Pussy Riot. We will explore language policies, minority language rights, language vs. dialect, language planning, language and identity, and language and nationalism.

Polish 108-1 – Elementary Polish - Kinga Kosmala - MTWF 12-12:50pm This course is the first in a three-quarter sequence designed to introduce students to Polish language and culture. We learn the basic Polish grammar and vocabulary, focusing on speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Polish 208-1 - Intermediate Polish: Language and Culture - Kinga Kosmala - MTWF 2-2:50pm The primary goal of Intermediate Polish is to expand the student's speaking, reading and writing skills by building on grammar and vocabulary learned during the first year of study. As a complement to the linguistic side of the course, the student will gain a greater familiarity with Polish history and culture through varied means including readings of literary works, articles from contemporary Polish newspapers and movies.

Slavic 210-2 - Introduction to Russian Literature - Gary Saul Morson - TTh 12:30-1:50pm In this course, we will examine two of the greatest works of world literature, *The Brothers Karamazov* by Dostoevsky, and *Anna Karenina* by Tolstoy, in depth. These two novels raise profound questions and offer challenging answers to the most important issues of life: What gives life meaning, how to understand evil, the nature and kinds of love, the significance of death, faith and despair, how to make ourselves and the world around us better, and the way human minds work. We will see why Tolstoy and Dostoevsky are often considered the greatest psychologists who ever lived—and why Russian literature conveys a sense of urgency perhaps unmatched anywhere else in human culture. Students will also learn skills for understanding novels that will make it easier and more rewarding to read great fiction generally.

Russian 302-1 – Advanced Russian in Conversations - Natalia Malinina - MWF 11-11:50am

While focusing on conversation, this year-long course promotes the development of all language skills - speaking, reading, writing, and listening - through a variety of communicative and content-based activities. The goal of this course is to help students to master all of the major structures of Russian and to begin to function in a range of settings covering many topics. Although the instructor will assign major topics and themes, students will be encouraged to pursue and develop their own interests in Russian contemporary culture.

Russian 304-1 – Advanced Contemporary and Professional Russian - Thomas Feerick - MWF 10-10:50am

This course is designed for advanced students of Russian language and focuses on developing reading, speaking and writing skills as well as deepening Russian cultural knowledge through the prism of cuisine. Students will study authentic Russian materials and so gain familiarity with the classics of the Russian bookshelf and kitchen as well as more contemporary interpretations of culinary and literary tradition. Course is taught entirely in Russian.

Slavic 314-0 – Chekhov - Susan McReynolds - MW 2-3:20pm

Anton Chekhov was born into a family of former serfs, worked his way through medical school while supporting his parents and siblings, and became one of the most admired story-tellers in the modern world. He represents a profound departure from his Russian context and pioneered modernist literary form, yet his work is also rooted in the culture of late imperial Russia. This course introduces elements of Chekhov's biography and his Russian context, and follows the trajectory of his development, from the early short stories to mature prose. No previous background in Russian literature is required.

Slavic 360-0 – Survey of 19th Century Russian Poetry - Ilya Kutik - M 3:30-6:20pm

Poetry in Russian culture is a powerful and unique catalyst. This course offers a survey of the main trends in 19th Century Russian poetry, which, at the time, became a national symbol through the works of Zhukovsky, Pushkin, Baratynsky, Lermontov, Tiutchev, and others. Although the topics of this so-called Golden Age of Russian literature were many, particular emphasis was on the genre of elegy.

Slavic 368-0 – Andrei Tarkovsky's Aesthetics and World Cinema - Ilya Kutik - T 2-4:50pm

(Co-listed with RTVF 321-0-1 and CLS 305-0-20) In this course, we will review major films of Tarkovsky and of Russian and non-Russian directors whose work is related to his (Eisenstein, Wenders, Bergman, Kurosawa).

Slavic 390-0 – The Russian Writer and the State, from Stalin to Putin - Ian Kelly – TTh 2-3:20pm

(Co-listed with Intl. Studies 390) We examine the relationship of the Russian writer to the State. While the Tsars sought to place limits on Tolstoy, Pushkin, and others, they had a privileged place in society. But Stalin's regime expected the writer not just to enlighten the masses, but to mobilize them to accomplish the goals of the State. Repressive measures continued until the 1980s, when Gorbachev allowed more free debate ("glasnost"). Under Putin, repression returns, rewarding those who support the State, and intimidating or silencing those who don't.

Slavic 411-0 – Proseminar: Poetry and Biography - Clare Cavanagh - W 3-5:50pm

Biographies, both popular and scholarly, remain among the most widely-read of all genres. Yet biography itself continues to be, as one recent scholar puts it, "radically under-theorized" in cultural and literary studies today. How do we use biography in reading post-romantic poetry? How do poets themselves perceive, and manipulate, their biographies in creating and assessing their own work? What does it mean to read biographically? Poets to be discussed may include: Anna Akhmatova, Osip Mandelstam, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Joseph Brodsky, Czeslaw Milosz, and Wislawa Szymborska, along with key figures in modern Anglo-American poetry.

NOTE: Please consult CAESAR for meeting times and locations. Also see <http://www.slavic.northwestern.edu>