

# Slavic Courses: Fall 2017



**Slavic 101-1 - Elementary Russian** - Natalia Malinina

**Slavic 102-1 - Intermediate Russian** - Natalia Malinina

**Slavic 108-1 – Elementary Polish:** - TBA

**Slavic 208-1 - Intermediate Polish: Language and Culture** - TBA

**Slavic 105-6 - First-Year Seminar** - Elisabeth Elliott

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 also 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. As the final paper for this course, students will work on any geopolitical area and examine the sociolinguistic issues particular to that region or linguistic variety (e.g., the role of Japanese in Korea; Koreans in Japan and language discrimination issues; the languages of South Africa; the status of African-American English (or African-American Vernacular English, or Black English) in the US and the controversy surrounding it in the 1990s in the Oakland, CA school district; US language change and the Internet and social media; Celtic in Ireland; the successful revival of a dead language, e.g., Hebrew, as the official language of Israel; language rights in the EU; American Indian languages; bilingualism in the US or Canada; Kurdish language discrimination in Turkey; and others.

**Slavic 210-2 - Introduction to Russian Literature** – Gary Saul Morson

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.

**Slavic 255-0 – Russian Culture in Revolution from Lenin to Putin** - Jordan Gans-Morse

*Co-listed with Hum 260 and History 200. Historical Studies (IV), Lit. Fine Arts (VI) or Ethics and Values (V).*

2017 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian Revolution. To make sense of the significance of this anniversary, this unique, team-taught course integrates insights from Northwestern specialists in Russian and Soviet literature, art, music, theatre, film, graffiti, history, and politics. (These include Saul Morson, Clare Cavanagh and Ilya Kutik). The course provides an introduction to modern Russia's rich cultural history, from the revolutionary fervor of the 1920s to Stalinist repression, from the vitality of art during the post-Stalin "thaw" to the new artistic revolutions that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union. The course also grapples with fundamental questions such as how historical and political contexts shape the arts, how the arts have been and can be used to imagine new worlds, how foreign ideologies interact with national cultures, and how scholars' distinct disciplinary tools and frameworks shape their approaches to the study of Russia's history, politics, and artistic culture.

**Slavic 261-0 - Heart of Europe: Poland in the Twentieth Century** - Clare Cavanagh

An introduction to the literature, culture and history of the country Norman Davies has called "the heart of Europe." In the span of a hundred years, Poland has undergone an extraordinary range of transformations and traumas: Division among three empires (Russian, German, and Austro-Hungarian); the brief period of interwar independence; Nazi and then Soviet subjugation; Solidarity and the revolt against Soviet rule; martial law; and finally independence once again. We will explore the relationship between history and culture by way of novels, films, essays, memoirs, historical writing, and poetry. Authors and artists to be discussed include: Czeslaw Milosz, Wislawa Szymborska, Andrzej Wajda, Adam Michnik, Hanna Krall, and others. All work to be read in translation.

**Slavic 302-1 - Russian Language & Culture** - Natalia Malinina

Добро пожаловать! Welcome back! Slavic 302 is a yearlong combined third- and fourth-year multi-skill course. It is recommended for students who are familiar enough with Russian basic grammatical concepts and vocabulary and are willing to continue moving beyond this level to acquire more advanced language skills— speaking, reading, writing, and listening. The goal is to help students master all major structures of Russian and to begin to function in a wide range of settings and topics. The course acquaints students with aspects of Russian culture that are familiar to most educated native Russian speakers, through literature, videos and Russian movies). Students are encouraged to pursue and develop their own interests in Russian culture, history and social life.

**Slavic 368-0 – Andrei Tarkovsky's Aesthetics and World Cinema** - Ilya Kutik

*(Co-listed with RTVF 321-0-20)* 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 411-0 - Prosemmiar** – Nina Gourianova

This course, the Theory and Practice of Russian Formalism, examines the school and doctrine of Russian Formalism, which influenced and informed many developments in the XX century literary and art theory, from Prague Linguistic Circle through Structuralism and Semiotics. Along with the detailed study of the critical and theoretical essays by such adherents of Formalism as Victor Shklovsky, Roman Jakobson, Yuri Tynianov, Boris Eikhenbaum, et al., we will be exploring the major works of Russian modernism and avant-garde in literature and film through the methodological approach of Formalist theory. Special focus on the issues of Formalism and Marxism, Formalism and History, and the interconnections between culture and politics of the time.

**Slavic 437- 1 – Russian Poema (Long Narrative Poem)** - Ilya Kutik

Russian *poema* is a specific genre in Russian poetry that appeared in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and continues till now. Without knowing about its originality in Russian literary culture it is impossible to imagine the development of Russian poetry through its all periods. Course covers all major *poema* masterpieces, including those by Pushkin, Baratynsky, Blok, Belyi, Tsvetaeva, Mayakovsky, Pasternak, and Akhmatova.

**NOTE: Please consult CAESAR for meeting times and locations. Find us at <http://www.slavic.northwestern.edu> and like us on Facebook! 📌 Northwestern Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.**