Russian Major
Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian (BCMS), Polish, and Slovak Studies Minors

www.slavic.pitt.edu/undergraduate/russian
Revised: 09/2022

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers a major in Russian and minors in Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian (BCMS), Polish, and Slovak Studies. During the fall and spring terms, the department offers courses in Russian, BCMS, Polish, Slovak, and Ukrainian.

These languages, as well as Bulgarian and Czech, are also taught in the Summer Language Institute (SLI) at Pitt. Offered in June, July, and the first part of August, the SLI provides intensive courses that cover an entire year of study at the first- through fourth-year levels of Russian language, and the first-year—and typically the second-and third-year—levels of other Slavic languages. There are also study abroad courses available at the SLI in which students spend half of the program in Pittsburgh, and half in Russia, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, or the Czech Republic. For prospective majors, the SLI affords the opportunity to rapidly increase language proficiency in order to qualify for advanced courses, study abroad programs, or research opportunities.

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 unique 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. For students interested in interdisciplinary area studies, the Russian and East European Studies (REES) certificate, offered through UCIS, is an attractive complement to a major or minor in the Slavic department.

Many Russian majors continue their studies in graduate school or go on to careers in law, engineering, business, and government. Students of Slavic languages find their training valuable when 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 peoples of Eastern Europe. Students interested in a major or minor in the department should begin language study early to ensure attainment of advanced language proficiency.

**Required courses for the Russian major**
The Russian major requires the completion of 30 credits, over and above preparatory work in the language at the elementary and intermediate levels, distributed as follows.

**Language courses**
*Third-year Russian; choose one of the following options*
RUSS 0400 Advanced Russian 1 and RUSS 0410 Advanced Russian 2
RUSS 0230 Intensive Advanced Russian
RUSS 0231 Advanced Intensive Russian/Pitt in Moscow

*Fourth-year Russian; choose one of the following options*
RUSS 1420 Fourth-Year Russian 1 and 1430 Fourth-Year Russian 2
RUSS 0240 Intensive Fourth-Year Russian
RUSS 0241 4th Year Intensive Russian/Pitt in Moscow

**Core survey courses**
RUSS 0850 Early Russian Culture
RUSS 0860 Modern Russian Culture

**Electives**
Choose three courses from the three lists below with no more than one course from the Survey course list and no more than one course from the Comparative course list.

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<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 0090</td>
<td>RUSS 0670</td>
<td>RUSS 0810 RUSS 1410</td>
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<td>RUSS 0325</td>
<td>RUSS 0770</td>
<td>RUSS 0811 RUSS 1420**</td>
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<td>RUSS 0690</td>
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<td>RUSS 0800</td>
<td>RUSS 1210</td>
<td>RUSS 13XX * RUSS 15XX**</td>
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<td>RUSS 0870</td>
<td>SLAV 0660</td>
<td>RUSS 1400 RUSS 1780</td>
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* *Additional capstone-approved course
** *Additional fourth year module course, beyond the requirement

**Capstone**
One 1000-level course over and above those fulfilling the above requirements, chosen from the list below. Students must complete three years of Russian language study or its equivalent to enroll for the course designated for their capstone work. Capstone courses require additional work, typically a research paper written in Russian or consultation with Russian-language sources, that displays their ability to engage with the subject matter in the target language.

RUSS 1066 Forbidden Love on Page and Screen *
RUSS 1210 Man/Superman: Representations of Superior Individuals in Literature, Film, Philosophy, Drama, and Music *
RUSS 1300-level course in Russian literature, culture, or film
RUSS 1400 Morphology of Modern Russian
RUSS 1410 Advanced Russian Syntax
RUSS 1500-level course not already used for another requirement
RUSS 1780 Stalinist Culture in the 1930s *
SLAV 1050 Computational Methods in the Humanities *
SLAV 1225 Behind Bars: Cross-Cultural Perspectives of Prison 20thC *

* Enrollment in these courses requires permission from both the instructor and the advisor.

**Grade requirements:** A grade of B- or better is required in each course that counts toward the major. A grade of C 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 0325, RUSS 0800, RUSS 0810, RUSS 0870, and RUSS 0871 satisfy the W-course requirement for the major.
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 an additional capstone-eligible course over and above the major requirements; the work for this course should represent a significant research project and will be evaluated by an appointed faculty member and at least one additional member of the department.

Advising: Dr. Thomas Dyne
CL 1229C
thd29@pitt.edu

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 SLI and Nationality Rooms Program Scholarships for summer study abroad. 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 of language study in ten weeks. 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 offering summer, semester, or year-long study in Russia. The Study Abroad Office, located in 802 WPU, can be reached at 412-647-7413.

- The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Center (REEES) regularly organizes summer study abroad programs in languages and social sciences in locations from the Czech Republic to Slovakia. REEES makes scholarships available for many of these programs.

- 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 412-624-6150.

**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**

- **Third-year Russian; choose one option**
  - RUSS 0400 and RUSS 0410
  - RUSS 0230
  - RUSS 0231

- **Fourth-year Russian; choose one option**
  - RUSS 1420 and RUSS 1430
  - RUSS 0240
  - RUSS 0241

**Core survey courses**
- RUSS 0850
- RUSS 0860

**Electives; choose three courses from the list of electives**
- RUSS/SLAV
- RUSS/SLAV
- RUSS/SLAV

**Capstone; choose one**
- RUSS 1066
- RUSS 1210
- RUSS 13XX
- RUSS 1400
- RUSS 1410
- RUSS 15XX
- RUSS 1780
- SLAV 1050
- SLAV 1225

**Checklist for the Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian minor**

Students may complete this 15-credit minor during the regular academic year or through summer study of the Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian language. SLAV 1850 may not be used to fulfill a requirement for more than one academic program.

**Option 1: Academic year**
- BCMS 0030
- BCMS 0040
- SLAV 1850
- BCMS 0400

**Option 2: Summer study; choose one course from each of the following pairs**
- BCMS 0220
- BCMS 0230
- BCMS 0223
- BCMS 0231

Advising: Dr. Ljiljana Duraskovic
CL 1228 B
412-624-5908
ljiljana@pitt.edu

**Checklist for the Polish minor**

Students may complete this 15-credit minor during the regular academic year or through summer study of the Polish language. SLAV 1865 may not be used to fulfill a requirement for more than one academic program.

**Option 1: Academic year**
- POLISH 0030
- POLISH 0040
- POLISH 0325/0870/1260
- POLISH 0400
- SLAV 1865

**Option 2: Summer study; choose one course from each of the following pairs**
- POLISH 0220
- POLISH 0230
- POLISH 0221
- POLISH 0233

Advising: Dr. Oscar Swan
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412-624-5707
swan@pitt.edu

**Checklist for the Slovak Studies minor**

**Option 1: Academic year**
- SLOVAK 0030
- SLOVAK 0410
- SLOVAK 0040
- SLOVAK 0890 or 1250
- SLOVAK 0400

**Option 2: Summer study**
- SLOVAK 0220 or 0221
- SLOVAK 0230 or 0231
- SLOVAK 0890 or 1250

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rek89@pitt.edu

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