

# Russian Major

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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 options available at the SLI in 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 Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) certificate, offered through UCIS, is an attractive complement to a major or minor in the Slavic department.

Many Russian majors go on to careers in medicine, computer science, military, law, engineering, business, and government: others continue their studies in graduate school. Students find our training valuable for work opportunities both globally and in local western Pennsylvania institutions in politics, business, health-related professions, and the media. Students interested in a major should begin language study early to attain working 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 + abroad

*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 + abroad

*Or demonstrate equivalent proficiency as determined by the Department*

### Core survey courses

RUSS 0850 Appropriating the Past: Cultures of the Eastern Slavs (988-1825)  
 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.

Survey	Comparative	Topics	
RUSS 0090	RUSS 0670	RUSS 0810	RUSS 1410
RUSS 0325	RUSS 0770	RUSS 0811	RUSS 1420**
RUSS 0590	RUSS 1066	RUSS 0871	RUSS 1430**
RUSS 0800	RUSS 1210	RUSS 13XX *	RUSS 15XX**
RUSS 0870	SLAV 0660	RUSS 1400	RUSS 1780
	SLAV 0860		
	SLAV 0880		
	SLAV 1225		
	SLAV 1320		

## 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 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 \*  
 SLAV 1320 Pittsburgh, Diaspora, Migration: Slavic and East European Communities \*  
 SLAV 1400 Protest Culture and Art in the Post-Soviet Space\*

\* Enrollment in these courses for the capstone 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 for non-majors 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 0670, RUSS 0770, RUSS 0800, RUSS 0810, RUSS 0870, and RUSS 0871 satisfy the W-course requirement for the major.

\* Additional capstone-approved course

**Honors major requirements:** Honors in Russian is granted if, in addition to fulfilling all requirements for the major, the student:

- maintained a GPA of 3.5 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.

- **The Summer Language Institute (SLI)** offers intensive language courses in ten languages with optional abroad components. You may contact SLI at [sliadmin@pitt.edu](mailto:sliadmin@pitt.edu) and at 412-624-5711.
- **The University of Pittsburgh** is affiliated with a number of organizations offering summer, semester, or year-long study abroad. The **Global Experiences Office**, can be reached at 412-648-7418.
- **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 0101 (does not count toward the major)  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 0102 (does not count toward the major)  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 0103 (does not count toward the major)  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 0104 (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 1210  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 13XX  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 1400  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 1410  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 15XX  
\_\_\_\_\_ RUSS 1780  
\_\_\_\_\_ SLAV 1050  
\_\_\_\_\_ SLAV 1225  
\_\_\_\_\_ SLAV 1320  
\_\_\_\_\_ SLAV 1400