The Department of Modern Languages
The Major in Russian Studies

Faculty Advisor
Dr. Charlene Castellano, Teaching Professor of Russian
(cc62@andrew.cmu.edu)

Required Units: 75-78
The major in Russian Studies is jointly administered by the Departments of History and Modern Languages. Students are required to fulfill requirements in history and in language and culture.

Students may double count a maximum of one course taken for the Russian Studies major that is also being used to fulfill the requirements of other majors, minors, and programs.

Prerequisites
Elementary-level proficiency in the Russian language. This is equivalent to the completion of two courses at the 100-level, or placement or exemption based on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or CMU internal placement test scores. Carnegie Mellon students who arrive with previous language study and/or who have high AP or CEEB scores will be able to begin taking courses toward the major earlier in their undergraduate program and will also be able, should they so desire, to complete an additional major. In all cases, progress will be accelerated by study abroad, which is highly recommended for all majors. (Study abroad advisor - Dr. Charlene Castellano, cc62@andrew.cmu.edu)

1. Core Course(s) in History 27 units
Complete one course.*
(9 units)
79-265 Russian History: From the First to the Last Czar
79-266 Russian History: From Communism to Capitalism
*Both courses are recommended.

2. Required Electives in History 18 units
Complete two courses. In consultation with the major advisor, students may substitute a different course.
79-267 The Soviet Union in World War II: Military, Political, and Social History
79-341 The Cold War in Documents and Film

3. Core Courses in Modern Languages 27 units
Complete three courses.
82-291 Intermediate Russian I
82-292 Intermediate Russian II
82-399* Special Topics: Russian
*Students can repeat this course with different topics.

N.B. Should a student enter the Russian Studies program with demonstrated language proficiency at the intermediate or advanced level, higher level courses will be used to complete the required total of 27 units of core courses in Modern Languages. Advanced language options include Special Topics: Russian, a repeatable course, as well as subject-oriented language supplements to existing courses taught in English in a variety of fields. The student can add a language supplement (3 units) to selected 9-unit electives, earning a total of 12 units for the language-supplemented course.

4. Electives 18 units
Complete two courses. This list is compiled from possibilities such as but not limited to the following. Students should consult OLR and their major advisor for the most up to date interdisciplinary electives appropriate for the Russian Studies curriculum. Courses may be suggested to the major advisor for approval as a substitute. Note that not all courses are offered each semester.

History
79-205 20th Century Europe
79-231 American Foreign Policy: 1945-Present
79-265 Russian History: From the First to the Last Czar
Modern Languages
82-283  Language Diversity and Cultural Identity
82-294*  Topics in Russian Language and Culture
82-296  A Century of Russian Film
82-396  The Faust Legend at Home and Abroad (or 82-193 which is a Freshman Seminar)
82-397  Russia’s Demons
82-399*  Special Topics: Russian
82-400A  Literature and Culture of 19th Century Russia (mini, 6 units)
82-400B  Literature and Culture of 20th Century Russia (mini, 6 units)
82-491*  Topics in 20th Century Russian Literature
82-492  The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature
82-505  Undergraduate Internship
82-580**  Senior Seminar**
*Students may repeat these courses with new topics.
**If their schedule permits and after consultation with the major advisor, students may elect to take the 3-unit Modern Languages Senior Seminar (spring semester) in addition to a 9-unit elective.

Social and Decision Sciences
88-326  Theories of International Relations
88-408  Attitudes: The Media and Conflict in International Relations

5. Russian Studies Thesis, 82-599  3-6 units
In the senior year, majors are required to complete an independent research or translation project requiring the use of Russian sources suitable to the student’s proficiency level. For this project, which earns 3 to 6 units, students work closely with the professor in an existing course in Russian history, language, literature or politics. For example, students may choose to prepare a translation of a little-known work of Russian literature or a debate from a nineteenth-century journal, to compare Soviet and Western newspaper coverage of the Cuban missile crisis, to research Russian opinion of American race relations, or to read and evaluate the reviews of a popular Russian novel.

Study Abroad
A semester or year of study abroad is strongly recommended. Consult with your advisor and the Office of International Education (OIE) about possible options. Students are encouraged to spend a semester or summer in Russia via an approved exchange program. Many exchange programs offer instruction in Russian language, history, literature, and culture, in internationally recognized universities. They also offer travel to ancient sites and cities, visits to museums, palaces, exhibitions, and monuments, and the opportunity to live with a Russian host family. Scholarship opportunities are available.

Faculty Exchange Program
In 1993, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences initiated a faculty exchange program with the Russian State University of the Humanities (RGGU), one of the foremost universities in Russia, located in Moscow. Carnegie Mellon has hosted faculty members from RGGU specializing in history, language and philosophy. These professors have joined our College departments for a semester, offering unique courses and perspectives not generally available to our students. In the past, these Russian visitors have offered courses on the Russian Civil War as well as advanced language and literature courses. Several faculty members from Carnegie Mellon have visited Moscow, using the RGGU exchange to pursue archival research and collaborative projects. The exchange offers students an opportunity to study language from native speakers, gain exposure to different perspectives on history and politics, and gather firsthand knowledge about recent developments in Russia. In addition, the exchange can provide important contacts for students interested in pursuing careers abroad.
Sample Curriculum - Russian Studies, B.A.
This sample curriculum assumes that all prerequisites for 82-291 are fulfilled prior to the junior year.

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This is presented as a two-year (junior-senior) plan for completing the major requirements. Its purpose is to show that this program can be completed in as few as two years, not that it must be. Students may enter their major and begin major course requirements as early as the start of the sophomore year, and in some instances in the first year. Students should consult their advisor when planning their program.

This plan is also an example of the suggested sequence of study for students who have had little or no prior exposure to the language. Such students would need to satisfy the prerequisites (elementary and intermediate language study) during their freshman and sophomore years.