

# The Department of Modern Languages

## The Major in Russian Studies

### Faculty Advisor

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### Required Units: 93-99

(108-111 for students with no prior training in Russian)

The major in Russian Studies is an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary major jointly administered by the Departments of History and Modern Languages. Students are asked to fulfill requirements in history and in language and culture. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to study abroad in Russia or other parts of the Russian-speaking world. Not only does study abroad offer students a memorable and formative experience of cultural immersion, it also helps them advance to their highest possible levels of linguistic and cultural competence by the time they graduate.

*\*Students may double count four courses taken for the Russian Studies major that is also being used to fulfill the requirements of other majors, minors, and programs. This does not include double-counting with General Education requirements.*

### 1. Core Courses in Russian

**36-48 units**

Complete at least four semesters of Russian language study for a minimum of 36 units.

82-191	Elementary Russian I
82-192	Elementary Russian II
82-194	Intensive Elementary Russian (I & II)
82-291	Intermediate Russian I
82-292	Intermediate Russian II

N.B. Intensive Elementary Russian can be taken in place of Elementary Russian I & II. Students with native or near-native proficiency in Russian or with prior study at the elementary or intermediate level may begin language study at a higher level, based on consultation with the major advisor. Students who take Intensive Elementary Russian and those who place into higher level courses will still need to complete a minimum of 36 units, though they may do this by adding 3-unit language enrichment credits to content-based courses.

### 2. Core Courses in Modern Languages

**24 units**

Complete two courses.

82-294	19 <sup>th</sup> -Century Russian Masterpieces
82-295	20 <sup>th</sup> -Century Russian Masterpieces

These 9 unit content-based courses are taught in English plus 3 units of content-based study in Russian.

### 3. Core Courses in History

**18 units**

Complete two courses.

79-265	Russian History: Game of Thrones
79-269	Russian History: From Socialism to Capitalism

#### 4. Required Elective

9-12 units

Complete one course. Courses not listed below may be suggested to the major advisor for approval as a substitute. Note that not all courses are offered each semester.

##### History

79-267	The Soviet Union in World War II: Military, Political, and Social History
79-341	The Cold War in Documents and Film
79-322	Stalin and the Great Terror

##### Modern Languages

82-293*	Russian Cinema: From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia
82-297*	Russian and Soviet Science Fiction
82-397*	Radicals, Heretics, Hackers: Russian Outlaws in History, Literature, and Film
82-208*	Eastern Europe: Society and Culture
82-391**	Advanced Russian: Modern Russia
82-392**	Advanced Russian: Great Short Works
82-394**	Russian for Heritage Speakers: Babushka's Russia & Beyond
82-491/492**	Topics in Russian Studies

\*Courses are offered in English but may be taken with 3 units of content-based study in Russian, subject to individual faculty approval.

\*\*Students may repeat these courses with new topics.

#### 5. Required Russian Senior Thesis

9 units

In their senior year, majors must complete a 20–25 page independent research or translation project making use of Russian sources. For this project, students may choose to work closely with a professor in History (79-491) or in Modern Languages (82-599). This in-depth research project offers students a unique opportunity to complete a piece of original scholarship in their areas of interest, and to develop an expertise with which to embark on future intellectual and professional pursuits. The number of credits for the thesis reflects the expectation that students will do significant work in Russian and use the project to advance their linguistic competence.

Recent theses topics have included:

*A Russian Academic Network: An Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Realism in Russian Foreign Policy Academia*

*Khrushchev, de-Stalinization, and the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party*

*Lunokhod and the Soviet Space Program*

*Constructivism and New Sight: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Early Soviet Political Poster*

*Alexander Rodchenko and the Development of Constructivism in Russian Art*

*Boris Akunin and Contemporary Russian Fiction*

*A Game in Hell: Theatrics of Destruction and Play*

*Kiev-gorod*: Translation of Michael Bulgakov's 1923 story.

#### Senior Honors Thesis

Students who meet the eligibility requirements may extend their Russian Studies Thesis (9 units) into a Dietrich College Honors Thesis (18 units) with the approval of their advisor. Information on this program can be found at <http://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/undergraduate/programs/shp/>

## Highly Recommended Opportunities for Majors

### *Study Abroad*

Students are strongly encouraged to spend a semester or summer in Russia through an approved exchange program. Consult with your advisor and the Office of International Education (OIE) about possible options. Many exchange programs offer instruction at internationally recognized universities in Russian language, history, literature, and culture. 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.

### *Senior Seminar in Modern Languages*

82-580 (3 units)

The senior seminar, offered in the senior spring semester, brings together majors from all of Modern Languages. In addition to offering students strategies for maintaining and advancing their language skills after they graduate, this course provides an occasion for students to reflect on their own language-learning experiences. Students are prompted to consider larger issues surrounding language learning and multiculturalism in the United States and globally.

### *Faculty Exchange Program*

In 1993, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at CMU 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 departments for a semester, offering unique courses on subjects not generally available to our students. Faculty members from Carnegie Mellon have visited Moscow, using the RGGU exchange to pursue archival research, attend conferences, and collaborate on common 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.)

Sophomore Year		Junior Year		Senior Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
191	192	291	292	293	294
79-265	79-269	Required elective in History or Modern Languages	Elective	Elective	Thesis
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Senior Seminar 82-580 (optional)
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

This is presented as a three-year (sophomore-junior-senior) plan for completing the major requirements. It is intended to show that this program can be completed in as few as three years, not that it must be. In some instances, students may enter their major and begin major course requirements as early as their 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.