

# RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES (RES)

## Taught in Russian

### RES-101 Elementary Russian

*Fall. Credits: 4*

The four-skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) introduction to the Russian Language with the focus on communicative skills development. Major structural topics include pronunciation and intonation, all six cases, basic conjugation patterns, and verbal aspect. By the end of the course the students will be able to initiate and sustain conversation on basic topics, write short compositions, read short authentic texts and comprehend their meaning, develop an understanding of the Russian culture through watching films and listening to songs.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive*

*D. Brooks*

*Coreq: RES-101L.*

### RES-102 Elementary Russian

*Spring. Credits: 4*

Continuation of Russian 101. A four-skills course, with increasing emphasis on reading and writing, that completes the study of basic grammar. Major topics include: predicting conjugation patterns, un-prefixed and prefixed verbs of motion, complex sentences, time expressions, and strategies of vocabulary building. Students watch Russian films, read and discuss authentic texts.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive*

*D. Brooks*

*Prereq: RES-101. Coreq: RES-102L.*

*Notes: Taught in Russian.*

### RES-201 Intermediate Russian I

*Fall. Credits: 4*

In-depth review of grammar topics and expansion of vocabulary with the goal of developing communicative proficiency. Readings include short stories, poetry, and newspaper articles. Students watch Russian films and discuss them orally and in writing. Classes are conducted mostly in Russian.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive*

*D. Brooks*

*Prereq: RES-101 and RES-102. Coreq: RES-201L.*

### RES-302 Advanced Russian Language II

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course is a continuation of RES-301 and is a further expansion of students' vocabulary, writing and speaking skills. We will read and discuss a variety of texts including short stories, films, and articles. Heritage learners of Russian (those who speak the language) will also benefit from the course.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive*

*The department*

*Prereq: RES-301.*

### RES-309 Literary Translation from Russian: A Seminar Workshop

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Translation practice and theory. Poetry and prose. Participants will undertake a joint project selected by the instructor, as well as texts of their own choosing. Comparative consideration of the work of published translators.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language*

*Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive*

*P. Scotto*

*Prereq: RES-202.*

*Notes: In addition to the three-hour weekly class time, students are expected to sign up for individual tutorials with the instructor.*

## Taught in English

### RES-210 Great Books: The Literature of Nineteenth-Century Russia

*Spring. Credits: 4*

In no other culture has literature occupied the central role it enjoyed in nineteenth-century Russia. Political, social, and historical constraints propelled Russian writers into the roles of witness, prophet, and sage. Yet, far from being limited to the vast, dark 'Big Question' novels of legend, Russian literature offers much humor, lyricism, and fantasy. We will focus on the Russian novel as a reaction to western European forms of narrative and consider the recurring pattern of the strong heroine and the weak hero. Authors will include: Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, Turgenev, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Chekhov.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities*

*D. Brooks*

*Notes: Taught in English.*

### RES-211 Topics in Twentieth-Century Russian Literature

Topics in Twentieth-Century Russian Literature provide students with an intensive study of major writers, themes, and paradigm shifts in Russian literature during this turbulent century.

### RES-211CA Topics in Twentieth-Century Russian Literature: 'Russophone Worlds of Siberia and Central Asia'

*Fall. Credits: 4*

In the 1920s, the Soviet Union laid claim to a landmass encompassing much of Eastern Europe, the circumpolar Arctic, and Central Asia. In engaging the populations that occupied this stretch of Eurasia, Soviet power observed a twofold approach: promoting ethnic minorities' and Indigenous peoples' national cultures, while simultaneously centering Russian as the shared tongue of an international socialist project. Our course will survey this project's complex, contradictory cultural artifacts – both colonial and decolonial in their aims – with a particular focus on modern Siberia and Central Asia. We will read, in English translation, novels, poems, and other texts by Russophone authors from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, north/eastern Siberia, and other spaces.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities*

*Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive*

*D. Brooks*

*Notes: Taught in English*

**RES-211MM Topics in Twentieth-Century Russian Literature: 'Diabolic Carnival: Bulgakov's Master and Margarita and Its Contexts'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Mephistopheles in Moscow? The Gospel retold? At turns both wildly comic and metaphysically profound, Bulgakov's novel has been a cult classic since its unexpected discovery in 1967. This course will consider Bulgakov's masterpiece together with some of its literary, historical, and social contexts. Additional readings from Goethe, Gogol, E.T.A. Hoffman, Akhmatova, and others.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**P. Scotto**Notes: Taught in English***RES-213 War and Peace***Fall. Credits: 4*

We will be engaged in a close reading of a translation of Tolstoy's epic novel *War and Peace*. Tolstoy's sweeping account of men and women caught up in Russia's desperate struggle to survive against the onslaught of Napoleon's army is often considered among the greatest novels. We will focus on Tolstoy's literary strategies, philosophy, and historical contexts.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**P. Scotto**Notes: Taught in English.***RES-215 Dostoevsky and the Problem of Evil: The Brothers Karamazov***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Perhaps no other novelist has delved as deeply into the psychological and metaphysical dimensions of evil as the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky. This course will be devoted to a close reading of Dostoevsky's landmark novel of murderous passion and parricide, *The Brothers Karamazov*. Why should crime and transgression be a privileged avenue of access into the human interior? How is psychology tied to the metaphysical aspect of human existence? What are the sources of evil—and redemption?

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**P. Scotto**Notes: Taught in English***RES-226 Philosophical Tales: The Short Fiction of Anton Chekhov***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Explore the short fictions of Anton Chekhov as brilliantly crafted exemplars of the *Philosophical Tale*, stories that use the resources of short narrative fiction to probe life's deepest questions: "what is the meaning of our lives, how do we face our inevitable death, why is there evil and suffering, what does it mean to be human, how should we live?" How do these stories work? What can fictions do that discursive philosophical essays can't? How do they engage the complexity of the world and of life? We'll also read Chekhov's work in larger tradition of Wisdom Literature, with readings drawn from Biblical, Hassidic, Classical, Folk, and Chinese traditions, as well as from other notable practitioners of the genre (Chesterton, Borges, Poe).

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive**P. Scotto**Notes: Taught in English.***RES-231FA Anna Karenina and Contexts: 'Tolstoy on Love, Death, and Family Life'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

*Anna Karenina* (1873) is one of a series of important works Tolstoy wrote pondering love, death, the nature of happiness, and the foundations of family life. Our reading of *Anna Karenina* will be the centerpiece of this course which will also include works ranging from *Childhood* (1852) to *The Kreutzer Sonata* (1889), which shocked and repelled readers with its unsparing depictions of human sexuality and murderous jealousy. Film versions of works will be screened.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**P. Scotto**Notes: Taught in English***RES-235 The Strange World of Nikolai Gogol***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Gogol was a strange creature, but genius is always strange." - Vladimir Nabokov. Nikolai Gogol was one of Russia's greatest and most enigmatic writers. Revered by Dostoevsky, he created a literary universe that has lost none of its original power despite the passage of time. This course will trace the development of Gogol's genius from his early Ukrainian stories, through his tales of St. Petersburg, to his comic masterpiece *Dead Souls*. Special attention will be paid to Gogol's deployment of the comic, fantastic and grotesque to render the reality of tsarist Russia.

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities**D. Brooks**Notes: Taught in English.***RES-240 Contemporary Russian Politics: From Lenin to Putin***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Russia was transformed by communist revolution into a global superpower that challenged the dominant ideologies of liberalism and nationalism. It became a powerful alternative to capitalism. In 1991, this imperial state collapsed and underwent an economic, political, and cultural revolution. What explains the Soviet Union's success for 70 years and its demise in 1991? What sort of country is Russia as it enters the twenty-first century? Is it a democracy? How has Russia's transformation affected ordinary people and Russia's relationship to the West?

*Crosslisted as: POLIT-209**Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**N. Sabanadze**Notes: Taught in English***RES-244 Topics in Russian and Eurasian History**

## Independent Study

**RES-295 Independent Study***Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4**The department**Instructor permission required.***RES-395 Independent Study***Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8**The department**Instructor permission required.*