

The Department of Modern Languages

Major in Russian Studies

Faculty Advisor

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Russian Studies is jointly administered by the Departments of History and Modern Languages. It is designed for students from all the Carnegie Mellon undergraduate colleges. 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 toward the major will be accelerated by study abroad which is recommended for all majors.

History Curriculum

99-102 units

For Majors, there is a three-course History requirement comprised of one required course and two courses selected from a list of electives.

7 units

1. Core Course(s) in History

9 units

Complete one course.

79-280 Russian History from the First to the Last Czar*
79-281 Modern Russian History: From Communism to Capitalism*

* Both courses are recommended.

2. Required Electives in History

18 units

Complete two courses. Substitutions by advisor's permission.

79-282 Soviet Union in World War II: Military and Political History
79-344 The Cold War and Beyond

The Language and Culture Curriculum

51 units

Complete the two prerequisite courses, two intermediate courses and one advanced course.

3. Prerequisite Courses in Modern Languages

24 units

82-191 Elementary Russian I (or demonstrated equivalent)
82-192 Elementary Russian II (or demonstrated equivalent)

4. Core Courses in Modern Languages

27 units

82-291 Intermediate Russian I
82-292 Intermediate Russian II
82-391 Advanced Russian

Should a student enter the Russian Studies program with a demonstrated language proficiency at any of these "Intermediate" or "Advanced" levels, the required total of 27 units is reached by selecting from the advanced language options appearing below in the list of "Required Electives". Advance language options include "Advanced Russian II" and "Special Topics: Russian", 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.

5. Required Electives

18 units

Complete two courses

History

79-205	20th Century Europe
79-231	American Foreign Policy: 1945-Present
79-280	Russian History from the First to the Last Tsar
79-281	Modern Soviet History: From Lenin to Yeltsin
79-282	Soviet Union in World War II: Military and Political History
79-284	Family and Gender Relations in Russia
79-344	The Cold War and Beyond

Modern Languages

82-296	A Century of Russian Film
82-392	Advanced Russian II
82-396	The Faust Legend at Home and Abroad
82-397	Russia's Demons
82-399	Special Topics: Russian
82-491	Literature, Politics and Film in Russia & Eastern Europe Today
82-492	The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature
82-493	Joseph Brodsky in Context

6. Required Independent Research

3-6 units

Complete one course.

82-599 Russian Studies Thesis

In the senior year, majors are required to undertake an independent research or translation project in which their language skills are applied to Russian-language materials. This project, which earns 3 to 6 units, is conducted in connection with an existing course in Russian history, language, literature or politics. The student works closely with the professor to select a topic requiring the use of Russian sources suitable to the student's proficiency level. For example, students may choose to prepare a translation of a little-known piece 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.

7. Study Abroad

Students in both the major and minor programs 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 monies are frequently 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.

Russian Studies, B.A.

Sample Curriculum

This sample curriculum assumes that all prerequisites for 82-291 are fulfilled prior to the Junior year.

Junior Year		Senior Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Intermediate Russian I 82-291	Intermediate Russian II 82-292	Advanced Russian I 82-391	Russian Studies Thesis
Core Course in History 78-280/281	Required Elective in History	Required Elective	Required Elective
Elective	Required Elective	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective