Slavic Studies

Slavic Studies is concerned with the languages, literatures, and civilizations of the Slavic world. Built on sound knowledge of one or two Slavic languages (normally Russian or Czech) the program allows students to develop an in-depth appreciation and understanding of East European cultures and civilizations through a broad spectrum of interdisciplinary fields. Students take courses in literature, history, culture, theater, political science, economics, and international relations. Concentrators focusing on Russia learn one of the world’s most commonly spoken languages and study some of the world’s best-regarded authors and composers: Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Gogol and Bulgakov, Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky, and Rachmaninoff and Stravinsky. Focusing on Czech allows students to explore, for example, how Czechs distinguished themselves by peacefully transitioning from communism to capitalism (the “Velvet Revolution”) and separating peacefully with the Slovak Republic (the “Velvet Divorce”). Most concentrators study abroad in either the Czech Republic (the “Velvet Divorce”). Most concentrators study abroad in that country, either during the academic year or the summer.

Requirements for the AB Degree

Six semesters of one Slavic language or the equivalent (normally Czech or Russian), or a combined total of eight semesters of two Slavic languages or the equivalent.

RUSS 0100 Introductory Russian
& RUSS 0200 and Introductory Russian
or RUSS 0110 Intensive Russian
RUSS 0300 Intermediate Russian
RUSS 0400 Intermediate Russian
RUSS 0500 Advanced Russian
RUSS 0600 Advanced Russian
Summer courses offered on the Brown in Petersburg Program can enable advanced placement in academic year courses:
RUSS 0250 Introductory Russian in St. Petersburg
RUSS 0350 Intermediate Russian in St. Petersburg
RUSS 0550 Advanced Russian in St. Petersburg

In cases where a student's interests and course of study warrant it, and only upon consulting the concentration advisor, the student may apply more than one Slavic language to the concentration (Czech or Polish in addition to Russian), and would then need a combined total of eight semesters of two Slavic languages:

CZCH 0100 Introductory Czech
& CZCH 0200 and Introductory Czech
CZCH 0410A Boys and Girls: Relationships under Socialist Bohemia
CZCH 0410B Coming of Age in Postwar Czechoslovakia
CZCH 0410C Czech View of Self and Others
CZCH 0410D Czechs and the Big Brother: Czech Lands in the 1980s
CZCH 0610A Czech Lands under Occupation and Terror
CZCH 0610B Psychosis of Occupation in the Czech Lands
CZCH 0610C Czech Cultural Icons, Emblems, and National Identity
PLSH 0100 Introductory Polish
& PLSH 0200 and Introductory Polish
PLSH 0300 Intermediate Polish
& PLSH 0400 and Intermediate Polish

The concentration in Slavic Studies requires students to complete a minimum of seven 1000-level courses devoted to the study of the East European civilizations: literature, history, culture, theater, political science, economics, international relations. Typically, at least four of these courses will be from within the Department of Slavic Studies. Students’ choice of courses is subject to the approval of the concentration advisor.

Courses in the Department of Slavic Studies:
RUSS 1110 Special Topics in Russian Studies I: Advanced Reading and Conversation
RUSS 1200 Russian Fantasy and Science Fiction
RUSS 1250 Russian Cinema
RUSS 1290 Russian Literature in Translation I: Pushkin to Dostoevsky
RUSS 1300 Russian Literature in Translation II: Tolstoy to Solzhenitsyn
RUSS 1320 Soviet Literature from 1917 to 1953
RUSS 1330 Soviet and Post-Soviet Literature: Propaganda, Dissidence, Underground
RUSS 1340 The Russian Novel
RUSS 1350 Putin, Russia and the New Conflict with the West: Reading Modern Russian Culture
RUSS 1450 Love, Adultery, and Sexuality
RUSS 1500 Approaches to Russian Literature
RUSS 1600 Literature and History: Russian Historical Imagination in the European Context
RUSS 1800 Pushkin
RUSS 1810 Tolstoy
RUSS 1820 Dostoevsky
RUSS 1840 Nabokov
RUSS 1860 Chekhov
RUSS 1900 Russian Jewish Literature and Film
SLAV 1300 Sociolinguistics (with Case Studies on the Former USSR and Eastern Europe)
SLAV 1790 Ukraine and the Idea of Central Europe in Literature

Sample courses in other departments:
HIST 1268C The Collapse of Socialism and the Rise of New Russia
POL 1220 Russia and Post-Soviet States
TAPS 1430 Russian Theatre and Drama
TAPS 2120 Revolution as a Work of Art

Honors

Honors candidacy in Slavic studies assumes an excellent academic record, particularly in the concentration. Additional requirements are the same as those for a standard concentration, plus the writing of a senior thesis (SLAV 1990). For procedures and schedule for writing a senior thesis, please refer to the department guidelines.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.