Russian Courses (Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures) (RUSS)

This is a list of Russian courses. For more information, see Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures.

RUSS:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Taught in English. Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

RUSS:1050 Russian for Travelers and Business People 2 s.h.
How Russian culture continues to shape current geopolitical and sporting events (e.g., World Cup Soccer 2018); emphasis on learning basic survival Russian phrases, cultural etiquette and norms. Taught in English.

RUSS:1082 Youth Subcultures After Socialism 3 s.h.
Examination of youth subculture (i.e., distinct style and identity, beliefs, value system, fashion and favorite music) on the territory of post-communist Europe and its relations with the mainstream culture; how young people of Russia express their individuality after years of dullness and monotony. GE: Values and Culture.

RUSS:1111 First-Year Russian I 5 s.h.
Basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Russian; fundamentals of Russian grammar. GE: World Languages First Level Proficiency.

RUSS:1112 First-Year Russian II 5 s.h.

RUSS:1131 Introduction to Russian Culture 3 s.h.
Development of cultural history in Russia during the Romanov period (1613-1917); painting, music, architecture, and literature viewed against their political, historical, and social settings. Taught in English. GE: Values and Culture. Same as WLLC:1131.

RUSS:1132 Russia Today 3 s.h.
Contemporary Russia, with focus on prevailing social, political, economic, ethnic, environmental conditions; attention to historical evolution of problems, current factors; what these factors might portend for the future. Taught in English. GE: International and Global Issues; Values and Culture.

RUSS:1500 Ukraine, a Country at the Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Seminar on Ukrainian History and Culture 3 s.h.
Cultural specificity of Ukraine as a large multicultural European country; vital background information for analysis of present-day political events; strategic location between East and West; centuries-long history and culture; all readings in English, no knowledge of Russian or Ukrainian required. Taught in English.

RUSS:1531 Slavic Folklore 3 s.h.
Introduction to culture, history, and art of eastern European peoples; pagan, dualistic, and animistic beliefs and their coexistence with Christian faith in eastern Europe. GE: Historical Perspectives; Values and Culture.

RUSS:1532 Traces of Ancient Russian Culture (IX-XVII Centuries): Vikings, Mongols, and Tsars 3 s.h.
Early and medieval Slavic history, with focus on Russian art, literature, and religion from 10th through 17th century. Taught in English. GE: Historical Perspectives; Values and Culture.

RUSS:2001 Global Science Fiction 3 s.h.

RUSS:2030 Russian Comedy 3-4 s.h.
Introduction to the rich tradition of Russian and Soviet comedy in literature and cinema; students learn to analyze texts and film from Gogol's play, The Government Inspector, through Gaidai's classic film, Diamond Arm, and beyond; option to read original texts in Russian. Taught in English.

RUSS:2050 Women from an Unknown Land: The Fight for Independence 3 s.h.
Exploration of past and current issues related to the Caucasus—a mountainous region located where Europe, the Middle East, and Asia meet—forming a geographical and cultural crossroad; topics include those related to women's rights, causes of poverty and ethnic conflicts, and foreign policy including terrorism in the region, the fight for freedom, and the struggle over natural resources. Taught in English. GE: International and Global Issues. Same as WLLC:2050.

RUSS:2100 Russian Mindset: Sex, Business, and Politics 3 s.h.
Deeper insight of Russian mentality through philosophical, historical, cultural, and practical developments that have shaped Russian behavior and thought. GE: Values and Culture.

RUSS:2110 Russian Sports: Politics, Scandal, Glory 3 s.h.
Overview of Russian sports from its beginnings in Slavic tribes through the importance of sports as a political tool during Soviet time to the scandals and glory of modern days; focus on the strong cultural background and rigorous traditions that form the powerhouse known as Russian sports; includes Russian sport celebrities of past and present. Taught in English.

RUSS:2111 Second-Year Russian I 4 s.h.

RUSS:2112 Second-Year Russian II 4 s.h.

RUSS:2122 Cult Films of the Last Soviet Generation 3 s.h.
Political and cultural circumstance of one of the world's most volatile and powerful regions; how life within what was considered an "Evil Empire" from 1960s to 1980s was far from primitive; how creative intelligentsia continued producing and enjoying excellent motion pictures despite multiple bans and regulations; implications for contemporary life; wider understanding of Russian aesthetics.
RUSS:2130 Love and Lust in Literature and Art  3-4 s.h.
Different historical eras and cultures that shape human experience and the role of human virtues and sins in society; introduction to different civilizations from antiquity to modern period through historical facts, literary samples, philosophy, ethnography, films, documentaries, music, and art; option for Russian majors and minors to read original texts of Russian writers in Russian. Taught in English.

RUSS:2131 Women in Russian Society  3 s.h.
Historical developments that have shaped women's role in contemporary Russian society; readings in cultural history, political science, autobiographical and fictional literature, contemporary film. Taught in English.

RUSS:2232 Romani (Gypsy) Cultures of Eastern Europe  3 s.h.
Aspects of culture shared by most Roma (Gypsies) around the world; samples of folklore from Europe; impact of Roma on European literature, music, and culture; readings in English; no previous knowledge of Russian or Romani required. Taught in English. GE: Diversity and Inclusion.

RUSS:2531 Topics in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies  arr.
Topics in Russian literature and culture. Taught in English.

RUSS:2600 Issues in Russian Identity: Nationalism  3 s.h.
Development of the Russian national identity in the works of three 19th-century Russian authors: Alexander Pushkin, Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky; how major historical events such as Russia's wars with Poland, Sweden, France, England, and Turkey are portrayed in Pushkin's Boris Godunov and Poltava, Tolstoy's War and Peace and Sevastopol Sketches; how Western Europe is viewed in Dostoevsky's Winter Notes on Summer Impressions, Notes From Underground, and The Idiot. Taught in English. Prerequisites: RHET:1030. Requirements: ENGL:1200.

RUSS:2666 Pact with the Devil  3-4 s.h.
Since early modern times, the pact with the devil has served as a metaphor for humankind's desire to surpass the limits of knowledge and power; students explore a variety of works from German, British, and Russian literature and culture from early modern time to the present, and critique different twists that fascination with the forbidden takes in regard to women. Taught in English. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts. Same as GRMN:2666, WLLC:2666.

RUSS:3100 West and East: Women in the Slavic World  3 s.h.
Roles of women in two Slavic countries—Islamic Republic of Dagestan in Russia, and the Czech Republic—using approaches from the social sciences and humanities; Christian/Catholic traditions in the western Slavic country (i.e., Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic) and Islamic influences in eastern parts of Russia; analysis of women's egalitarian roles in socialist societies of 1980s, the impact of the major political, economic, and social transitions on women's lives in 1990s.

RUSS:3111 Third-Year Russian I  4 s.h.
Advanced Russian grammar, reading, conversation, and written skills through oral reports, compositions, conversation. Requirements: RUSS:2112.

RUSS:3112 Third-Year Russian II  4 s.h.
Advanced Russian grammar, reading, conversation, and written skills through oral reports, compositions, conversation. Requirements: RUSS:3111.

RUSS:3113 Beginning Composition and Conversation I  4 s.h.
Russian oral and aural skills developed through idiomatic usage, stylistics, phonetics, intonation, grammar review; supplemented by short stories, newspaper texts. Taught in Russian. Requirements: RUSS:1112.

RUSS:3114 Beginning Composition and Conversation II  4 s.h.
Russian oral and aural skills developed through idiomatic usage, stylistics, phonetics, intonation, grammar review; supplemented by short stories, conversation handbooks, current periodicals. Taught in Russian. Requirements: RUSS:2112.

RUSS:3122 Tolstoy and Dostoevsky  3-4 s.h.
Tolstoy's War and Peace and Anna Karenina; Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, The Demons, and short stories. Taught in English. Same as TRNS:3122, WLLC:3122.

RUSS:3124 Invitation to Nabokov  3-4 s.h.
Nabokov's works and his writings on Russian literature. Taught in English.

RUSS:3131 Health Care and Health Reforms in Russia  3 s.h.
Societal changes and their continuing effect on the Russian health care system since 1991; guest lectures from public health, nursing, medicine, cultural anthropology. Taught in English. Same as GHS:3131.

RUSS:3200 Advanced Russian Through Music, Literature, and Film I  3 s.h.
Implementation of a variety of print and online materials to acquaint students with methods to increase their listening, reading, and speaking skills in Russian; initial focus on essentials of Russian pronunciation and reading short literary works (and audio recordings) to prepare a strong base for work with authentic Russian audio, music video, and feature films; online Russian grammar review on traditional aspects of intermediate and advanced Russian grammar. Taught in Russian. Requirements: RUSS:2112 with a minimum grade of C+.

RUSS:3201 Advanced Russian Through Music, Literature, and Film II  3 s.h.
Continuation of RUSS:3200; implementation of a variety of print and online materials; methods to increase listening, reading, and speaking skills in Russian. Taught in Russian. Requirements: RUSS:2112 with a minimum grade of C+. Recommendations: completion of RUSS:3200.

RUSS:3202 Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917  3 s.h.
Survey of major works, figures, and trends of 19th- and early 20th-century Russian literature; age of the Russian novel; works of Turgenev (Fathers and Sons), Tolstoy (Confession), Dostoevsky (The Idiot, The Brothers Karamazov), and Chekhov (plays). Taught in English. Same as TRNS:3203, WLLC:3202.

RUSS:3210 Comparative Arts  3 s.h.
Cultural and aesthetic issues arising from side-by-side investigation of several art forms, including literature, cinema, painting, music, opera, architecture; periods, schools, styles, and their theories. Taught in English. Same as ASIA:3210, FREN:3210, IWP:3210, SPAN:3211, WLLC:3210.

RUSS:3990 Special Readings  arr.
Russian-language materials determined by student and instructor. Requirements: 16 s.h. of Russian language instruction.
RUSS:4111 Fourth-Year Russian I  4 s.h.
Perfecting spoken Russian and aural comprehension of native speech. Taught in Russian. Requirements: RUSS:3112 or three years of college-level Russian.

RUSS:4112 Fourth-Year Russian II  4 s.h.
Perfecting spoken Russian and aural comprehension of native speech. Taught in Russian. Requirements: RUSS:4111 or three years of college-level Russian.

RUSS:4990 Independent Research  arr.
Directed study.

RUSS:4995 Honors  arr.
Honors project with a faculty member.