Admissions

The Slavic Department is not currently accepting applications to the PhD program. Those interested working with our faculty in their PhD studies should apply to PhD programs in related fields such as Comparative Literature, Cinema and Media Studies, and Linguistics.

Students seeking a master’s degree may apply to the Master of Arts Program in the Humanities (MAHP). This program has one-year and two-year tracks; both allow students to build their own curriculum with graduate-level courses in any humanities department (including Slavic Languages and Literatures) and complete a thesis with a University of Chicago faculty adviser. The two-year program includes extensive language training, and would allow students to study BCS (Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian), Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, and Russian through the Slavic Department. Further details about the MAHP program are available at http://maph.uchicago.edu/

Contact Information

For additional information about the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, please see http://slavic.uchicago.edu/ or e-mail <slavic-department@uchicago.edu>.

Courses

The actual offerings for the year will be found on the University Registrar website (http://registrar.uchicago.edu/).
Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian Courses

BCSN 31103. Advanced BCS: Literary Readings. 100 Units.
Equivalent Course(s): BCSN 21100

BCSN 31303. (Re)Branding the Balkan City: Contemp. Belgrade/Sarajevo/Zagreb. 100 Units.
The course will use an urban studies lens to explore the complex history, infrastructure, and transformations of these three cities, now the capitals of Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and Croatia. Drawing on anthropological theory and ethnography of the city, we will consider processes of urban destruction and renewal, practices of branding spaces and identities, urban life as praxis, art and design movements, architectural histories and styles, metropolitan citizenship, and the broader politics of space. The course is complemented by cultural and historical media, guest speakers, and virtual tours. Classes are held in English. No knowledge of BCS is required. However, this module can fulfill a language requirement or simply further the study of BCS with additional weekly sections, materials, discussions, and presentations in the target language.
Instructor(s): Nada Petkovic Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): REES 21300, BCSN 21300, REES 31303

Czech Courses

Courses

General Slavic Courses

SLAV 70000. Advanced Study: Slavic Languages & Literatures. 300.00 Units.
Advanced Study: Slavic Languages & Literatures

Polish Courses

POLI 30403. Third Year Polish I. 100 Units.
The process of learning in all three quarters of Third-Year Polish is framed by three themes, which most succinctly but aptly characterize Polish life, culture, and history: in the Autumn Quarter-the noble democracy in the Commonwealth of Both Nations, in the Winter Quarter-the fight for independence, and in the Spring Quarter-the newly independent Poland. During the course of the year, students also improve their knowledge of advanced grammar and stylistics. All work in Polish.
Equivalent Course(s): POLI 20403

POLI 30503. Third-Year Polish II. 100 Units.
No course description available
Equivalent Course(s): POLI 20503

POLI 30603. Third-Year Polish-III. 100 Units.
The process of learning in all three quarters of Third-Year Polish is framed by three themes, which most succinctly but aptly characterize Polish life, culture, and history: in the Autumn Quarter-the noble democracy in the Commonwealth of Both Nations, in the Winter Quarter-the fight for independence, and in the Spring Quarter-the newly independent Poland. During the course of the year, students also improve their knowledge of advanced grammar and stylistics. All work in Polish.
Equivalent Course(s): POLI 20603

POLI 39900. Rdg Course: Polish Lit I. 100 Units.

POLI 39901. Reading Course: Polish Lit I. 100 Units.

POLI 39902. Reading Course: Polish Lit II. 100 Units.

POLI 39903. Reading Course: Polish Lit III. 100 Units.
Advanced Polish studies.

Russian Courses

RUSS 30102-30202-30302. Advanced Russian through Media I-II-III.
This course, which is designed for fifth-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. It emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in culturally authentic context. Clips from Russian/Soviet films and television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian.
RUSS 30102. Advanced Russian through Media I. 100 Units.
This is a three-quarter sequence designed for fourth- and fifth-year students of Russian. It is also suitable for native speakers of Russian. This sequence covers various aspects of advanced Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. This sequence emphasizes the four communicative skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in a culturally authentic context. It builds transcultural competence by expanding students' knowledge of the language, culture, history, and daily lives of the Russian-speaking people. Vocabulary building is strongly emphasized. We add to the existing skills and develop our abilities to analyze increasingly complex texts for their meaning; to identify various styles and registers of the Russian language and to provide their neutral equivalents in standard Russian. We also work on developing our abilities to paraphrase, narrate, describe, support opinions, hypothesize, discuss abstract topics, and handle linguistically unfamiliar situations (in spoken and written format). Classes conducted in Russian. Course-specific grammar issues are covered during drill sessions (weekly) and office hours (by appointment). Oral Proficiency Interviews are conducted in the beginning and the end of the course (Autumn and Spring Quarters). Prerequisite(s):
Four years of Russian, or equivalent, or consent of instructor.
Instructor(s): Valentina Pichugin Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 21302

RUSS 30202. Advanced Russian through Media II. 100 Units.
This course, which is designed for fifth-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. It emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in culturally authentic context. Clips from Russian/Soviet films and television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian. Conversation practice is held twice a week.
Instructor(s): Valentina Pichugin Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Four years of Russian, or equivalent, or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 21402

RUSS 30302. Adv Russian Through Media-3. 100 Units.
This course, which is designed for fifth-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. It emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in culturally authentic context. Clips from Russian/Soviet films and television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian. Conversation practice is held twice a week.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 21502, RUSS 21502, REES 30302

RUSS 30202. Advanced Russian through Media II. 100 Units.
This course, which is designed for fifth-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. It emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in culturally authentic context. Clips from Russian/Soviet films and television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian. Conversation practice is held twice a week.
Instructor(s): Valentina Pichugin Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Four years of Russian, or equivalent, or consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 21402

RUSS 30302. Adv Russian Through Media-3. 100 Units.
This course, which is designed for fifth-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. It emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in culturally authentic context. Clips from Russian/Soviet films and television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian. Conversation practice is held twice a week.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 21502, RUSS 21502, REES 30302

RUSS 30902. Third-Year Russian through Culture III. 100 Units.
This course, which is intended for third-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian grammar in context and emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in a culturally authentic context. Excerpts from popular Soviet/Russian films and clips from Russian television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian; some aspects of grammar explained in English. Drill practice is held twice a week.
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 20902

RUSS 33333. Reading Russian for Research Purposes. 100 Units.
This course prepares students to read and do research in Russian. Students will gain a fundamental knowledge of Russian grammar and a basic vocabulary while learning to work intensively with primary and secondary texts in their area of academic interest. Reading Russian for Research Purposes has a limited number of spots available for participation via electronic course sharing, intended for students who are unable to be in Chicago physically for the course.
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 23333
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

RUSS 34504. Russian Poetry from Blok to Pasternak. 100 Units.
We will survey the selected poetry of major Russian modernists from 1900 to 1935, including lyrical and narrative genres. Poets covered include: Aleksandr Blok, Andrei Belyi, Viacheslav Ivanov, Nikolai Gumilev, Osip Mandel'shtam, Anna Akhmatova, Velimir Khlebnikov, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, Boris Pasternak. In addition to tracing the development of poetic doctrines (from symbolism through acmeism and futurism), we will investigate the close correlations between formal innovation and the changing semantics of Russian poetry. Attention will also be paid to contemporary developments in Western European poetry. Knowledge of Russian required.
Instructor(s): R. Bird, B. Maslov Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Knowledge of Russian required.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 34504

RUSS 36900. Strangers to Ourselves: Twentieth Century Émigré Literature from Russia and SE Europe. 100 Units.
Being alienated from myself, as painful as that may be, provides me with that exquisite distance within which perverse pleasure begins, as well as the possibility of my imagining and thinking,” writes Julia Kristeva in Strangers to Ourselves, the book from which this course takes its title. The authors whose works we are going to examine often alternate between nostalgia and the exhilaration of being set free into the breathless possibilities of new lives. Leaving home does not simply mean movement in space. Separated from the sensory boundaries that defined their old selves, immigrants inhabit a warped, fragmentary, disjointed time. Immigrant writers struggle for breath - speech, language, voice, the very stuff of their craft resounds somewhere else. Join us as we explore the pain, the struggle, the failure and the triumph of emigration and exile.
Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Brodsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, Nina Berberova, Julia Kristeva, Alexander Hemon, Dubravka Ugrešić, Norman Manea, Miroslav Penkov, Ilja Trojanow, Tea Obreht.
Equivalent Course(s): SOSL 26900, RUSS 26900, CMLT 26902, CMLT 36902, SOSL 36900

RUSS 39910. Special Topics in Advanced Russian. 100 Units.
Must complete Advanced Russian through Media or equivalent, or obtain consent of instructor. Class meets for 2 hours each week. We'll work with several topics, all of them are relevant to the general theme of "Geography and Worldview: Russian Perspective". There will be maps, reading materials, several documentaries, clips from TV programs and other media, and feature films. Class meetings will be a combination of group discussions, short presentations, and lectures. Final - one term paper at the end (in English) based on Russian materials.
Instructor(s): Valentina Pichugin Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 29910

RUSS 39911. Special Topics in Advanced Russian. 100 Units.
Must complete Advanced Russian through Media or equivalent, or obtain consent of instructor. Class meets for 2 hours each week. We'll work with several topics, all of them are relevant to the general theme of "Geography and Worldview: Russian Perspective". There will be maps, reading materials, several documentaries, clips from TV programs and other media, and feature films. Class meetings will be a combination of group discussions, short presentations, and lectures. Final - one term paper at the end (in English) based on Russian materials.
Instructor(s): Valentina Pichugin
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 29911

RUSS 39912. Special Topics in Advanced Russian. 100 Units.
Must complete Advanced Russian through Media or equivalent, or obtain consent of instructor. Class meets for 2 hours each week. We'll work with several topics, all of them are relevant to the general theme of "Geography and Worldview: Russian Perspective". There will be maps, reading materials, several documentaries, clips from TV programs and other media, and feature films. Class meetings will be a combination of group discussions, short presentations, and lectures. Final - one term paper at the end (in English) based on Russian materials.
Instructor(s): Valentina Pichugin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 29912, REES 29912, REES 39912

South Slavic Courses

SOSL 36900. Strangers to Ourselves: Twentieth Century Émigré Literature from Russia and SE Europe. 100 Units.
Being alienated from myself, as painful as that may be, provides me with that exquisite distance within which perverse pleasure begins, as well as the possibility of my imagining and thinking.” writes Julia Kristeva in Strangers to Ourselves, the book from which this course takes its title. The authors whose works we are going to examine often alternate between nostalgia and the exhilaration of being set free into the breathless possibilities of new lives. Leaving home does not simply mean movement in space. Separated from the sensory boundaries that defined their old selves, immigrants inhabit a warped, fragmentary, disjointed time. Immigrant writers struggle for breath - speech, language, voice, the very stuff of their craft resounds somewhere else. Join us as we explore the pain, the struggle, the failure and the triumph of emigration and exile.
Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Brodsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, Nina Berberova, Julia Kristeva, Alexander Hemon, Dubravka Ugrešić, Norman Manea, Miroslav Penkov, Ilja Trojanow, Tea Obreht.
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 36900, SOSL 26900, RUSS 26900, CMLT 26902, CMLT 36902
Russian and East European Studies Courses

REES 30011. Gogol. 100 Units.
One of the most enigmatic authors in Russian literature, Nikolai Gogol (1809-1852) was hailed in his own lifetime as the leading prose writer of his generation, a brilliant comic writer, and the innovator of the new school of Russian Naturalism/Realism. Since his death, Gogol has been the subject of ever-greater critical controversy. Reading representative works from each period of Gogol’s career, including his Petersburg Tales and Dead Souls, we will trace the author’s creative development and consider it in relation to his biography and early 19th-century Russian literary and social history. We will work together to identify the characteristic features of Gogol’s narrative technique as well as the challenges to interpretation his texts pose. No knowledge of Russian required.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 20011

REES 30013. Dostoevsky. 100 Units.
Dostoevsky was an inveterate risk-taker, not only at the baccarat tables of the Grand Casino in Baden-Baden, but in his personal life, his political activities, and his artistic endeavors. This course is intended to investigate his two greatest wagers: on the presence of the divine in the world and on the power of artistic form to convey and articulate this presence. Dostoevsky’s wager on form is evident even in his early, relatively conventional texts, like The Double. It intensifies after his decade-long sojourn in Siberia, exploding in works like The Notes from Underground, which one-and-a-half centuries later remains an aesthetic and philosophical provocation of immense power. The majority of the course will focus on Dostoevsky’s later novels. In Crime and Punishment Dostoevsky adapts suspense strategies to create a metaphysical thriller, while in The Demons he pairs a study of nihilism with the deformation of the novel as a genre. Through close readings of these works we will trace how Dostoevsky’s formal experimentation created new ways of exploring realms of existence that traditionally belonged to philosophy and theology. The results were never comfortable or comforting; we will focus on interpreting Dostoevsky’s metaphysical provocations.
Equivalent Course(s): RLST 28204, REES 20013, RLIT 39501, HUMA 24800, FNDL 24612

REES 30020. Pale Fire. 100 Units.
This course is an intensive reading of Pale Fire by Nabokov.
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 39610, FNDL 25311, ENGL 22817, REES 20020, GNSE 29610

REES 30302. Adv Russian Through Media-3. 100 Units.
This course, which is designed for fifth-year students of Russian, covers various aspects of Russian stylistics and discourse grammar in context. It emphasizes the four communicative skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening comprehension, speaking) in culturally authentic context. Clips from Russian/Soviet films and television news reports are shown and discussed in class. Classes conducted in Russian. Conversation practice is held twice a week.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 21502, RUSS 21502, RUSS 30302

REES 31005. Bruno Schulz: An Unfinished Project. 100 Units.
This course examines the fictional, non-fictional and visual oeuvre of the brilliant Polish-Jewish modernist Bruno Schulz who perished in the Holocaust. This year marks not only the 120th anniversary of his birth but also the 70th anniversary of his death in the same town of Drohobycz on the southeastern border of Poland. These dates bracket his relatively short life and are evocative of his several unfinished authorial projects. During the course, we will focus on Schulz’s concept of creation through his use of aesthetics of trash and a debased form, kalabistic origins of a fragment, temporality and its movements, myths of province and childhood. We will seek critical answers to his artistic predilection of parochial places and conspiratorial perspectives, masochism, as well as the notion of the moment as both auratic and poetic, in sum, for those components of his world which made him an illusive modernist like no other in his time. The course will be supplemented by the construal of Schulz’s legend in contemporary American fiction (Cynthia Ozick, Jonathan Safran Foer, and Nicole Krauss). All readings in English translation.
Instructor(s): B. Shallcross Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): JWSC 26360

REES 31006. Joseph Conrad's Secret Agent: (In)action, Surveillance, Terrorism. 100 Units.
Course centers on Joseph Conrad's The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale. Contemporary critics often consider this novel the archetypal fictional work about terrorism, as it is based on the bomb attack that occurred in Greenwich in 1888. The Secret Agent demonstrates, however, much more than its prophetic significance rediscovered after 9/11. Therefore, the course seeks how the novel's relevance stems in equal measure from Conrad's interest in a wider political process and his distrust of state power; in particular, the course explores how these forces determine the individual caught in a confining situation. We read The Secret Agent as a political novel, that struggle for solutions defies chaos as well as an imposition of a single ideology or one authorial point of view. Its ambiguities and political antinomies allow for interdisciplinary readings that also present an opportunity to critically overview the established approaches to main Conradian themes. In analyzing the formation of the narrative's ideology we discuss Conrad's historical pessimism that demonstrates with sustained irony how capitalism breeds social injustice that, in turn, breeds anarchism. The class also focuses on how the novel exposes duplicity in staging surveillance, terrorism, as well as adjacent forms of violence or sacrifice. Critical texts include several older but still influential readings (Jameson, Eagleton) and the most recent.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 21006, ENGL 31006, FNDL 21006, REES 21006
REES 3103. (Re)Branding the Balkan City: Contemp. Belgrade/Sarajevo/Zagreb. 100 Units.
The course will use an urban studies lens to explore the complex history, infrastructure, and transformations of these three cities, now the capitals of Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and Croatia. Drawing on anthropological theory and ethnography of the city, we will consider processes of urban destruction and renewal, practices of branding spaces and identities, urban life as praxis, art and design movements, architectural histories and styles, metropolitan citizenship, and the broader politics of space. The course is complemented by cultural and historical media, guest speakers, and virtual tours. Classes are held in English. No knowledge of BCS is required. However, this module can fulfill a language requirement or simply further the study of BCS with additional weekly sections, materials, discussions, and presentations in the target language.
Instructor(s): Nada Petkovic Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): BCSN 3103, REES 21300, BCSN 21300

REES 32000. Kafka in Prague. 100 Units.
The goal of this course is a thorough treatment of Kafka’s literary work in its Central European, more specifically Czech, context. In critical scholarship, Kafka and his work are often alienated from his Prague milieu. The course revisits the Prague of Kafka’s time, with particular reference to Josefov (the Jewish ghetto), Das Prager Deutsch, and Czech/German/Jewish relations of the prewar and interwar years. We discuss most of Kafka’s major prose works within this context and beyond (including The Castle, The Trial, and the stories published during his lifetime), as well as selected critical approaches to his work.
Instructor(s): Malynne Sternstein Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 39600, GRMN 29600, REES 22000

REES 32007. Milan Kundera. 100 Units.
In this course on selected works by Franco-Czech writer Milan Kundera we explore questions of art and kitsch, citizenship pre- and post-communism, and the values of modernity. Texts read include the Czech novels The Joke, the film The Joke (1969), Unbearable Lightness of Being, The Book of Laughter and Forgetting, Farewell Waltz, and the French novels, Ignorance and Festival of Insignificance, and selected essays from essay collections, The Art of the Novel, Testaments Betrayed, and The Curtain. All texts will be read in their authorized English translations.
Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 22007, REES 22007

REES 33115. Old Church Slavonic. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to the language of the oldest Slavic texts. It begins with a brief historical overview of the relationship of Old Church Slavonic to Common Slavic and the other Slavic languages. This is followed by a short outline of Old Church Slavonic inflectional morphology. The remainder of the course is spent in the reading and grammatical analysis of original texts in Cyrillic or Cyrillic transcription of the original Glagolitic.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 23115, MDVL 25100, LING 35100, LING 23115

REES 33119. Language/Power/Identity in South East Europe. 100 Units.
This course familiarizes students with the linguistic histories and structures that have served as bases for the formation of modern Balkan ethnic identities and that are being manipulated to shape current and future events. The course is informed by the instructor’s thirty years of linguistic research in the Balkans as well as his experience as an adviser for the United Nations Protection Forces in Former Yugoslavia and as a consultant to the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Crisis Group, and other organizations. Course content may vary in response to ongoing current events.
Instructor(s): V. Friedman Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 37400, HUMA 27400, REES 23119, ANTH 27400, LING 27200, LING 37200

REES 33137. Narratives Suspense in European/Russian Lit/Film. 100 Units.
This course examines the nature and creation of suspense in literature and film as an introduction to narrative theory. We will question how and why stories are created, as well as what motivates us to continue reading, watching, and listening to stories. We will explore how particular genres (such as detective stories and thrillers) and the mediums of literature and film influence our understanding of suspense and narrative more broadly. Close readings of primary sources will be supplemented with critical and theoretical readings. Literary readings will include work by John Buchan, Arthur Conan Doyle, Fedor Dostoevsky, Graham Greene, Bohumil Hrabal, and J.M. Coetzee. We will also explore Alfred Hitchcock’s take on 39 Steps and the Czech New Wave manifesto film, Pearls of the Deep. With theoretical readings by: Roland Barthes, Viktor Shklovsky, Erich Auerbach, Paul Ricoeur, and others.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 22100, ENGL 46901, CMST 25102, ENGL 26901, HUMA 26901, REES 23137, CMST 35102

REES 33141. Avant-Garde in East Central Europe. 100 Units.
The avant-gardes of the “other” Europe are the mainstay of this course, which focuses especially, but not exclusively, on the interwar avant-gardes of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Yugoslavia. A comparative framework is employed whenever lucrative to comprehend the East/Central European movements in the wider context of the European avant-garde. The course also traces the development and legacy (political and artistic) of these avant-gardes in their contemporary scenes. Plastic, verbal, and performative arts (including film) are studied.
Instructor(s): Malynne Sternstein Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 25100, REES 23141, CMST 35100, ARTH 25500, ARTH 35500
REES 33154. The Commune: The Making and Breaking of Intentional Communities. 100 Units.
This course will examine attempts to build harmonious sustainable communities in the U.S., U.S.S.R., and around the world. Our content will be historical, philosophical and literary, and will include communal charters, purpose statements, and architectural plans- alongside testimonies to success and memoirs of failure. We will identify patterns and principles that differentiate communal societies from those surrounding them, and consider the relationship of these to the systematic failures and successes of experiments in alternative living. We will also consider the personalities involved: of the founders, stalwart communitards, wandering seekers, and troublemakers. We will ask the hard questions that these communities have continually faced, considering how shared space transforms shared beliefs and aspirations, why the latter have been so difficult to sustain, and how the commune could be made to work.
Instructor(s): William Nickell Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): The first twenty students signing up for the option will also have the opportunity to charter and try out, in groups of four, their own two-week experiments in communal living in an apartment dedicated to the course. Please contact the instructor to be placed on this list.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 23154

REES 33158. Theories of Narrative. 100 Units.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 38300, CMLT 21300, CLAS 37009

REES 33812. Russia and the West, 18th-21st Centuries. 100 Units.
There are few problems as enduring and central to Russian history as the question of the West-Russia's most passionate romance and most bitter letdown. In this course we will read and think about Russia from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries through the lens of this obsession. We will study the products of Russian interactions with the West: constitutional projects, paintings, scientific and economic thought, the Westerner-Slavophile controversy, and revolutions. We will consider the presence of European communities in Russia: German and British migrants who filled important niches in state service, trade, and scholarship; Italian sculptors and architects who designed some of Russia's most famous monuments; French expatriates in the wake of the French Revolution: Communist workers and intellectuals, refugees from Nazi Germany; and Western journalists who, in the late Soviet decades, trafficked illicit ideas, texts, and artworks. In the end, we will follow émigré Russians to Europe and the United States and return to present-day Russia to examine the anti-Western turn in its political and cultural discourse.
Instructor(s): E. Gilburd Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 33812, REES 23812, HIST 23812

REES 34110. The Soviet Empire. 100 Units.
What kind of empire was the Soviet Union? Focusing on the central idea of Eurasia, we will explore how discourses of gender, sexuality and ethnicity operated under the multinational empire. How did communism shape the state's regulation of the bodies of its citizens? How did genres from the realist novel to experimental film challenge a cohesive patriarchal, Russophone vision of Soviet Eurasia? We will examine how writers and filmmakers in the Caucasus and Central Asia answered Soviet Orientalist imaginaries, working through an interdisciplinary archive drawing literature and film from the Soviet colonial 'periphery' in the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as writings about the hybrid conception of Eurasia across linguistics, anthropology, and geography.
Instructor(s): Leah Feldman Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 34111, REES 24110, NEHC 24110, CMLT 24111, NEHC 34110

REES 34416. Russian Literature in the Composer's Ear. 100 Units.
The dialogue between author and composer in Russia is probably without parallel in other national traditions. This course will examine the musical transposition of literary works in Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Shchedrin. While Stravinsky makes use of oral tradition and folk culture, our other examples will be drawn from classic literary works, primarily from the 19th century. We will integrate close textual readings with focused analyses of the musical pieces, while devoting considerable attention to contexts of composition and reception. Throughout, we will be concerned with cultural and socio-political events from the mid-19th century to the fall of Soviet Union-events that colored the performance and interpretation of these works and often set the tone for their composition as well.
Equivalent Course(s): MUSI 34317, REES 24416, MUSI 24317

REES 34422. Puppet, Robots, and Automatons: Animating the Inanimate Body. 100 Units.
This course explores changing roles of puppets, robots, and automatons in the arts from the nineteenth century through the present. Major themes will include expressions of the anxieties surrounding animate inanimate objects, intersections between the arts and technology, constructed bodies in the context of both modernism and modernity, robots and automatons in utopian and dystopian spaces, and the relationship between puppets, robots, and automatons and developments in media through the past two hundred years. Readings for the course will historical and contemporary theoretical discourses on these constructed and imagined bodies, literary depictions ranging from folk tales through science fiction narratives, and discussions of puppets, robots, and automatons in the popular press. Beyond these texts, we will investigate how these figures are represented in film, theater, and the visual arts. Although we will consider sources and viewpoints from a broad geographical perspective, we will give special attention to the role of puppets, robots, and automatons in Central and Eastern Europe, where both nineteenth century romantic nationalism and twentieth century socialism fostered a distinctive discursive, technological, and creative space for the constructed, animated body.
Instructor(s): Cheryl Stephenson Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): REES 24422
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

REES 35003. Philosophy of Architecture. 100 Units.
Readings are culled from Central and East European and Russian theoretical writings on architecture and discussed in both an architecturally specific and broader interdisciplinary context (i.e., philosophies of technology, utopic space, psychogeographies) in this course. We read and look at primary texts and architectural executions (e.g., Karel Teige's 1932 manifesto Minimum Dwelling).
Equivalent Course(s): REES 25003

REES 35025. Gender and Translation. 100 Units.
The course will consider translation -- both theory and practice -- in relation to queer studies and gender and women's studies. Authors will include Naomi Seidman, Monique Balbuena, Yevgeniy Fiks, Raquel Salas Rivera, Kate Briggs, and others. For the final essay, students may write a research paper or translation project.
Instructor(s): Anna Elena Torres Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 25025, GNSE 35025, GNSE 25025, REES 25025, CMLT 35025

REES 36019. Symbolism and Cinema. 100 Units.
In his 1896 essay on cinema, Russian writer Maxim Gorky described the new medium to "madness or symbolism." The connection between cinema and symbolism was not surprising insofar as symbolism was a dominant aesthetic paradigm throughout Europe at the time. However it does suggest (perhaps surprisingly) that from the very beginning cinema was seen as a means of visualizing the non-rational, uncanny and even invisible. This course examines the relationship between symbolism and cinema with particular attention to French and Russian writings and films. Examining how symbolist aesthetics became applied to the cinematic medium, we will pay particular attention the resources it provided for conceptualizing the uncanny and the mystical. We will question whether there exists a distinct symbolist tradition in film history and how it relates to notions of poetic or experimental cinema. Films will represent a broad cross-section of European (and some American) cinema, from Jean Epstein to Sergei Eisenstein and Alexander Dovzhenko, and from Stan Brakhage to Andrei Tarkovsky.
Instructor(s): R. Bird
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 35514, CMST 25514, REES 26019

REES 36068. The Underground: Alienation, Mobilization, Resistance. 100 Units.
The ancient and multivalent image of the underground has crystallized over the last two centuries to denote sites of disaffection from-and strategies of resistance to-dominant social, political and cultural systems. We will trace the development of this metaphor from the Underground Railroad in the mid-1800s and the French Resistance during World War II to the Weather Underground in the 1960s-1970s, while also considering it as a literary and artistic concept, from Fyodor Dostoevsky's Notes from the Underground and Ellison's Invisible Man to Chris Marker's film La Jetée and Andrei Tarkovsky's Stalker. Alongside with such literary and cinematic tales, drawing theoretical guidance from refuseniks from Henry David Thoreau to Guy Debord, this course investigates how countercultural spaces become-or fail to become-sites of political resistance, and also how dissenting ideologies give rise to countercultural spaces. We ask about the relation between social deviance (the failure to meet social norms, whether willingly or unwittingly) and political resistance, especially in the conditions of late capitalism and neo-colonialism, when countercultural literature, film and music (rock, punk, hip-hop, DIY aesthetics etc.) get absorbed into-and coopted by-the hegemonic socio-economic system. In closing we will also consider contemporary forms of dissidence-from Pussy Riot to Black Lives Matter-that rely both on the vulnerability of individual bodies and global communication networks.
Instructor(s): Robert Bird Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CMST 34568, SIGN 26012, REES 26068, CMST 24568

REES 36071. Film and Revolution. 100 Units.
On the fiftieth anniversary of 1968 our course couples the study of revolutionary films (and films about revolution) with seminal readings on revolutionary ideology and on the theory of film and video. The goal will be to articulate the mechanics of revolution and its representation in time-based media. Students will produce a video or videos adapting the rich archive of revolutionary film for today's situation. The films screened will be drawn primarily from Soviet and US cinema, from the 1920s to the present day, proceeding more or less chronologically. We begin with newsreels and a "poetic documentary" by Dziga Vertov; they will be paired with classic readings from revolutionary theory, from Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin to Fidel Castro and Bill Ayres, and from film theory, including Vertov, Andre Bazin and Jean-Luc Godard. Readings will acquaint students with contemporary assessments of the emancipatory potential of film.
Instructor(s): R.Bird; C.Smith Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): ARTV 38000, REES 26071, CMST 34521, ARTV 28000, CMST 24521

REES 36076. Russian Modernist Poetry. 100 Units.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 26076
REES 36661. The Rise of the Global New Right. 100 Units.
This course traces the intellectual genealogies of the rise of a Global New Right in relation to the contexts of late capitalist neoliberalism, the fall of the Soviet Union, as well as the rise of social media. The course will explore the intertwined political and intellectual histories of the Russian Eurasianist movement, Hungarian Jobbik, the American Traditional Workers Party, the French GRECE, Greek Golden Dawn, and others through their published essays, blogs, vlogs and social media. Perhaps most importantly, the course asks: can we use f-word (fascism) to describe this problem? In order to pose this question we will explore the aesthetic concerns of the New Right in relation to postmodern theory, and the affective politics of nationalism. This course thus frames the rise of a global new right interdisciplinarily and comparatively as a historical, geopolitical and aesthetic problem.
Instructor(s): Leah Feldman Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 26660, ENGL 26660, CMLT 36660, REES 26660, SIGN 26050, CRES 36660, ENGL 36661, CMLT 26660

REES 37026. Kieslowski: The Decalogue. 100 Units.
In this class, we study the monumental series "The Decalogue" by one of the most influential filmmakers from Poland, Krzysztof Kieślowski. Without mechanically relating the films to the Ten Commandments, Kieślowski explores the relevance of the biblical moral rules to the state of modern man forced to make ethical choices. Each part of the series contests the absolutism of moral axioms through narrative twists and reversals in a wide, universalized sphere. An analysis of the films will be accompanied by readings from Kieślowski's own writings and interviews, including criticism by Zizek, Insdorf, and others.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 27026, FNDL 24003, CMST 26705, CMST 36705

REES 37027. Cinema and the Holocaust. 100 Units.
Focuses on cinematic responses by several leading film directors from East & Central Europe to a central event of 20th century history -- the Holocaust. Nazis began a cinematic documentation of WWII at its onset, positioning cameras in places of actual atrocities. Documentary footage produced was framed by hostile propagandistic schemes; contrary to this 'method', Holocaust feature films are all but a representation of Jewish genocide produced after the actual traumatic events. This class aims at discussing the challenge of representing the Jewish genocide which has often been defined as un-representable. Because of this challenge, Holocaust films raise questions of ethical responsibility for cinematic production & a search for relevant artistic means with which to engage post-traumatic representation. Therefore, among major tropes we will analyze voyeuristic evocation of death & suffering; a truthful representation of violence versus purported necessity of its cinematic aesthetization; intertwined notions of chance & hope as conditions of survival versus hagiographic representation of victims. The main goal is to grasp the potential of cinema for deepening our understanding of the Holocaust, the course simultaneously explores extensive & continuous cinematic production of the genre & its historical development in various European countries, to mention the impact of censorship by official ideologies in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, & Czechoslovakia during the Cold War.
Instructor(s): Bozena Shallcross Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Course requirements: film screenings, class participation, reading assignments, one class presentation, and a final project. All readings for the core texts are in English; they can be downloaded from Canvas.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 27027, CMST 32507, JWSC 29550, CMST 22507

REES 37029. Survival. 100 Units.
This course will discuss the complex experience of survival, its forms and conceptualizations. Not limited to a historical discourse, the course's content and scope are framed by modernity, beginning in the 19th century biological notion of survival through its subsequent milestone articulation by Franz Rosenzweig and concluding in the selective reading from a plethora of post-Holocaust writings. What does it mean to survive? According to those who during WWII lived on the narrow threshold between life and death and survived its precariously, survival depended on diverse rational and irrational factors such as faith (extrinsic or intrinsic), health, age, wealth, egoism, coincidence, hope, and luck that often verge on the miraculous; thus, no discursive centrality would be ascribed to any of the forms of survival under our investigation. During the course we will become familiar with historical, philosophical, and biographical accounts of survival.
Instructor(s): Bozena Shallcross Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): REES 27029, JWSC 27029

REES 39009. Balkan Folklore. 100 Units.
Vampires, fire-breathing dragons, vengeful mountain nymphs. 7/8 and other uneven dance beats, heart-rending laments, and a living epic tradition. This course is an overview of Balkan folklore from historical, political, and anthropological perspectives. We seek to understand folk tradition as a dynamic process and consider the function of different folklore genres in the imagining and maintenance of community and the socialization of the individual. We also experience this living tradition firsthand through visits of a Chicago-based folk dance ensemble, "Balkan Dance."
Instructor(s): A. Ilieva Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 30568, NEHC 20568, REES 29009, CMLT 23301, CMLT 33301, ANTH 25908, ANTH 35908
REES 39010. 20th Century Russian & South East European Emigre Literature. 100 Units.
Being alienated from myself, as painful as that may be, provides me with that exquisite distance within which perverse pleasure begins, as well as the possibility of my imagining and thinking,” writes Julia Kristeva in “Strangers to Ourselves,” the book from which this course takes its title. The authors whose works we are going to examine often alternate between nostalgia and the exhilaration of being set free into the breathless possibilities of new lives. Leaving home does not simply mean movement in space. Separated from the sensory boundaries that defined their old selves, immigrants inhabit a warped, fragmentary, disjointed time. Immigrant writers struggle for breath-speech, language, voice, the very stuff of their craft resounds somewhere else. Join us as we explore the pain, the struggle, the failure, and the triumph of emigration and exile. Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Brodsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, Nina Berberova, Julia Kristeva, Alexander Hemon, Dubravka Ugrešić, Norman Manea, Miroslav Penkov, Iljia Trojanow, Tea Obreht.
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): REES 29010, CMLT 26912, CMLT 36912

REES 39012. Returning the Gaze: The Balkans and Western Europe. 100 Units.
This course investigates the complex relationship between South East European self-representations and the imagined Western “gaze” for whose benefit the nations stage their quest for identity and their aspirations for recognition. We also think about differing models of masculinity, the figure of the gypsy as a metaphor for the national self in relation to the West, and the myths Balkans tell about themselves. We conclude by considering the role that the imperative to belong to Western Europe played in the Yugoslav wars of succession. Some possible texts/films are Ivo Andrić, Bosnian Chronicle; Aleko Konstantinov, Baj Ganyo; Emir Kusturica, Underground; and Milcho Manchevski, Before the Rain.
Instructor(s): A. Ilieva Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): NEHC 20885, REES 29012, CMLT 33201, NEHC 30885, CMLT 23201

REES 39013. The Burden of History: The Nation and Its Lost Paradise. 100 Units.
What makes it possible for the imagined communities called nations to command the emotional attachments that they do? This course considers some possible answers to Benedict Anderson’s question on the basis of material from the Balkans. We will examine the transformation of the scenario of paradise, loss, and redemption into a template for a national identity narrative through which South East European nations retell their Ottoman past. With the help of Žižek’s theory of the subject as constituted by trauma and Kant’s notion of the sublime, we will contemplate the national fixation on the trauma of loss and the dynamic between victimhood and sublimity.
Instructor(s): A. Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 23401, CMLT 33401, NEHC 30573, HIST 24005, NEHC 20573, HIST 34005, REES 29013

REES 39021. The Shadows of Living Things: The Writings of Mikhail Bulgakov. 100 Units.
What would your good do if evil did not exist, and what would the earth look like if all the shadows disappeared? After all, shadows are cast by things and people…. Do you want to strip the earth of all the trees and living things just because of your fantasy of enjoying naked light?” asks the Devil. Mikhail Bulgakov worked on his novel The Master and Margarita throughout most of his writing career, in Stalin’s Moscow. Bulgakov destroyed his manuscript, re-created it from memory, and reworked it feverishly even as his body was failing him in his battle with death. The result is an intense contemplation on the nature of good and evil, on the role of art and the ethical duty of the artist, but also a dazzling world of magic, witches, and romantic love, and an irresistible seduction into the comedic. Laughter, as shadow and light, as the subversive weapon but also as power’s whip, grounds human relation to both good and evil. Brief excursions to other texts that help us better understand Master and Margarita.
Equivalent Course(s): REES 29021, FNDL 29020

REES 39023. Returning the Gaze: The West and the Rest. 100 Units.
Aware of being observed. And judged. Inferior... Abject... Angry... Proud... This course provides insight into identity dynamics between the “West,” as the center of economic power and self-proclaimed normative humanity, and the “Rest.” as the poor, backward, volatile periphery. We investigate the relationship between South East European self-representations and the imagined Western gaze. Inherent in the act of looking at oneself through the eyes of another is the privileging of that other’s standard. We will contemplate the responses to this existential position of identifying symbolically with a normative site outside of oneself-self-consciousness, defiance, arrogance, self-exoticization-and consider how these responses have been incorporated in the texture of the national, gender, and social identities in the region. Orhan Pamuk, Ivo Andrić, Nikos Kazantzakis, Aleko Konstantinov, Emir Kusturica, Milcho Manchevski.
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 29023, NEHC 29023, HIST 23609, REES 29023, NEHC 39023, CMLT 39023, HIST 33609

REES 39024. States of Surveillance. 100 Units.
What does it feel to be watched and listened to all the time? Literary and cinematic works give us a glimpse into the experience of living under surveillance and explore the human effects of surveillance - the fraying of intimacy, fracturing sense of self, testing the limits of what it means to be human. Works from the former Soviet Union (Solzhenitsyn, Abram Tertz, Andrey Tsvyatigine), former Yugoslavia (Ivo Andrić, Danilo Kiš, Dušan Kovačević), Romania (Norman Manea, Cristian Mungiu), Bulgaria (Valeri Petrov), and Albania (Ismail Kadare).
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 29024, REES 29024, CMLT 39024
REES 39700. Reading/Research. 100 Units.
This is a specially designed course not normally offered as part of the curriculum that is arranged between a student and a faculty member.
Instructor(s): TBA. Terms Offered: Autumn,Spring,Winter
Note(s): Requires the consent of the instructor.

REES 39800. Reading/Research: Czech. 100 Units.
REES 39912. Special Topics in Advanced Russian. 100 Units.
Must complete Advanced Russian through Media or equivalent, or obtain consent of instructor. Class meets for 2 hours each week. We'll work with several topics, all of them are relevant to the general theme of “Geography and Worldview: Russian Perspective”. There will be maps, reading materials, several documentaries, clips from TV programs and other media, and feature films. Class meetings will be a combination of group discussions, short presentations, and lectures. Final - one term paper at the end (in English) based on Russian materials.
Instructor(s): Valentina Pichugin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): RUSS 29912, RUSS 39912, REES 29912

REES 43902. Colloquium: Stalinism. 100 Units.
We will explore Stalin as a personality and Stalinism as a political order, an economy, a cultural system, a set of beliefs and rituals, and a way of life. Topics include the dictator, his entourage, and his cult; decision making and the new elite; industrialization, collectivization, and the economy of shortages; revolution and conservatism; nationalism, internationalism, and ethnic cleansing; political terror, mass murder, and the Gulag; communal apartments, survival strategies, and intimate life; media and the socialist-realist dreamworld: legacies and historical consciousness. Readings include classics in the field and newest hits as well as works of fiction.
Instructor(s): E. Gilburd Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Advanced undergraduates with consent of instructor and prior coursework on 20th-C Russia or Russian Civ.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 43902

REES 43903. The Art of Healing: Medical Aesthetics in Russia & the U.S. 100 Units.
What makes a medical treatment look like it will work? What makes us feel that we are receiving good care, or that we can be cured? How are these responses shaped by the rhetorical practices of doctors, researchers, and pharmaceutical companies, by the physical appearance of hospitals, offices, and instruments, or by smells and sounds? Why does the color of a pill influence its effectiveness, and how can placebos achieve what less inert medication cannot? How do predictions of success or failure affect treatment responses? When does technology instill confidence, and when does it produce a sense of degradation? Is the doctor seen primarily as a caregiver or a scientist, and how does this affect treatment outcomes? What is the aesthetic experience of being "sick"? In this course we will consider these problems from the vantage points of a medical professional and a cultural historian, focusing on material from the United States and Soviet/post-Soviet Russia. Our methodology will combine techniques of aesthetic analysis with those of medical anthropology, history and practice.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 45100, CDIN 43903

REES 45005. History of International Cinema II: Sound Era to 1960. 100 Units.
The center of this course is film style, from the classical scene breakdown to the introduction of deep focus, stylistic experimentation, and technical innovation (sound, wide screen, location shooting). The development of a film culture is also discussed. Texts include Thompson and Bordwell's Film History: An Introduction; and works by Bazin, Belton, Sitney, and Godard. Screenings include films by Hitchcock, Welles, Rossellini, Bresson, Ozu, Antonioni, and Renoir.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Prior or concurrent registration in CMST 10100 required. Required of students majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
Note(s): CMST 28500/48500 strongly recommended
Equivalent Course(s): ARTH 38600, REES 25005, CMST 48600, ARTH 28600, ARTV 20003, ENGL 29600, CMLT 22500, CMST 28600, ENGL 48900, MAAD 18600, MAPH 33700, CMLT 32500

REES 47000. Time and Memory. 100 Units.
At the beginning of the 20th century moderns and modernists announced their break with the past and launched various artistic, philosophical, political, and social experiments that claimed to construct society and the individual anew. The machine, speed, technology, and the future were the watchwords of Futurists and other modernist groups. Revolutionary transformation on all fronts was the way forward. In the same period advances in science and technology radically changed the horizon of possibility. Yet other important artists and thinkers offered the contrasting view that the past remains alive in the present-both in individuals and in human cultures. Memory was key to the future. This seminar focuses on the second tendency by examining the work of three theorists-Henri Bergson, Walter Benjamin, Victor Shklovsky-and three literary authors-Victor Shklovsky, Virginia Woolf, and Osip Mandelshtam.
Instructor(s): Harriet Murav Terms Offered: Spring
Font Notice

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

- Times was used instead of Trajan.
- Times was used instead of Palatino.

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