

SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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<http://slavic.yale.edu>
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair

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Senior Lectors I Krystyna Illakowicz, Anastasia Selemeneva, Olha Tytarenko

Lecturer Spencer Small

FIELDS OF STUDY

The graduate program of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures values interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives on Russian, East European, and Eurasian literatures and cultures. While maintaining a foundation in the study and teaching of language and literature, the department sees both as embedded in a global context and a broad network of cultural production. Students are encouraged to develop their primary fields of study as well as meaningful connections with other disciplines, including comparative literature, history of art, film and media studies, history and the social sciences, gender and sexuality studies, the environmental humanities, and the digital humanities.

The department's primary doctoral track is the Ph.D. in Slavic and Eurasian Literatures and Cultures, with a strong emphasis on transnational and transmedial approaches. The department also offers a combined degree in Slavic and Eurasian Literatures and Cultures and Film and Media Studies (see below). By special arrangement, the department will consider individualized ad hoc programs with other departments. Students are encouraged to complement their research and teaching interests with one of Yale's certificate programs, such as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Film and Media Studies; Translation Studies; Environmental Humanities; or the MacMillan Center's Councils on African, European, Latin American and Iberian, and Middle East Studies.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

Course Requirements All graduate students are required to take sixteen courses in their first two years of graduate study, which must include RUSS 851, Proseminar:

Theory and Methods. In addition to this one mandatory course, students must fulfill the following distributional requirements through graduate-level coursework:

- Minimum of one course on Slavic and/or Eurasian literature or culture before the eighteenth century
- Minimum of one course on eighteenth-century Slavic and/or Eurasian literature or culture
- Minimum of two courses on nineteenth-century Slavic and/or Eurasian literature or culture
- Minimum of two courses on twentieth-century Slavic and/or Eurasian literature or culture
- Minimum of one course on twenty-first-century Slavic and/or Eurasian literature or culture
- Minimum of two (but no more than four out of the required sixteen) courses outside the Slavic department.

Students who have done graduate-level coursework elsewhere may petition for up to three courses taken at another institution to count toward degree requirements, and may use any course slots freed through prior study to take additional elective courses at Yale. Language courses do not count toward the required sixteen courses.

Language Requirements Entering students are expected to have sufficient knowledge of Russian to allow for satisfactory work at the graduate level and are required to pass a departmental proficiency examination in Russian. Students must also demonstrate competence in a second foreign language, as soon as possible or by the beginning of the fifth term of study. Students may choose to pursue proficiency in a second East European or Eurasian language; in a language useful for broader access to scholarship; or in any language relevant for well-motivated comparative work. Competence in a second foreign language may be demonstrated through coursework or a reading examination.

Minor Field Students are responsible for developing a minor field of specialization in one of the following:

1. a second language or literature;
2. visual culture or one of the other arts;
3. a topic in intellectual history or a specific interdisciplinary approach; or
4. another discipline relevant to their primary interests.

To demonstrate competency in their chosen minor field, students are required to submit a minor field portfolio no later than September 1 of their third year of graduate study.

Qualifying Paper Students must submit a qualifying paper (7000–9000 words) no later than September 1 of their third year. The paper, which in many cases will be a revised version of a seminar paper, should be developed in consultation with a faculty adviser.

Comprehensive and Qualifying Examinations In early October of their third year, students will take a comprehensive examination on Russian literature and culture from the nineteenth century to the present. The comprehensive is split into two six-

hour take-home exams, to be completed several days apart. This exam is meant to test the students' knowledge of the broad scope of Russian literature and culture, as well as their ability to analyze various kinds of cultural products and position specific works within their historical, cultural, and critical contexts. Students should use the departmental reading list as a guide in preparing for this exam, but they are also welcome to draw from beyond the list in their answers. In early December of their third year, students will also take a qualifying examination based on two specialized reading lists. This exam is a one-hour oral exam with twenty-five minutes allotted to each list, evaluated by two faculty advisers and the Director of Graduate Studies. The exam is meant to test the student's knowledge of two specific areas of study, which often serve as important preparation for the development of a dissertation topic.

Pre-Prospectus Colloquium and Prospectus Presentation In early February of their third year, students will present a preliminary version of their dissertation prospectus (the pre-prospectus) at a one-hour colloquium attended by all Slavic ladder faculty. At the colloquium, students will present a brief introduction to their prospective dissertation, which will be followed by discussion and feedback. After the pre-prospectus colloquium, students will ask two faculty members to serve on their dissertation committee. These committee members will oversee the revision of the preliminary prospectus into a final draft (approximately 5000 words plus a detailed bibliography). In early April, students will present the final version of their dissertation prospectus to all students and faculty in the department. The prospectus presentation will take one hour, beginning with a brief introduction by the student and followed by discussion.

Dissertation The dissertation committee should include at least three faculty members: a chair (who must be a ladder faculty member from Slavic), one additional ladder faculty member from Slavic, and one faculty member either from Slavic, another department, or outside Yale. Students can petition to add additional committee members. Students must determine the constitution of their committee by October 1 of their fourth year. The dissertation is the culmination of the student's work in the doctoral program and an important emblem of professional competence, intellectual rigor, and academic potential. As such, it should demonstrate mastery of a defined field of research and should articulate an original and substantive contribution to knowledge. While all dissertations should have clearly defined empirical and theoretical stakes and be grounded in appropriate methodological choices, each project will approach its central questions in necessarily distinct ways: some based more heavily in archival research, others shaped more profoundly by theoretical discussions, and still others determined by entirely different disciplinary or interdisciplinary demands.

First-Chapter Talk During the spring semester of the fourth year, students will deliver a forty-five-minute talk on their first chapter to the entire department. Students will revise their chapter after the talk, submitting a final draft to their dissertation committee no later than May 1.

Teaching All graduate students are expected to teach for a minimum of four semesters, typically in the third and fourth years of study. Teaching is required to receive additional sixth-year funding. Students are usually assigned at least two semesters of language teaching and two semesters of literature/culture teaching.

Combined Ph.D. Program with Film and Media Studies

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures also offers, in conjunction with the Film and Media Studies Program, a combined Ph.D. in Slavic and Eurasian Literatures and Cultures and Film and Media Studies. For further details, see Film and Media Studies in this bulletin and the department's website. Applicants to the combined program must indicate on their application that they are applying both to Film and Media Studies and to Slavic Languages and Literatures. All documentation within the application should include this information.

MASTER'S DEGREES

M.Phil. See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

M.A. The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures does not admit students for the terminal M.A. degree, nor does it award an M.A. en route to the Ph.D. degree. If, however, a student admitted for the Ph.D. leaves the program prior to completion of the doctoral degree, the student may be eligible to receive a terminal master's degree. The student must have completed at least fifteen term courses in Slavic and/or Eurasian literature and culture, chosen in consultation with the DGS. A grade of Honors in at least two term courses and an average of High Pass in the remaining courses must be attained. Candidates must pass a departmental proficiency examination in Russian, and prove competency in a second foreign language.

More information is available on the department's website, <http://slavic.yale.edu>.

RUSS 5851a, Proseminar in Slavic Literature Marijeta Bozovic

Introduction to the graduate study of Russian literature. Topics include literary theory, methodology, introduction to the profession.

RUSS 6609a / CPLT 5490a, Memory and Memoir in Russian Culture Jinyi Chu

How do we remember and forget? How does memory transform into narrative? Why do we read and write memoirs and autobiography? What can they tell us about the past? How do we analyze the roles of the narrator, the author, and the protagonist? How should we understand the ideological tensions between official historiography and personal reminiscences, especially in twentieth-century Russia? This course aims to answer these questions through close readings of a few cultural celebrities' memoirs and autobiographical writings that are also widely acknowledged as the best representatives of twentieth-century Russian prose. Along the way, we read literary texts in dialogue with theories of memory, historiography, and narratology. Students acquire the theoretical apparatus that will enable them to analyze the complex ideas, e.g., cultural memory and trauma, historicity and narrativity, and fiction and nonfiction. Students acquire an in-depth knowledge of the major themes of twentieth-century Russian history – e.g., empire, revolution, war, Stalinism, and exilic experience – as well as increased skills in the analysis of literary texts. Students with knowledge of Russian are encouraged to read in the original. All readings are available in English.

RUSS 7670b / E&RS 618b, Empire in Russian Culture Edyta Bojanowska

Interdisciplinary exploration of Russia's modern imperial culture, especially of the nineteenth century. How did this culture reflect, shape, and challenge imperial reality? How did the multiethnic and multiconfessional empire figure in negotiations of Russian national identity? Other topics include versions of Russian and Soviet

Orientalism and colonialism, representations of peripheral regions, relations between ethnic groups, and the role of gender and race in Russia's imperial imagination. Materials combine fiction, poetry, travel writing, painting, and film, with readings in postcolonial studies, history, political science, and anthropology. Most readings are assigned in translation, although students with a knowledge of Russian are encouraged to read the primary texts in the original; the language of seminar discussions will be English. Students with an interest in comparative studies of empire are welcome.

SLAV 6120a / E&RS 6900a / FILM 6127a / RSEE 6120a / UKRN 6120a, Cinematic Ukraine: Culture, Identity, and Memory Olha Tytarenko

This course traces the evolution of Ukrainian cinema from the avant-garde experiments of the 1920s to the vibrant post-2014 film resurgence. Exploring themes of national identity, historical memory, and resistance to political and cultural oppression, we analyze how filmmakers have shaped Ukraine's self-conception through film. Topics include the poetic cinema of the 1960s, post-Soviet transition films, and contemporary works responding to war and cultural sovereignty. Students engage critically with cinematic language, narrative structures, and visual aesthetics while incorporating perspectives from postcolonial theory and memory studies. The course features guest lectures from Ukrainian film directors and hands-on cinematographic workshops. Weekly thematic units pair films with historical and theoretical readings, offering a dynamic exploration of Ukraine's place in global cinema and cultural history.

SLAV 6550a / E&RS 6000a / RSEE 6550a / UKRN 6550a, Reading Multicultural Ukraine Uilleam Blacker

The lands that make up today's Ukraine have, throughout history, been part of numerous empires and states, from the Romanov and Habsburg Empire to the Soviet Union via Poland, Romania, Hungary and more. These territories, where states come and go and borders shift, have been inhabited by a diverse array of peoples speaking and writing in multiple languages. Writers here wrote in Ukrainian, Russian, Yiddish, Polish, German, Crimean Tatar, and other languages. These writers are usually studied as part of separate national literatures, yet in many cases they held multiple identities, wrote in two or more languages, and belonged to more than one cultural sphere. This course views Ukraine as a richly complex region that challenges the "national literature" framework and pushes us to examine the ways in which supposedly separate literary traditions overlap and hybridize in intricate and fascinating ways. Students explore Ukraine from the Carpathians to Crimea, via Kyiv and Kharkiv, through the works of its writers, reading the work of poets at the peak of their national canons alongside forgotten and marginalized voices. All readings and class discussions are in English. Undergraduate students must obtain the permission of the instructor prior to enrolling.