RUSSIAN (Div. I)

Chair, Professor JULIE CASSIDAY

Professors: CASSIDAY, GOLSTEIN**, VAN DE STADT. Assistant Professor: ALIEV. Teaching Associate: BUDNIKOVA.

LANGUAGE STUDY

The department provides language instruction to enable students to acquire all five linguistic skills: understanding, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. Russian 101-W88-102 covers the basics of Russian grammar. Russian 151 through 252 offer additional instruction in grammar and provide extensive practice in reading and conversation.

STUDY ABROAD

The department strongly encourages students who want fluency in Russian to spend a semester or year studying in Russia or one of the former Soviet republics. Students generally apply to one of several approved foreign study programs. Russian 152 or the equivalent and junior standing are normally prerequisite for study abroad. You can find general study away guidelines for Russian here.

LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN TRANSLATION

The department regularly offers courses on Russian literature, culture, and politics in English for those students who have little or no knowledge of Russian, but who wish to become acquainted with the major achievements in Russian literary and cultural history.

THE CERTIFICATE IN RUSSIAN

To enhance a student’s educational and professional profiles, the Certificate in Russian offers a useful tool for using the language in a wide variety of disciplines. The sequence of language and culture courses is designed to supplement a student’s major at Williams by enabling the student to expand his or her knowledge in a related field.

Students who enter Williams with previous training in Russian may substitute more advanced courses for all the 100-level courses; they can also be exempted from up to two of the required courses. Thus, in order to earn a certificate, a student must take no fewer than five courses (including three courses in Russian) after enrolling at Williams. The student must achieve proficiency at the level of a B in RUSS 251 or the equivalent.

Required Courses
101
102
151
152

Electives
—at least one course on Russian cultural history
—at least one course on Russian intellectual, political, or social history, or post-Soviet economics

THE MAJOR

The Russian major offers students an interdisciplinary approach to the intellectual and cultural history of Russia and the former Soviet republics. Students complete the major by combining courses in Russian language and literature with courses in history, political science, music, economics, and art. The major requires a minimum of ten courses of which at least six must be conducted in Russian, at least two must be at the 300-level, and one at the 400-level. In addition, students may take up to four related courses offered by other departments and taught in English.

Examples of appropriate courses in other departments are:

History 140 Fin-de Siècle Russia: Cultural Splendor, Imperial Decay
History 240 Muscovy and the Russian Empire
History 241 The Rise of the Soviet Union
History 440 Reform, Revolution, Terror: Russia, 1900-1939
Sociology 332 Communism and its Aftermath

Students selecting the major must typically complete Russian 152 or the equivalent by the end of the junior year. Majors will normally be expected to take the 400-level seminar offered in their senior year, even if they have previously taken another version of it. Russian majors may receive major credit for summer language study (in consultation with the department) and for as many as four courses taken during study abroad.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN RUSSIAN

At the beginning of the second semester of the senior year, students may nominate themselves to candidacy for the degree with honors. By the end of the junior year at the latest, however, they will have established in consultation with the department their qualifications for embarking on the project, the pattern of study to be followed, and the standards of performance.

Students earn a degree with honors by submitting a senior thesis (493-W31-494) of honors quality.

RUSS 101(F) Elementary Russian (D)

An introduction to contemporary standard Russian, this course provides opportunities to acquire basic proficiency in all five language skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—through immersion, intensive use of authentic materials, and a strong emphasis on the spoken word in all class activities. Greater emphasis is placed on writing in the second semester. For students who already know some Russian, consultation with the department is required before registering for any Russian language course in the sequence 101 through 252. As an EDI course, RUSS 101 focuses on the relationship between language and culture, exploring how different linguistic contexts and practices arise from and contribute to cultural difference.

Class Format: the class meets five times a week
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, tests, and a final exam
Extra Info: students registered for RUSS 101-102 are required to attend and to pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (RUSS 101 and 102) are taken
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
RUSS 102(S) Elementary Russian (D)
An introduction to contemporary standard Russian, this course provides opportunities to acquire basic proficiency in all five language skills—
listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—through immersion, intensive use of authentic materials, and a strong emphasis on
the spoken word in all class activities. Greater emphasis is placed on writing in the second semester. For students who already know some Russian,
consultation with the department is required before registering for any Russian language course in the sequence 101 through 252. As an EDI course,
RUSS 102 focuses on the relationship between language and culture, exploring how different linguistic contexts and practices arise from and
contribute to cultural difference.
Class Format: the class meets five times a week
Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance, active class participation, completion of homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam
Extra Info: students registered for RUSS 101-102 are required to attend and to pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit
granted only if both semesters (RUSS 101 and 102) are taken
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Exploring Diversity

Spring 2016
LEC Section: 01 MWF 10:00 10:50  TR 09:55 11:10 Instructor: Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 151(F) Continuing Russian (D)
This course develops all five skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—for students who have completed at least one
year of college-level Russian. Coursework includes a systematic review of Russian grammar, as well as an examination of a variety of authentic
materials from Russian and Soviet culture, current events, and daily life. Intermediate students will concentrate on expanding their vocabulary, while
more advanced students will focus on reading and writing about unabridged texts in Russian. Students who complete the yearlong sequence of RUSS
151 and RUSS 152 should be well prepared to undertake study abroad in Russia and are encouraged to do so. Each year this course is custom
designed to meet the needs of those students who enroll, so that both intermediate and advanced students can benefit from taking RUSS 151 and/or
RUSS 152 more than once, which may be done with the permission of the instructor. As an EDI course, RUSS 151 focuses on the relationship
between language and culture, exploring how different linguistic contexts and practices arise from and contribute to cultural difference.
Class Format: the class meets four hours a week, three with the professor and the fourth with the Russian Teaching Associate (time to be arranged)
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, and a final exam
Prerequisites: completion of at least one year of college-level Russian (RUSS 101-102) or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 6-10
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Exploring Diversity

Fall 2015
LEC Section: 01 MWF 10:00 10:50  TR 09:55 11:10 Instructor: Julie Cassiday

RUSS 152(S) Continuing Russian (D)
This course develops all five skills—listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and culture—for students who have completed at least one
year of college-level Russian. Coursework includes a systematic review of Russian grammar, as well as an examination of a variety of authentic
materials from Russian and Soviet culture, current events, and daily life. Intermediate students will concentrate on expanding their vocabulary, while
more advanced students will focus on reading and writing about unabridged texts in Russian. Students who complete the yearlong sequence of RUSS
151 and RUSS 152 should be well prepared to undertake study abroad in Russia and are encouraged to do so. Each year this course is custom
designed to meet the needs of those students who enroll, so that both intermediate and advanced students can benefit from taking RUSS 151 and/or
RUSS 152 more than once, which may be done with the permission of the instructor. As an EDI course, RUSS 152 focuses on the relationship
between language and culture, exploring how different linguistic contexts and practices arise from and contribute to cultural difference.
Class Format: the class meets four hours a week, three with the professor and the fourth with the Russian Teaching Associate (time to be arranged)
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, and a final exam
Prerequisites: RUSS 151 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 6-10
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Exploring Diversity

Spring 2016
LEC Section: 01 TBA Instructor: Baktygul Aliev

RUSS 203(F) Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature in Translation
Crosslistings: RUSS 203/COMP 203
Primary Crosslisting
This course introduces students to landmark texts of 19th century Russian literature, exploring their aesthetic, social and philosophical implications
and significance. We will begin by reading Pushkin, Lermontov and Gogol's innovative realist variations on pre-existing Romantic literary tropes.
We will then trace how these initial themes and ideas are expanded upon and given new dimensions by subsequent "giants" of Russian realism:
Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. Additional literary and ideological issues of the century will be addressed in the works of Turgenev and Goncharov, two
other representative authors of the "Golden Age". Finally, we will turn to the works of Chekhov, which accentuate ambiguity and uncertainty within
the realist method of portrayal, thus anticipating modernist sensibilities of the 20th century. Knowledge of Russian is not required; all course readings
will be in English.
Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: participation, short written responses, an oral presentation, research paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Preferences: students majoring or considering a major in Russian or Comparative literature
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Other Attributes:
GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Fall 2015
LEC Section: 01 MR 02:35 03:50  Instructor: Baktygul Aliev

RUSS 204 From Revolution to Perestroika
Crosslistings: RUSS 204/COMP 204

Primary Crosslisting
Whether despite or precisely because of the enormous historical and political turbulence in twentieth-century Russia, the intensity of its cultural life was equally unprecedented. Over the past century, Russian literature went through a number of major stages that defined its poetics and ideology: the Silver Age and its decline; the Revolution, the Civil War and the rise of Socialist Realism; the Second World War; the Thaw and de-Stalinization; another wave of tightening of the regime during the stagnation period; the dissident movement and the Cold War; and finally, the dissolution of the Soviet empire and the rise of Russian post-modern and post-Soviet aesthetics. As we discuss these and other topics of twentieth-century Russian culture, we will explore a broad array of genres, including poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, the novel, theater, and film. Our readings will include works by Block, Babel, Bulgakov, Olesha, Zamyatin, Ahmatova, Shalamov, Erofeev, Petrushevskaya, Pelevin, and other representative authors. All readings and discussions will be in English.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: participation (25%); blog posts (20%); midterm (15); term paper (20%); final exam (20%)
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Expected Class Size: 12
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Other Attributes:
GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Not Offered Academic Year 2016
SEM Instructor: Yuliya Ladygina

RUSS 206(S) Topics in Russian Culture: Feasting and Fasting in Russian History
This course will use the methodology of food history to explore the broader historical, economic, and artistic conditions that gave rise to Russian culture. We will examine culinary practice as well as the social context of cooking and eating in Russia. In order to elucidate the important interplay between culture and cuisine, we will discuss such issues as the domestic roles of women and serfs, the etiquette of the table, the role of drinking and temperance movements, and the importance of feasts and fasts in the Russian Orthodox Church calendar. Short stories, memoirs, and cookery books will provide insight into class and gender differences, cooking techniques, and the specific tastes that characterize Russian cuisine. This class will present Russian culture from a predominantly domestic point of view that originates from the wooden spoon as much as from the scepter. Knowledge of Russian is not required.

Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, bi-weekly response papers, one 6- to 8-page paper, midterm and final exams; participation in a communal feast
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Preferences: students who can demonstrate an interest in Russian culture
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 19
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Other Attributes:
EXPE Experiential Education Courses
GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Spring 2016
LEC Section: 01 MR 02:35 03:50  Instructor: Darra Goldstein

RUSS 208 Twentieth-Century Russian Art and the Birth of Abstraction
Crosslistings: RUSS 208/ARTH 266

Primary Crosslisting
Such revolutionary artistic movements as Cubo-Futurism, Suprematism, and Constructivism profoundly influenced the development of twentieth-century art throughout the Western world—just as the 1917 Russian Revolution upset the world’s political balance. This course will investigate Russian art within a cultural framework and explore the relationship between artistic production and politics. We will begin with a brief overview of important developments in Russian art that prefigured the twentieth-century artistic revolution: the introduction of icons from Byzantium, the founding of St. Petersburg and the rise of Western-style portraiture, and the fin-de-siècle movements that united painting with music and ballet. However, the focus of the course will be 1910-1930, when radical innovation was the order of the day and revolutionary ideas sparked entirely new conceptions of art. We will then look at the Socialist Realist style of the Stalin era, Soviet dissident art and Moscow conceptualism, ending the semester with an exploration of current trends in post-Soviet Russian art.

Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, weekly response papers; one 6- to 8-page paper and a final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 19
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1

Not Offered Academic Year 2016
LEC Instructor: Darra Goldstein

RUSS 210T Tolstoy: The Major Novels (W)
Crosslistings: RUSS 210/COMP 207

Primary Crosslisting
This tutorial will focus on Lev Tolstoy's four novelistic masterpieces—War and Peace, Anna Karenina, Resurrection, and Hadji Murat—placing them in their appropriate historical, social, and philosophical context. For each week of class, students will read a significant portion of a novel by Tolstoy, as well as a selection of secondary literature taken from those works that inspired the author, reactions that arose at the time of the novel's publication, and scholarship that seeks to explain the power and enduring significance of these novels. Students will meet with the professor in pairs, with one student writing a five-page paper for each class session and the other student providing a critique of the paper. For those students without Russian language skills, all works will be read in English translation. Those students who have completed at least three years of college-level Russian may take the course in Russian.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on completion of weekly reading and writing assignments and active discussion during tutorial sessions
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: for students taking the tutorial in ENGL: none; for students taking the tutorial in RUSS: either RUSS 252 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Preferences: Russian, Comparative Literature, and Literary Studies majors
Enrollment Limit: 10
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Writing Intensive

Not Offered Academic Year 2016
TUT Instructor: Julie Cassiday

RUSS 213(F) From Putin to Pussy Riot: Discourses of Post-Soviet Gender (D)
Crosslistings: RUSS 213/GBST 213/WGSS 214/COMP 257

Primary Crosslisting
Before 1991, Russians typically appeared in the Western media as macho villains in the nuclear arms race or a James Bond film. Today, however, news from the Former Soviet Union often sounds like a bizarrely gendered media stunt. For example, Russian president Vladimir Putin has been photographed topless while fishing on vacation in Siberia, while the feminist punk-rock collective Pussy Riot protested Putin's regime by performing in day-glo balaclavas in Russia's largest cathedral. This course examines related post-Soviet media spectacles in the attempt to understand the Western press's fascination with Russia, as well as key social trends defining the post-Soviet era. We will focus on the ways in which gender and sexuality have come to mark post-Soviet culture and discourse as different from those in the West. In addition to Vladimir Putin and Pussy Riot, we will consider the so-called crisis of masculinity in post-Soviet Russia, the trafficking of women from the Former Soviet Union, the Ukrainian feminist collective Femen, the Eurovision Song Context, and the 2013 legislation in the Russian Federation banning homosexual propaganda among minors. We will try to understand how concepts, such as feminism, tolerance of sexual minorities, and performed gender, have been deemed dangerous in the post-Soviet East at the very time they have attained normative status in the West. This course is part of the Exploring Diversity Initiative because it engages in cultural comparison, explores how power and privilege are allocated differently in post-Soviet societies than in Western liberal democracies, and engages in the critical theorization of post-Soviet culture and discourse.

All readings will be in English.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in class discussions, response papers based on assignments for class, 2 papers (3-5 pages each) on relevant current events in the post-Soviet world, and a final project
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 15
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under RUSS or COMP; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under GBST or WGSS
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Exploring Diversity
Other Attributes:
GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Fall 2015
SEM Section: 01 TF 01:10 02:25 Instructor: Julie Cassiday

RUSS 214(S) Contemporary Russian Culture and Politics
Crosslistings: RUSS 214/PSCI 294/GBST 214/COMP 220

Primary Crosslisting
This course explores contemporary Russian society and politics through an analysis of literary works and films of post-Soviet Russia. We will study the social and political settings of particular plots and opportunities not only in fiction but in the real lives of Russians. In addition to novels and short stories by some of the best contemporary Russian authors, we will read scholarly materials explaining the social and political trends characteristic of Russia's post-socialist transformation under Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin's leadership. All course readings will be in English. Knowledge of Russian is not required.

Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: short response essays; final exam; class participation
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Preferences: students majoring in Russian, Global Studies, Political Science, History
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 15
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under RUSS; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under GBST or PSCI
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
PRLH Nutrition, Food Security + Environmental Health

Spring 2016
LEC Section: 01 MR 01:10 02:25 Instructor: Baktygul Aliev

RUSS 248T(S) Altering States: Postsoviet Paradoxes of Identity and Difference (D) (W)
Crosslistings: SOC 248/GBST 247/RUSS 248
Secondary Crosslisting
Critics and apologists of Soviet-style socialism alike agree that the Soviet ideology was deeply egalitarian. Putting aside for a moment the very reasonable doubts about how justified this perception actually was, it is still worth asking, how did people who lived in the world in which differences in rank, class, gender or ethnicity were not supposed to matter, make sense of their postsocialist condition, one in which new forms of difference emerged, and old ones assumed greater prominence? And how do these encounters with difference impact current events, such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict or the persistent tensions between East and West Germans? This tutorial will examine new dilemmas through ethnographic studies and documentary films that aim to capture in real time the process of articulating and grappling with newly discovered divides. We will focus especially closely on Russia, but will also read studies on East Germany, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Hungary. This course fulfills the EDI requirement by exploring comparatively the ways in which people in different countries made sense of the social, cultural and political heterogeneity of the postsocialist condition.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: 5-page paper every other week; comments on the partner's paper in alternate weeks
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors
Enrollment Limit: 10
Expected Class Size: 10
Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under SOC or GBST; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under RUSS
Distributional Requirements:
Division 2
Exploring Diversity
Writing Intensive

Spring 2016
TUT Section: T1 TBA Instructor: Olga Shevchenko

RUSS 251(F) Continuing Russian (D)
The same course as RUSS 151 but for students at the advanced level. See RUSS 151/152 for full course description. As an EDI course, RUSS 251 focuses on the relationship between language and culture, exploring how different linguistic contexts and practices arise from and contribute to cultural difference.
Class Format: the class meets four hours a week, three with the professor and the fourth with the Russian Teaching Associate (time to be arranged)
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, and a final exam
Prerequisites: RUSS 152 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 4-6
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Exploring Diversity

Fall 2015
LEC Section: 01 TBA Instructor: Janneke van de Stadt

RUSS 252(S) Continuing Russian (D)
The same course as RUSS 152 but for students at the advanced level. See RUSS 151/152 for full course description. As an EDI course, RUSS 252 focuses on the relationship between language and culture, exploring how different linguistic contexts and practices arise from and contribute to cultural difference.
Class Format: the class meets four hours a week, three with the professor and the fourth with the Russian Teaching Associate (time to be arranged)
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, completion of all assignments, quizzes, and a final exam
Prerequisites: RUSS 251 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 4-6
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Exploring Diversity

Spring 2016
LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 11:50 Instructor: Baktygul Aliev

RUSS 305 Dostoevsky and His Age
Crosslistings: RUSS 305/COMP 305
Primary Crosslisting
This course examines the life and works of Fyodor Dostoevsky in the context of Western intellectual history. Readings include Dostoevsky's highly influential novella Notes from Underground, his first major novel Crime and Punishment, and his masterpiece The Brother Karamazov. Over the course of the semester, we will discuss Dostoevsky's age and society, examining the larger trends and problems reflected in his works: the slums of St. Petersburg with their prostitutes, beggars, and moneylenders; widespread demands for social and political reform; psychological, philosophical, and religious debate. All readings will be in English.
Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: ability to complete lengthy reading assignments, class participation, three short papers, and final synthetic assignment
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 20
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1
Other Attributes:
GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

Not Offered Academic Year 2016
LEC Instructor: Julie Cassiday

RUSS 306(S) Tolstoy and His Age
Crosslistings: RUSS 306/COMP 306
Primary Crosslisting
This course will examine the life and works of the great Russian writer Lev Tolstoy in the context of Western intellectual history. Readings will include Tolstoy's two major novels, War and Peace and Anna Karenina, as well as a number of shorter works, such as The Kreutzer Sonata and
Hadji Murat. We will also examine some of Tolstoy's aesthetic and didactic works. Ultimately, we will develop an understanding of the writer's environment and his impact on the numerous social movements calling for change in the second half of the nineteenth century. *All readings will be in English.*

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, 3 short papers, and a final research project

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** None

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Distributional Requirements:**
- Division 1

**Other Attributes:**
- GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

**Spring 2016**

**LEC Section:** 01 TF 02:35 - 03:50  Instructor: Julie Cassiday

**RUSS 331T The Brothers Karamazov (W)**

**Crosslistings:** RUSS 331/COMP 331/ENGL 371

**Primary Crosslisting**

Widely hailed as one of the greatest novels ever written, Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* contains a series of enigmas, not the least of which is precisely who murdered the Karamazov father. In addition to exploring the shared guilt of all four of the brothers Karamazov in the crime of patricide, Dostoevsky poses the most probing questions of his day: Are families tied together merely by blood or by deeper spiritual bonds? Is religious faith possible in an age of reason, science, and technology? Can man's earthly laws ever carry out divine justice? Is humanity prepared to bear the burden of responsibility that comes with freedom? This tutorial will spend an entire semester exploring Dostoevsky's masterwork, and we will read a variety of secondary sources alongside *The Brothers Karamazov*, including history, philosophy, and literary theory. Our goal will be to understand Dostoevsky's answers to these so-called "accursed questions" through the unique artistic form of *The Brothers Karamazov.*

**Class Format:** tutorial

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on completion of weekly reading and writing assignments, as well as active engagement during tutorial sessions

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** at least one 200-level literature class

**Enrollment Preferences:** students majoring or considering a major in Russian, Comparative Literature, or English

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributional Requirements:**
- Division 1
- Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**
- JLST Interdepartmental Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2016*

**TUT Instructor:** Julie Cassiday

**RUSS 343 Spectacles on His Nose and Autumn on his Heart: The Oeuvre of Isaac Babel (D) (W)**

**Crosslistings:** RUSS 343/COMP 343/JWST 343/GBST 343

**Primary Crosslisting**

Known alternately as "master of the short story" and "Russian Maupassant," Isaac Babel was not only one of the most celebrated and intriguing authors of early Soviet Russia, but also a cultural figure of profound national and international significance. For a number of reasons (political, aesthetic, professional, ethical) Babel was not prolific and this will allow us to read almost all of his creative output, something we rarely get to do in the course of a single semester. Babel's writing is extremely varied—it includes sketches, journalistic prose, short stories, plays, movie scripts, one unfinished novel—and richly intertextual. This will afford us the opportunity to read the work of some of his contemporaries and predecessors, from both Russia and abroad, with whom he fashioned brilliant literary conversations, among them Guy de Maupassant, Anton Chekhov, Sholem Aleichem, and Ivan Turgenev. Babel saw self-definition as the core of his writing and as an EDI offering, this course will ask students to reflect on what it meant to be a Russian, a Jew, and a non-party author—an outsider, insider, and problematic hybrid rolled into one—in the highly unsettled, and unsettling, 1920s and 1930s. *All course readings will be in translation, but students are highly encouraged to read in the original (Russian, French, Yiddish) whenever possible.*

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, frequent short writing assignments, a final project, and an oral presentation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** Russian and Comparative Literature majors, Jewish Studies and Global Studies concentrators

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under RUSS or COMP; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under JWST or GBST

**Distributional Requirements:**
- Division 1
- Exploring Diversity
- Writing Intensive

**Other Attributes:**
- GBST Russian + Eurasian Studies Electives

*Not Offered Academic Year 2016*

**SEM Instructor:** Janneke van de Stadt

**RUSS 401(F) Depiction of Politically Radical Youth in Contemporary Russian Literature**

This course is devoted to a close reading and analysis of novels, published since 2000 by young authors, portraying rebellious characters who challenge the political and social order of contemporary Russia. We will examine works by Zakhár Prilepin, Sergei Shargunov, and co-authors Aleksandr Garros and Aleksei Evdokimov, which explore the mindset of Russia's rebellious youth. Studying the fictionalized portraits of young people who join various ultra-radical youth movements in Russia will allow us to explore their beliefs and guiding motifs, as they are presented in these novels. We will learn to understand the youth subculture's language, which contains slang and obscenities. In order to contextualize our interpretation, we will discuss the relevant media coverage (the press, TV, radio) of the events (demonstrations, street riots, clashes with police) and
public figures (biographies, speeches and statements) referred to in the novels. Since readings and discussion will be in Russian, attention will be paid to questions of Russian grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, as they occur.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: participation, short essays, brief oral presentations
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: RUSS 252 or the permission of instructor
Enrollment Preferences: Russian majors
Expected Class Size: 2-4
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1

Fall 2015
SEM Section: 01 TF 02:35 03:50 Instructor: Baktygul Aliev

RUSS 493(F) Senior Thesis: Russian
Russian senior thesis.
Class Format: independent study
Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)
may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1

Fall 2015
HON Section: 01 TBA Instructor: Julie Cassiday

RUSS 494(S) Senior Thesis: Russian
Russian senior thesis.
Class Format: independent study
Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)
may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1

Spring 2016
HON Section: 01 TBA Instructor: Julie Cassiday

RUSS 497(F) Independent Study: Russian
Russian independent study.
Class Format: independent study
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1

Fall 2015
IND Section: 01 TBA Instructor: Julie Cassiday

RUSS 498(S) Independent Study: Russian
Russian independent study.
Class Format: independent study
Distributional Requirements:
Division 1

Spring 2016
IND Section: 01 TBA Instructor: Julie Cassiday