Colby

RUSSIAN

In the Department of German and Russian.

Chair, *Associate Professor Arne Koch (German)*
Professor Julie de Sherbinin; Assistant Professor Elena Monastireva-Ansdell; Faculty Fellow Amanda Murphy; Language Assistant Tatiana Tsay

The major emphasizes Russian language, literature, and film in order that students develop a broad understanding of Russian culture in the past and the present. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities on the campus, including guest lectures, discussion group meetings, films, weekly Russian-table dinners or Russian teas, and an annual program of cultural events.

Students majoring in Russian language and culture are expected to study in Russia for at least one semester. Instructors advise beginning students carefully about January, summer, and semester programs. The Colby in St. Petersburg program offers students highly individualized study of Russian language, literature, and history, a full cultural program, and residence with Russian families.

Requirements for the Major in Russian Language and Culture

1. A minimum of seven courses (three or four credits) numbered above Russian 127 in the Department of German and Russian, including Russian 426 or 428, and at least one course each in 19th- and 20th-century Russian literature or film in English translation (chosen from 231, 232, 237).
2. One course in pre 20th-century Russian history and one course in 20th-century Russian history (usually History 227 and 228).
3. A seminar in Russian literature, conducted entirely in Russian (Russian 426, 428).

The point scale for retention of the major applies to all courses offered toward the major. No requirements for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Requirements for the Minor in Russian Language and Literature

1. Four introductory Russian language courses: Russian 125, 126, 127, 128.
2. Two courses in Russian culture in English translation: one course in 19th-century literature and one course in 20th-century literature or film (chosen from Russian 231, 232, 237, 242).
3. One course in Russian literature in the original (chosen from Russian 325, 326, 425, 426, 428).

Note: In special circumstances, course substitutions for major and minor requirements may be made after extensive consultation with Russian program staff.

Russian majors and minors who are unable to study in Russia for a semester are strongly encouraged to enroll in one or more of the Jan Plan courses in St. Petersburg.
Russian majors and minors should broaden their study through courses related to Russian in other departments, particularly courses in history and government.

Course Offerings

RU113j The Literature and Art of St. Petersburg In St. Petersburg, Russia. Students read Pushkin, Dostoevsky, and other major St. Petersburg writers and learn about the city's art and architecture in classroom lectures and museum visits. Theater and concert performances are included; residence is with a Russian family. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Russian required. Nongraded. Cost in 2012: $3,200. Required meetings on campus in November and December. Early registration required. *Three credit hours.*

RU114j Russia's Transition Economy In St. Petersburg, Russia. Daily class lectures and planned site visits introduce students to the Soviet centralized economy and its evolution since the 1950s. Topics include militarization, industrialization, collectivization, budgets and taxation, inflation and currency reforms, banks, investment, the new Russian entrepreneur, stock markets, the oligarchs, and "natural" monopolies. Cultural program included; residence is with a Russian family. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Russian required. Nongraded. Cost in 2011: $3,000. Required meetings on campus in November and December. Early registration required. *Three credit hours.*

RU115j Russian Ethnography In St. Petersburg, Russia. Class lectures and discussions, field trips to the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography and to the Russian Ethnographical Museum, and day excursions outside the city introduce students to many of the Russian Federation's minority ethnic groups, including the indigenous peoples of Siberia, Russia's northern peoples, Jews, Cossacks, and others. Lectures will contrast tsarist policy to Soviet ethnic policy of the 20th century. Cultural program included; residence is with a Russian family. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Russian required. Nongraded. Cost in 2012: $3,200. Required meetings on campus in November and December. Early registration required. *Three credit hours.*

RU125f Elementary Russian I Introductory course enables students to acquire a high degree of competence in elementary Russian through communicative learning and interaction. Acquisition of grammar and vocabulary through substantial engagement in speaking repetition, memorization, role playing, and creative communication, which are reinforced by listening, readings, writing, and speaking assignments outside of the classroom. Students become familiar with cultural differences through the study of everyday activities and practices of Russians in urban settings. *Prerequisite:* Russian 125 is prerequisite for 126. *Four credit hours.* MONASTIREVA-ANSDELL

[RU125J] Elementary Russian I The structure of the Russian language, spoken Russian, listening comprehension, and reading and writing of basic Russian. In addition to the textbook, multimedia materials in the Language Resource Center aid in understanding both the language and culture of Russia. Offered in St. Petersburg. Cost in 2011: $3,000. Required meetings on campus in November and December. Early registration required. *Three credit hours.*

RU126s Elementary Russian II Introductory course enables students to acquire a high degree of competence in elementary Russian through communicative learning and interaction. Acquisition of grammar and vocabulary through substantial engagement in speaking repetition, memorization, role playing, and creative communication, which are reinforced by listening, readings, writing, and speaking assignments outside of the classroom. Students become familiar with cultural differences through the study of everyday activities and practices of Russians in urban settings. *Prerequisite:* Russian 125. *Four credit hours.* MURPHY

RU127f Intermediate Russian The second-year language sequence in Russian builds on the communicative abilities mastered in elementary Russian by active classroom engagement in conversation and vocabulary-building. Students study Russian culture through reading brief biographies of writers, watching film and Internet clips, and reading short fiction and poetry. The final stages of Russian grammar are introduced, practiced, and tested. Biweekly essay assignments increase writing skills, and oral tests allow students to develop fluency in speaking. *Prerequisite:* Russian 126. *Four credit hours.* MURPHY

RU128s Intermediate Russian The second-year language sequence in Russian builds on the communicative abilities mastered in elementary Russian by active classroom engagement in conversation and vocabulary-building. Students study Russian culture through reading brief biographies of writers, watching film and Internet clips, and reading short fiction and poetry. The final stages of Russian grammar are introduced, practiced, and tested. Biweekly essay assignments increase writing skills, and oral tests allow students to develop fluency in speaking. *Prerequisite:* Russian 127. *Four credit hours.* MURPHY

RU135fs Conversation Group An informal, weekly, small-group meeting appropriate for second-year students concurrently enrolled in Russian 126, 127, or 128. Topics for discussion include autobiography, education, leisure-time activities, travel, stores, and films. Conducted entirely in Russian. May be repeated for credit. Nongraded. *One credit hour.* TSAY

[RU174] Chekhov and the Short Story (in English) Study of the American and British short story as it was influenced by the Russian master of the short story, Anton Chekhov. Readings include Chekhov's early humorous stories and his mature works, essays on the short story, and selected stories by Raymond Carver, Bernard Malamud, Katherine Mansfield, Alice Munro, Joyce Carol Oates, Eudora Welty, Virginia Woolf, Richard Wright, and others. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Russian required. *Three credit hours.* **L**

RU231f Dreamers, Sinners, and Dynamos (in English) It is nearly a commonplace that the female protagonists of Russian literature are 'strong' and the male protagonists 'weak.' Is this so? And if so, then why? Focus is, first, on the tradition of "Liza" characters in the 19th century in works by Karamzin, Pushkin, Turgenev, and Dostoevsky. The second half of the semester concentrates on famous heroines and their male counterparts in influential novels by Pushkin, Chernyshevsky, and Tolstoy, in which we explore theories concerning gender configurations. Emphasizes the development of cogent arguments in speaking and writing, including work with drafts of papers. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Russian required. *Four credit hours.* **L** MURPHY

[RU232] Topics in 20th-Century Russian Literature Varying topics highlight a literary period, an author, or a genre. Conducted in English. *Four credit hours.* **L**

[RU237] Gamblers, Madmen, and Murderers (in English) Selected stories and novels by world-renowned 19th-century Russian writers (Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov) read with reference to critical theory on narrative, gender construction, authority and subversion, and madness. What is the relationship between protagonists and the Russian state? Emphasizes skills in symbolic reading and the development of cogent arguments in speaking and writing, including work with drafts of papers. First-year students are welcome. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Russian required. *Four credit hours.* **L**

RU242s Russian Cinema from Lenin to Putin (in English) A survey of major periods, genres, and themes of Russia's "most important art," including Soviet Revolutionary montage cinema of the 1920s (Kuleshov, Vertov, Eisenstein, Dovzhenko), Stalinist "easterns" and propaganda musicals of the 1930s and '40s (Vasiliev brothers, Aleksandrov), the post-Stalinist cinematic revival of the 1950s and '60s (Kalatozov, Tarkovsky, Muratova, Askoldov), and the post-Soviet search for new aesthetics, themes, and heroes (Balabanov, Bodrov, Zviagintsev, Sokurov). Topics include issues of gender, class, and ethnicity; the theory and aesthetics of Soviet and Russian filmmakers; the development of the Russian and Soviet film industry; issues of censorship, production, and film distribution. Conducted in English. *Four credit hours.* **A, I** MONASTIREVA-ANSDELL

RU325s Conversation and Composition Reading and analysis of literary and historical texts from the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics change each year. Grammar review and continued practice in oral and written expression. Multimedia materials supplement the readings. Conducted in Russian. *Prerequisite:* Russian 128. *Four credit hours.* MONASTIREVA-ANSDELL

RU326f Conversation and Composition Reading and analysis of literary and historical texts from the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics change each year. Grammar review and continued practice in oral and written expression. Multimedia materials supplement the readings. Conducted in Russian. *Prerequisite:* Russian 325 *Four credit hours.* MONASTIREVA-ANSDELL

RU335fs Conversation Group An informal, weekly, small-group meeting for intermediate/advanced conversation practice in Russian. Topics include contemporary film, current social and political issues, and reflections on cultural differences between the United States and Russia. Conducted entirely in Russian. May be repeated for credit. Nongraded. *Prerequisite:* Russian 127 or equivalent. *One credit hour.* TSAY

[RU346] 20th-Century Russian Poetry Weekly one-hour meetings focus on poems by one of the major 20th-century Russian poets, including Blok, Akhmatova, Tsvetaeva, Pasternak, Mandelshtam, and Brodsky. Readings in Russian; discussion in English. May be repeated for credit. *Prerequisite:* Russian 127. *One credit hour.*

RU425f 20th-Century Short Works Reading and analysis of literary and historical texts focusing on the quest for moral values and personal identity from pre-revolutionary years to the post-Soviet era. Grammar review and continued practice in oral and written expression. Internet, film, and audio materials supplement the readings. Conducted in Russian. *Prerequisite:* Russian 325. *Four credit hours.* **L** MONASTIREVA-ANSDELL

[RU426] The 19th-Century Russian Novel A seminar that analyzes one major Russian novel of the 19th century, such as Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. Conducted entirely in Russian. *Prerequisite:* Russian 425 or 427. *Four credit hours.* **L**

[RU427] Re-Imaging Russia: Cinema and Russian Society 1986-2009 Cinema's social and ideological functions in late-Soviet and post-Soviet Russia. Topics include defining Russia's position in regard to capitalism, the West, and Western values; making sense of organized crime and re-division of political and economic power; struggling for a positive vision of Russian national identity; reassessing the Stalinist past; renegotiating gender roles; evaluating Soviet imperial ambitions and their enduring legacy; and exploring the place of non-Russians within the Russian Federation. Extensive work in advanced conversation, grammar, and writing. Conducted entirely in Russian. *Prerequisite:* Russian 325. *Four credit hours.* **L**

RU428s The 20th-Century Russian Novel A seminar that analyzes one major Russian novel. In the spring of 2012: Boris Pasternak's *Doktor Zhivago* (1956), an epic novel that treats historical events from 1905 through the 1920s and addresses topics of literary and cultural interest. Conducted entirely in Russian. *Prerequisite:* Russian 425 or 427. *Four credit hours.* **L** MONASTIREVA-ANSDELL

RU491f, 492s Independent Study Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. *Prerequisite:* Permission of the instructor. *One to four credit hours.* FACULTY