

The Department of Modern Languages The Minor in Russian Studies

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Tatyana Gershkovich, Associate Professor of Russian Studies
(tgershko@andrew.cmu.edu)

Required Units: 54-57

The minor in Russian Studies is an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary minor jointly administered by the Departments of History and Modern Languages. Students are asked to fulfill requirements in history and in language and culture. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to study abroad in Russia or other parts of the Russian-speaking world. Not only does study abroad offer students a memorable and formative experience of cultural immersion, it also helps them advance to their highest possible levels of linguistic and cultural competence by the time they graduate.

**Students may double count one course taken for the Russian Studies minor that is also being used to fulfill the requirements of other majors, minors, and programs. This does not include double-counting with General Education requirements, which has no limit.*

1. Core Courses in Russian

33-36 units

Complete three language courses.

82-191	Elementary Russian I
82-192	Elementary Russian II
82-194	Intensive Elementary Russian (I & II)
82-291	Intermediate Russian I

N.B. Intensive Elementary Russian can be taken in place of Elementary Russian I & II. Students with native or near-native proficiency in Russian or with prior study at the elementary or intermediate level may begin language study at a higher level, based on consultation with the major advisor. Students who take Intensive Elementary Russian and those who place into higher level courses will still need to complete a minimum of 33 units, though they may do this by adding 3-unit language enrichment credits to content-based courses.

2. Core Courses in Modern Languages

12 units

Complete one course.

82-292	Intermediate Russian II
82-294	19 th -Century Russian Masterpieces
82-295	20 th -Century Russian Masterpieces

These 9 unit content-based courses are taught in English plus 3 units of content-based study in Russian.

3. Core Courses in History

9 units

Complete one course.

79-265	Russian History: Game of Thrones
79-269	Russian History: From Socialism to Capitalism

Highly Recommended Opportunities for Minors

Electives

In addition to fulfilling the course requirements, Russian minors are encouraged to take an elective course from the list below. Courses not listed may be suggested to the major advisor for approval as a substitute. Note that not all courses are offered each semester. Courses marked by * are offered in English but may be taken with 3 units of content-based study in Russian, subject to individual faculty approval.

History

79-267	The Soviet Union in World War II: Military, Political, and Social History
79-322	Stalin and the Great Terror

Modern Languages

82-293*	Russian Cinema: From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia
82-297*	Russian and Soviet Science Fiction
82-397*	Radicals, Heretics, Hackers: Russian Outlaws in History, Literature, and Film
82-208*	Eastern Europe: Society and Culture
82-391**	Advanced Russian: Modern Russia
82-392**	Advanced Russian: Great Short Works
82-394**	Russian for Heritage Speakers: Babushka's Russia & Beyond
82-491/492**	Topics in Russian Studies

*Courses are offered in English but may be taken with 3 units of content-based study in Russian, subject to individual faculty approval.

**Students may repeat these courses with new topics.

Study Abroad

Students are strongly encouraged to spend a semester or summer in Russia through an approved exchange program. Consult with your advisor and the Office of International Education (OIE) about possible options. Many exchange programs offer instruction at internationally recognized universities in Russian language, history, literature, and culture. They also offer travel to ancient sites and cities, visits to museums, palaces, exhibitions, and monuments, and the opportunity to live with a Russian host family. Scholarship opportunities are available.

Faculty Exchange Program

In 1993, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at CMU initiated a faculty exchange program with the Russian State University of the Humanities (RGGU), one of the foremost universities in Russia, located in Moscow. Carnegie Mellon has hosted faculty members from RGGU specializing in history, language, and philosophy. These professors have joined our departments for a semester, offering unique courses on subjects not generally available to our students. Faculty members from Carnegie Mellon have visited Moscow, using the RGGU exchange to pursue archival research, attend conferences, and collaborate on common projects. The exchange offers students an opportunity to study language from native speakers, gain exposure to different perspectives on history and politics, and gather firsthand knowledge about recent developments in Russia. In addition, the exchange can provide important contacts for students interested in pursuing careers abroad.