

# SLAVIC STUDIES: RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE, BALAS

*for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences in Slavic Studies, Russian Language, Literature, & Culture Concentration*

The major in Slavic Studies emphasizes the study of language, literature, and culture in historical context. Students develop intensive cultural literacy and communication skills through humanities-oriented training. Our students are culturally curious, interested in understanding different ways of thinking, feeling, and conceiving the world in distant times and places. They are critical readers and interpreters, sensitive to nuances of expression, responsive to artistic innovation, open to new ways of thinking. They're skilled writers and communicators who can master complex material, reconcile conflicting evidence, and succinctly argue and support a position. Many go on to careers in writing and editing, media, or work with international cultural foundations and organizations. The major is an excellent preparation for law school, business school, or other graduate study, as well as careers in the N.G.O. world, teaching, or research.

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A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60 - 75 hours). Study abroad courses may be substituted for major and minor requirements with approval of adviser.

**Departmental distinction:** Graduation with distinction may be earned by completion of one of the following two options:

- GPA in departmental courses of 3.75; or
- GPA in departmental courses of 3.50, plus successful completion of academic study trip to the region, documented by graded transcript. See a departmental adviser to work out details, preferably two semesters before graduation.

## Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Minimum hours required major and supporting course work: normally equates to 30 hours including 6 hours in advanced language and 24 hours in literature and culture. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

## University Requirements

The university and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/>) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

## General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

| Code                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Title | Hours |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Composition I                                                                                                                                                                                          |       | 4-6   |
| Advanced Composition                                                                                                                                                                                   |       | 3     |
| Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)                                                                                                                                                                        |       | 6     |
| fulfilled by RUSS 115 and any other course approved as Humanities & the Arts                                                                                                                           |       |       |
| Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)                                                                                                                                                                |       | 6     |
| Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)                                                                                                                                                                 |       | 6     |
| Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)                                                                                                                                                      |       | 3     |
| Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)                                                                                                                                                      |       | 3     |
| Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)                                                                                                                                              |       | 3     |
| fulfilled by RUSS 115                                                                                                                                                                                  |       |       |
| Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)                                                                                                               |       | 6-10  |
| Language Requirement (Completion of the fourth semester or equivalent of a language other than English, or completion of the third semester in two different languages other than English is required) |       | 0-20  |

## Major Requirements

| Code                                                                                                                                                                                    | Title                                                | Hours |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Language: A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of the Russian language: RUSS 301, 302 – Third-Year Russian I, II, or equivalent                                                  |                                                      | 6     |
| Literature and Culture: A minimum of 24 hours is required in the following areas (RUSS 401 and 402- Fourth Year Russian I, II- can count toward the requirements of any category):      |                                                      | 24    |
| 6 hours of Introductory Culture courses:                                                                                                                                                |                                                      |       |
| RUSS 115                                                                                                                                                                                | Intro to Russian Culture (and)                       |       |
| Choose one of the following:                                                                                                                                                            |                                                      |       |
| REES 200                                                                                                                                                                                | Intro to Russia and Eurasia                          |       |
| RUSS 261                                                                                                                                                                                | Introduction to Jewish Culture in the Russian Empire |       |
| SLAV 117                                                                                                                                                                                | Russ & E Euro Science Fiction                        |       |
| SLAV 120                                                                                                                                                                                | Russian & E Euro Folktales                           |       |
| 6 hours of Literature Survey courses: Two 200-level literature or cinema courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. |                                                      |       |
| 12 hours of Upper-level (300- and 400-level) Literature and Culture courses chosen from the following:                                                                                  |                                                      |       |
| Author Courses (6 hrs.):                                                                                                                                                                |                                                      |       |
| RUSS 320                                                                                                                                                                                | Major Writers                                        |       |
| RUSS 322                                                                                                                                                                                | Dostoevsky                                           |       |
| RUSS 323                                                                                                                                                                                | Tolstoy                                              |       |
| RUSS 325                                                                                                                                                                                | Chekhov                                              |       |
| RUSS 335                                                                                                                                                                                | Nabokov                                              |       |
| Literature and Culture Courses (6 hrs.):                                                                                                                                                |                                                      |       |

Two 400-level literature or culture courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department.

Capstone Experience: All majors are required to complete a capstone course, project, or experience chosen from among the following:

(1) RUSS 493 Honors Senior Thesis (2 hrs); or

(2) a 300- or 400-level course in the Slavic Department in which a research project is undertaken; or

(3) Study abroad in the region.

Majors should consult with the Undergraduate Advisor to plan their capstone experience.

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## Sample Sequence

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a fourth level of a language other than English. See the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

### First Year

| First Semester                            | Hours     | Second Semester                              | Hours     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Free Elective course                      |           | 1 Literature and Culture Introductory course | 3         |
| RUSS 115                                  |           | 3 General Education course                   | 3         |
| General Education course                  |           | 3 Free Elective course                       | 1         |
| Language Other than English (3rd level)   |           | 4 Language Other than English (4th level)    | 4         |
| Composition I or General Education course |           | 4 General Education course or Composition I  | 3         |
|                                           | <b>15</b> |                                              | <b>14</b> |

**Total Hours 29**

### Second Year

| First Semester           | Hours | Second Semester            | Hours |
|--------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| Literature Survey course |       | 3 Literature Survey course | 3     |
| General Education course |       | 3 General Education course | 3     |

|                          |                            |           |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| General Education course | 3 General Education course | 3         |
| Free Elective course     | 3 Free Elective course     | 3         |
| Free Elective course     | 4 Free Elective course     | 3         |
|                          | <b>16</b>                  | <b>15</b> |

**Total Hours 31**

### Third Year

| First Semester                         | Hours     | Second Semester                          | Hours     |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Advanced Literature and Culture course |           | 3 Advanced Literature and Culture course | 3         |
| Russian Language Requirement           |           | 3 Russian Language Requirement           | 3         |
| General Education course               |           | 3 Free Elective course                   | 3         |
| General Education course               |           | 3 Free Elective course                   | 3         |
| Free Elective course                   |           | 3 Free Elective course                   | 3         |
|                                        | <b>15</b> |                                          | <b>15</b> |

**Total Hours 30**

### Fourth Year

| First Semester                         | Hours     | Second Semester                          | Hours     |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Advanced Literature and Culture course |           | 3 Advanced Literature and Culture course | 3         |
| Free Elective course                   |           | 3 Free Elective course                   | 3         |
| Free Elective course                   |           | 3 Free Elective course                   | 3         |
| Free Elective course                   |           | 3 Free Elective course                   | 3         |
| Capstone Experience                    |           | 3 Free Elective course                   | 3         |
|                                        | <b>15</b> |                                          | <b>15</b> |

**Total Hours 30**

**Total Hours: 120**

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- Proficiency in the target language associated with the major track (Russian) of at least intermediate high level on the ACTFL scale, with some control of advanced low functions.
- Improved and effective writing and communication skills in the English language.
- Coherent knowledge and functional grasp of the culture(s) and history(ies) of the region or regions and peoples targeted by the major track.

- Analytical and interpretive abilities making use of the critical tools and methodologies taught in our courses of literary and cultural study.

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## **Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures (<https://slavic.illinois.edu/>)**

Slavic faculty (<http://www.slavic.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/>)  
[slavic@illinois.edu](mailto:slavic@illinois.edu)

## **College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (<https://las.illinois.edu/>)**

**Overview of College Admissions & Requirements:** Liberal Arts & Sciences  
(<http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/>)