

Welcome to Russian:

Major Overview:

The Russian program offers a broad range of instruction that combines language training with courses (taught in English) that provide exposure to Russian literature and culture. The Russian studies major is granted under the auspices of the Individualized Major Program through Harpur College.

Students who choose this major frequently choose to combine Russian with another major; frequent second majors include Philosophy, Politics and Law [PPL], history, political science, another language, linguistics and more. The result is a holistic degree plan that expands the student's opportunities in future careers or educational settings.

Courses:

Courses to consider:

For an introduction to the program:

- **RUSS 101: Elementary Russian I** — for students who have never studied Russian before. If you know Russian or have studied it previously, consult with faculty to determine which level is most appropriate.
 - Russian is a living language! The course concentrates primarily on oral communication, as well as listening, reading and writing skills. By semester's end, students should be able to converse on a number of everyday topics, including getting acquainted, daily activities, education, family and clothing.

In addition to learning to talk about their own lives, students will gain an understanding of these areas of contemporary Russian life. Class meetings will be devoted to intensive oral practice. Offered in the fall only.

For students with no prior knowledge of Russian. Four credits

- **RUSS 110: Russian Culture and Civilization**

- This course will examine the myths, traditions and events that have shaped the Russians' view of themselves as a people, as well as the image of Russia on the world stage, from earliest beginnings to the present day.

Three weekly lecture-discussions will incorporate literature, film, visual arts, music and other cultural artifacts. Students will be encouraged to express and reexamine their own notions of culture and national identity in general, and of Russia and Russians in particular. By semester's end, students should be able to demonstrate understanding of Russians' cultural reactions to the political and social events that have shaped their history.

General Education: H - Humanities. Four credits.

Additional courses:

- **RUSS 215: Slavic Folklore**

- Folklore is an enduring part of the human experience, connecting the distant human past with our contemporary lives in ways we do not always recognize. Folklore defines national, regional, class and occupational identity and gives meaning to the life of a people (an "ethnos"), even in the modern period.

The goal of our course is to explore the discipline of folkloristics using the content of Slavic folklore, comparing it at relevant times to our own American or European-rooted folklore. Content includes mythology; life, birth and death rituals; calendrical festivals; folk tales; superstitions, proverbs, riddles, and other genres of the Slavic oral tradition.

General Education: C - Composition, H - Humanities. Four credits.

- **RUSS 371: Russia and the World**

- A cultural history of Russia/the Soviet Union since 1900, focusing primarily on Russia's interaction with America and the West, but examining Russia's interaction with its Asian neighbors as well. Begins

with an introduction to the rich world of Russian cultural expression at the beginning of the 20th century, including cinema, cartoons and literature.

Studies changing patterns of interaction with America and the West during the Stalin era and in the cultural thaw of the 1960s. Deals extensively with cultural changes in the past 30 years, using film, newspapers, journals, music, literature, posters and advertising.

General Education: G - Global Interdependencies, W - Writing (Harpur req). Four credits.

To view a list of Russian studies courses, click [courses](#).

[<https://www.binghamton.edu/grs/russian-program/russian-courses/index.html>]

Post-Graduation:

The Russian degree not only provides a student with a solid foundation of language skills, but also develops the student's written and oral communication skills, critical thinking skills and overall cultural awareness.

Graduates may potentially find employment in fields like teaching, translation and interpretation, writing, international aid, linguistics research, etc. Students who graduate with this degree also pursue a range of graduate and professional degrees including: MBA, MPA, Ph.D., Master of Russian, MAT, law school, etc.

Research Areas:

The faculty of the German and Russian Studies Department are scholars within various fields of research which include:

- 19th-century Russian literature
- Moscow-Tartu semiotics
- Slavic folklore
- Russian literature and cultural history
- Poetry and performance in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
- Russian theater
- Russian religious philosophy
- Soviet monuments in post-Soviet cultural space

Thank you!

For more information contact the German and

Russian Studies Department at:

ballen@binghamton.edu

(607) 777-2656