

An interdepartmental program

Courses of Study:  
Minor

## Russian and East European Studies

### Objectives

The program in Russian and East European Studies (REES) provides undergraduates with a curricular framework for the interdisciplinary study of Russia, the former Soviet Union, and East Europe. This interdisciplinary study offers a special breadth and depth of understanding for this region and leads students to appreciate the interconnectedness of Russian and East European history, economics, politics, and culture. The complementary study allows participating students to achieve an understanding of this world region not otherwise available in existing majors and minors in the traditional disciplines. REES further maintains the extracurricular objective of hosting and facilitating special events concerning Russia and East Europe: presentations by visiting scholars, cultural events, and other learning activities. The program serves any interested undergraduates wishing to complement their major course of study; social science majors with an interest in the area and majors in Russian language and literature are encouraged to consider becoming program participants.

### How to Become a Minor

Interested students who have no background in Russian or any other East European language are advised to begin language training (with RUS 10a) in their first year. Appropriate placement of those with some knowledge of Russian can be arranged by consultation with the German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature department. Progress toward the minor will also be facilitated by early enrollment (usually in the sophomore year) in HIST 147a (Imperial Russia).

### Committee

#### David Powelstock, Chair

(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

#### Steven Burg

(Politics)

#### Joan Chevalier

(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

#### ChaeRan Freeze

(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

#### Gregory Freeze

(History)

#### Robin Feuer Miller

(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

#### Antony Polonsky

(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

### Requirements for the Minor

**A.** Students must complete the following courses: HIST 147a (Imperial Russia) and HIST 147b (Twentieth-Century Russia); and four semesters of Russian language, or the equivalent.

**B.** Completion of any three courses listed below, in at least two separate disciplines.

### Courses of Instruction

#### REES 98a Independent Study

*Signature of the instructor and the program chair required.*

Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### REES 98b Independent Study

*Signature of the instructor and the program chair required.*

Usually offered every year.  
Staff

### Core Courses

#### HIST 147a

Imperial Russia

#### HIST 147b

Twentieth-Century Russia

### Electives

#### HIST 148b

Central Asia in Modern Times

#### NEJS 136a

History and Culture of the Jews in East-Central Europe to 1914

#### NEJS 137b

A History of the Jews in Warsaw, Lodz, Vilna, and Odessa

#### POL 129a

East European Politics

#### POL 213b

Graduate Seminar: Selected Topics in Comparative Politics

#### RECS 130a

The Russian Novel

#### RECS 134b

Chekhov

**RECS 135a**

From Pushkin to Chekhov: The Short Story in Russia

**RECS 137a**

Women in Russian Literature

**RECS 146a**

Dostoevsky: Gods and Monsters

**RECS 147b**

Tolstoy: Freedom, Chance, and Necessity

**RECS 149b**

The Rise and Fall of Russian Modernism: Cultural and Political Revolutions 1900-1934

**RECS 154a**

Nabokov

**RECS 155a**

From Witches to Wood Spirits: Russian Culture to 1800

**RECS 160a**

Contemporary East European Literature

**RUS 150b**

Masterpieces of Russian Literature: *Shedevry russkoj literaturoi*

**RUS 153a**

Russian Poetry in Russian: Undergraduate Seminar

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## Russian Language and Literature

Courses of Study:

Minor

Major (B.A.)

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### Objectives

The Russian program at Brandeis offers students unique opportunities for the study of Russian language, culture, and literature. Our courses enable students to acquire intermediate to advanced level of language proficiency and a strong background in Russian culture and literature. Majors, especially track I students, are encouraged to study in Russia for a semester or a summer. Links to approved Brandeis semester programs in Russia can be found on the department website at [www.brandeis.edu/departments/greal](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/greal).

#### Undergraduate Major and Minor

Our core curriculum features courses in language, culture, and literature open to all students. Literature courses focusing on the classics of the nineteenth century are augmented by seminars on poetry and contemporary authors. Most of our literature courses are taught in English in order to make them accessible to a broad range of students. Bilingual students and advanced students of Russian may choose to do course reading in Russian. Language courses are taught exclusively in Russian. Grammar is presented in communicative contexts incorporating authentic multi-media materials. Our curriculum also includes courses on film, contemporary culture, and on East European literature.

We are one of the few universities in the country to offer two tracks for Russian majors in Russian Language and Literature: one track for students with no previous experience in Russian language (track I) and another track designed specifically for Russian bilinguals (track II) or students arriving at Brandeis with advanced language proficiency. A minor in Russian Language and Literature is also available to all students. Students may wish to broaden a major by combining it with a minor in Russian and East European Studies (REES), a separate interdisciplinary program.

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### Faculty

See the Department of German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature.

Brandeis offers a host of extracurricular opportunities for majors, minors, and students interested in Russian language and culture. The Department of German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature also sponsors regular functions for Russian students including film series, lectures, and Russian tea hours featuring Russian language conversation for students of all levels. Many activities for those interested in Russian language and culture are organized by and for students. We are proud to host one of the few Russian language radio shows in the Boston. The Russian Club at Brandeis actively sponsors events for Russian students and Russian speakers in the greater Boston community including Russian language film series, dances, and mailings about events in the Boston area.

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### How to Become a Major or Minor

Students considering a Russian major or minor should complete the language requirement as soon as possible. Students who wish to discuss the two major tracks or issues of language placement should speak with Professor Chevalier, the Russian language coordinator.

A major in Russian may obtain the Massachusetts teaching certificate at the high school level by additionally completing requirements of the education program. Interested students should meet with the program director.

## Requirements for the Major

### Russian Language and Literature Track I

Intended for students with no prior knowledge of Russian.

**A.** ECS 100a or 100b (The Proseminar) to be completed *no later* than the junior year.

**B.** Advanced language and literature study: Required are: RUS 105a, RUS 106b, and RUS 150b.

**C.** Literature study: Any five RECS courses.

**D.** RUS 97a, 97b, or 99d. Majors wishing to graduate with departmental honors must complete RUS 99d (Senior Thesis). Candidates for departmental honors must have a 3.50 GPA in Russian courses previous to the senior year. Honors are awarded on the basis of cumulative excellence in all courses taken in the major and the grade on the Honors Thesis.

### Russian Language and Literature Track II

Intended for heritage speakers of Russian and students with advanced proficiency in Russian.

**A.** ECS 100a or 100b (The Proseminar) to be completed *no later* than the junior year.

**B.** Advanced language study and study of literature in Russian: RUS 110a (or qualifying exam) and RUS 153a.

**C.** Literature study: Any six RECS courses.

**D.** RUS 97a, 97b, or 99d. Majors wishing to graduate with departmental honors must complete RUS 99d (Senior Thesis). Candidates for departmental honors must have a 3.50 GPA in Russian courses previous to the senior year. Honors are awarded on the basis of cumulative excellence in all courses taken in the major and the grade on the Honors Thesis.

## Requirements for the Minor in Russian Literature

**A.** One course in advanced language study: RUS 105a, RUS 106b, or RUS 110a (or qualifying exam).

**B.** Literature Study in Russian: RUS 150a or RUS 153a.

**C.** Literature study: Any three RECS courses.

## Courses of Instruction

### (1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

#### RUS 10a Beginning Russian

For students who have had no previous study of Russian. A systematic presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Russian culture, with focus on all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Usually offered every year.  
Ms. Chevalier

#### RUS 20b Continuing Russian

*Prerequisite: RUS 10a or the equivalent.*  
For students with some previous study of Russian. Continuing presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Russian culture, and practice of the four language skills. Special attention to reading and writing skills, as well as guided conversation. Usually offered every year.  
Ms. Chevalier

#### RUS 30a Intermediate Russian

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*Prerequisite: RUS 20b or the equivalent.*  
For students with some previous study of Russian (RUS 10a, RUS 20b). Continuing presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Russian culture. Special attention to reading and writing skills. Usually offered every year.  
Ms. Chevalier

#### RUS 97a Senior Essay

*Students should consult the area head of their major.*  
Usually offered every year.  
Staff.

#### RUS 97b Senior Essay

*Students should consult the area head of their major.*  
Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### RUS 98a Independent Study

*May be taken only with the permission of the advisor to majors and the chair of the department.*  
Reading and reports under faculty supervision. Usually offered every semester.  
Staff

#### RUS 98b Independent Study

*May be taken only with the permission of the advisor to majors and the chair of the department.*  
Reading and reports under faculty supervision. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### RUS 99d Senior Thesis

*Students should consult the area head of their major.*  
Usually offered every year.  
Staff

## (100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

### RUS 105a Russia Today: Advanced Language Skills through Contemporary Culture

[ fl hum ]

*Prerequisite: RUS 30a or the permission of the instructor.*

For advanced students of Russian language who wish to expand their vocabulary and to develop their grammar and reading skills. Explores aspects of contemporary Russian society and culture. Texts will be drawn from the Russian press, political essays, modern prose fiction, and drama.  
Ms. Chevalier

### RUS 106b Advanced Russian Language through Film

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: A 30-level Russian course or the equivalent, or the permission of the instructor.*

For advanced students of Russian who wish to enhance their proficiency and accuracy in writing and speaking. Class discussions and writing assignments will focus on aspects of Russian society as they are portrayed in Russian film. Background readings about the films related to relevant aspects of Russian society will also be assigned.  
Ms. Chevalier

**RUS 110a Russian Language for Russian Speakers**

[ hum wi ]

*Permission of the instructor required.*

Designed to meet the needs of Russian language speakers who have had little or no formal training in their native language and who want to improve reading and writing skills. Readings range from short works of contemporary prose fiction to articles from the contemporary Russian press. Basic rules of orthography and advanced grammar topics will be reviewed. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Chevalier

**RECS 130a The Russian Novel**

[ hum wi ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

A comprehensive survey of the major writers and themes of the 19th century including Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and others. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Miller

**RECS 131a Nature, Man, and Machine: Twentieth-Century Russian Literature**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

An introduction to the major works and authors of Modernist, Soviet, and post-Soviet eras, including the Emigration. Readings include works by Mayakovsky, Bely, Babel, Bulgakov, Nabokov, Akhmatova, Solzhenitsyn, and Pelevin. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

**RECS 134b Chekhov**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

Offers a detailed investigation of the evolution of Chekhov's art, emphasizing the thematic and structural aspects of Chekhov's works. Attention paid to methods of characterization, use of detail, narrative technique, and the roles into which he casts his audience. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Miller

**RECS 135a From Pushkin to Chekhov: The Short Story in Russia**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

Focuses on the great tradition of the short story in Russia. This genre has always invited stylistic and narrative experimentation, as well as being a vehicle for the striking, if brief, expression of complex social, religious, and philosophical themes. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Miller

**RECS 137a Women in Russian Literature**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

Examines questions of female representation and identity, and of female authorship. Readings include portrayals of women by men and women authors.

Usually offered every second year.

Staff

**RECS 146a Dostoevsky: Gods and Monsters**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

A comprehensive survey of Dostoevsky's life and works, with special emphasis on the major novels. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Miller

**RECS 147b Tolstoy: Freedom, Chance, and Necessity**

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*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

Studies the major short stories and novels of Leo Tolstoy against the backdrop of 19th-century history and with reference to 20th-century critical theory. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Miller

**RECS 148a Russian Drama**

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*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian. This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken RUS 148a and RUS 148b in previous years.*

Examines the rich tradition of Russian drama and theater. Readings include masterpieces of the 19th and 20th centuries, including those by Chekhov, Pushkin, Gogol, Ostrovsky, Mayakovsky, Erdman, and others. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

**RECS 149b The Rise and Fall of Russian Modernism: Cultural and Political Revolutions 1900-1934**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

An interdisciplinary immersion in the period, emphasizing the connections between historical and artistic trends, and employing prominent theories of culture. Focuses on major figures, works and events in film, literature, the performing and visual arts, and political, philosophical and religious thought. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

**RUS 150b Masterpieces of Russian Literature: *Shedevry russkoj literaturoi***

[ fl hum ]

*Prerequisite: RUS 30a or the permission of the instructor. Required of Track 1 majors and open to qualified students. Taught in Russian.*

An undergraduate seminar intended primarily for students of Russian as a second language. Designed to give intermediate to advanced students of Russian the linguistic and critical skills to analyze literature in Russian. Poetry and short works of fiction are included. Authors include: Pushkin, Lermontov, Tiuchev, Fet, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Chevalier

**RUS 153a Russian Poetry in Russian: Undergraduate Seminar**

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*Required of Track 2 majors and open to qualified non-majors. Taught in Russian.*

An undergraduate seminar intended primarily for students who are heritage speakers or students who have acquired advanced proficiency in Russian. Examines a selection of the very best Russian poetry of the 19th and 20th centuries. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

**RECS 154a Nabokov**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

A concentrated study of Vladimir Nabokov, the most noted Russian author living in emigration and one of the most influential novelists of the 20th century. Focuses on the major novels. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

**RECS 155a From Witches to Wood Spirits: Russian Culture to 1800**

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*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Students may choose to do readings either in English translation or in Russian.*

Explores the relationship of culture to society and religion in Russia through the 18th century. Examines the interactions of diverse forms of artistic expression, presenting examples from visual art, music, architecture, and popular culture, giving special attention to Russia's rich folk heritage. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Chevalier

**RECS 160a Contemporary East European Literature**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English.* Examines works of major East European (Polish, Czech, Russian, and other) authors in the historical context of late Communist and post-Communist experience. Special attention to reading for artistic qualities and engagement of historical and political problems. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Powelstock

**Cross-Listed Courses****ECS 100a**

European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Modernism

**ECS 100b**

European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Making of European Modernity

An interdepartmental program

**Social Justice and Social Policy**Courses of Study:  
Minor**Objectives**

Concepts of justice play a profound role in clarifying human needs for health and well-being. Such basic social problems as inequality, poverty, and discrimination pose a constant challenge to policies that serve the health and income needs of children, families, people with disabilities, and the elderly. The public response to such problems, in America and elsewhere, rests on contested definitions of social obligation and social citizenship. The Program in Social Justice and Social Policy examines these essential connections between social values and practical policies. It unites elements in liberal arts study to bridge the analytic gap between ends and means. It also brings together an unusually broad spectrum of faculty and curriculum—combining the academic perspectives of Arts and Sciences departments with professional expertise from The Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Students are encouraged to explore policy areas in concrete detail, focused variously on particular groups (children, the elderly, people with disabilities) or particular services (health care, income support). Students can also select courses that deal thematically with problems of social equity (poverty, discrimination), as well as courses that approach social justice from historical, philosophical, and comparative perspectives. Key elements of the program include a foundation course, a capstone course, and a research-based internship in a social policy setting.

The concern with social justice speaks to the core educational commitments of Brandeis University. This program does not seek to promote a particular ideological agenda, but rather to spark creative thinking about complex social problems. It carries the search for norms and principles into the wider arena of practical experience. By providing models for critical reflection, it challenges students to articulate their own value commitments in a spirit of constructive debate.

**How to Become a Minor**

The Program in Social Justice and Social Policy (SJSP) is open to all Brandeis undergraduates. Students may begin the minor at any time, but are encouraged to complete the foundation course within the first two years of study. To enroll in the minor, fill out the declaration forms from the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and meet first with one of the members of the program committee. A minor advisor will then be assigned by the director to help you plan your course of study, including the timing of the internship/independent research, and capstone requirements.

**Committee**

**Richard Gaskins, Codirector**  
(Legal and American Studies)

**George Ross, Codirector**  
(Politics and Sociology)

**Marty Wyngaarden Krauss**  
(The Heller School)

**Robert Reich**  
(The Heller School)

## Requirements for the Minor

**A.** The foundation course SOC 123b (Crisis of the Welfare State). Normally this course will be taken within the first two years of study. It is strongly recommended as an introduction to the program, but is not a formal prerequisite for other courses.

**B.** Students must complete any three elective courses from those listed below. Electives are grouped into topical fields, but students may choose courses from any group. No more than two electives from The Heller School or from any single department may be counted toward program requirements, except for the foundation course.

**C.** Either (1) internship, arranged through the program office and the correlative seminar SJSP 92a or 92b; or (2) an independent research course (SJSP 98a or 98b), directed by a member of the program committee, or by another faculty member with the approval of the program director. Please note that internships will not be offered during 2004-05.

**D.** The capstone seminar POL 159a (Politics of the Modern Welfare State). Normally this course will be taken in the final year of study.

**E.** No more than two courses may be double-counted for this minor and for a particular major.

## Courses of Instruction

### SJSP 92a Social Justice and Social Policy Internship and Seminar

*Internships may not be available for 2004-05. Prerequisite: SOC 123b, or permission of the instructor.*

Biweekly seminar and supervised internship in a public agency or nonprofit organization. Time commitments depend on the site, up to a maximum of two days per week. In cooperation with the Brandeis faculty advisor and the internship site supervisor, students will complete an individual research project. Internships must be arranged through the program administrator. Usually offered every year. Staff

### SJSP 92b Social Justice and Social Policy Internship and Seminar

*Internships may not be available for 2004-05. Prerequisite: SOC 123b, or permission of the instructor.*

Biweekly seminar and supervised internship in a public agency or nonprofit organization. Time commitments depend on the site, up to a maximum of two days per week. In cooperation with the Brandeis faculty advisor and the internship site supervisor, students will complete an individual research project. Internships must be arranged through the program administrator. Usually offered every year. Staff

### SJSP 98a Social Justice and Social Policy Independent Research

*Prerequisite: SOC 123b or permission of the program director.*

Guided readings and research on an independent topic that builds upon and integrates the particular course work completed in the SJSP Program. Research may be directed by a member of the program committee, or by another faculty member with the approval of the program director. Usually offered every semester. Staff

### SJSP 98b Social Justice and Social Policy Independent Research

*Prerequisite: SOC 123b or permission of the program director.*

Guided readings and research on an independent topic that builds upon and integrates the particular course work

completed in the SJSP Program. Research may be directed by a member of the program committee or by another faculty member with the approval of the program director. Usually offered every semester. Staff

### Core Courses

#### POL 159a

Seminar: The Politics of the Modern Welfare State: Women, Workers, and Social Citizenship

#### SOC 123b

Crisis of the Welfare State

### Electives

#### Aging and Disability Policy

##### HS 124a

Dilemmas of Long-Term Care

##### HS 524a

Long-Term Care: A Policy Perspective

##### HSSP 192b

Sociology of Disability

##### SOC 177b

Aging in Society

### Democracy and Social Justice

#### ED 155b

Education and Social Policy

#### HIST 163a

Socialism and Communism in American History

#### HS 300a

Theory and Analysis of Social Policy

#### PHIL 20a

Social and Political Philosophy: Democracy and Disobedience

#### POL 154a

Seminar: Citizenship

### Dynamics of Discrimination and Inequality

#### ECON 56b

Social Priorities and the Market

#### HS 110a

Wealth and Poverty

#### HS 528f

Law and Society: Race and Class

#### LGLS 120a

Sex Discrimination and the Law

#### LGLS 121b

Law and Social Welfare: Citizen Rights and Government Responsibilities

### Family and Child Policy

#### HS 544a

Vulnerable Youth: Policy and Programmatic Responses

#### SOC 104a

Sociology of Education

### Health Care Policy

#### HS 104b

American Health Care

#### LGLS 114a

American Health Care: Law and Policy

#### SOC 190b

Caring in the Health Care System

#### SOC 191a

Health, Community, and Society

### Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Social Justice

#### AAAS 80a

Economy and Society in Africa

#### AMST 188b

Justice Brandeis and Progressive Jurisprudence

#### LGLS 124b

International Law and Development

#### SOC 176a

Nature, Nurture, and Public Policy