

RUSSIAN

One studies Russian to gain knowledge of an exotic culture, one that is not like ours, and to gain a more objective assessment of our own culture, seeing it in relation to that other, exotic viewpoint. At Lawrence, you will not only learn the fundamentals of the Russian language but you will gain an understanding of a dynamic and rich culture.

CURRICULUM – *The Russian Studies Major*

Lawrence's new program in Russian Studies is designed for students who are interested in studying Russia's history and culture, in addition to getting a foundation in the Russian language. Students take two years of Russian as well as courses in history, culture, and/or literature in translation. They are also strongly encouraged to spend a term studying in Russia, both to improve their language skills and to get a deeper understanding of the country and culture.

The Russian Language and Literature Major

Students whose primary interest is in literature have the option of pursuing a major in Russian language and literature. After six terms of language instruction, students take courses in 19th- and 20th-century prose, poetry, or drama in the original. You also will take classes in 19th- and 20th-century literature in translation, and students are strongly encouraged to spend at least one term studying in Russia.

The Russian Minor

The Russian minor consists of eight courses – six courses in the Russian language and two elective courses in Russian literature, history, or culture.

Tutorials

Students who complete all the courses offered by the Russian department are able to take tutorials or independent studies, which provide opportunities for individualized study. Past tutorial topics include *Reading Russian Newspapers and Magazines*, *Creative Writing in Russian*, and *Russian Films*.

LANGUAGE STUDY

Main Hall, which houses Lawrence's Russian department, contains the Humanities Computer Laboratory, where you can use web materials and software to enhance your listening and comprehension skills, pronunciation, reading skills, and mastery of vocabulary and grammar.

A satellite TV feed in International House provides 24-hour access to two Russian television stations.

Also, a wide array of videotapes are available in the library, providing an additional way to improve both listening skills and cultural knowledge. A number of Russian periodicals are available in the library for you to peruse on your own, as well as for use in class.

Björklunden, Lawrence's 425-acre estate located on the shores of Lake Michigan, offers a unique opportunity for the Russian department. You can spend an entire weekend away from the Lawrence campus, speaking only Russian and experiencing true immersion in the Russian language.

A relaxed, informal chance to practice speaking Russian is provided once a week at the Russian table in the dining commons. Once a term, the department faculty hosts meals with genuine Russian food at the International House on campus. Finally, all students receive free tutoring from visiting Russian students—including those from Kurgan, Appleton's sister city in Siberia.

INTERDISCIPLINARY AREAS

Interdisciplinary areas are programs that bring together

professors and students from various departments to focus their different perspectives, skills, and methodologies on particular questions. The Russian department has connections to several such programs.

Gender Studies encourages you to examine such varied issues as the images of men and women in literature and the arts, the psychology of gender identity, sex roles in the family and in society from the Middle Ages to the present, and the biology of human reproduction from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

In International Studies, scholars from anthropology, economics, foreign languages, government, and history work together to study the dynamic relationship among the many different cultures of the world.

Linguistics gives you the opportunity to explore the nature of language, examining underlying similarities in all the world's languages, as well as the unique qualities of individual languages.

The Russian department also offers a course called "Russian Culture through Music," which is cross-listed with the conservatory's program in music history.

AFTER LAWRENCE

Graduates from Lawrence's Russian department have gone on to a variety of careers, working in such fields as business, politics, journalism, and education, to name just a few. They have pursued graduate study in Russian or Slavic languages at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, the University of Chicago, Yale, Princeton, the University of California - Berkeley, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Washington.

Karie Pieczynski Tayfun, '98, is an M.A. student in the University of Wisconsin, Madison program in Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies.

Arie Farnam, '98, secured an internship with *The Nation*, a weekly periodical news magazine. Following her internship, she went to Khazakstan as a free-lance journalist. A recent article on the Ukraine appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*. Shannon Doherty, '99, and Ingrid Nordt, '01, are both M.A. students in the University of Washington program in Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies. Eliza Hamner-Koenig, '99, is living in Moscow, Russia, where she works as a program associate for the International Research and Exchanges Board. Lindsay Shaw, '00, recently completed an M.A. at the University of Illinois in Russian and East European Studies.

FACULTY

Peter John Thomas, associate professor
Northwestern University, B.A.,
M.A., Ph. D

Interests: Russia, poetry,
philosophy, translation,
contemporary composers

Richard L. Yatzeck, professor
University of Wisconsin, Madison,
B.A., Ph.D.; University of Chicago,
M.A.

Interests: comparative literature,
German and English literature