

APPROVED BY SENATE

02/04/2013



## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revise and Rename Major in the Sciences and Letters  
Curriculum: BALAS in Russian Language and Literature, in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**SPONSOR:** Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, David L. Cooper, Associate Professor, Director of Undergraduate Studies, 244-4666; [dlcoop@illinois.edu](mailto:dlcoop@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Karen Carney, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, [kmcarney@illinois.edu](mailto:kmcarney@illinois.edu)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Renames the major from BALAS in Russian Language and Literature to BALAS in Slavic Studies. Introduces five concentrations, allowing students to focus in Russian, Polish, South Slavic, Ukrainian or Czech studies. Reduces the total number of hours required for the major from 48 to 30 hours by eliminating the supporting coursework requirement and expanding options for a capstone experience.

### JUSTIFICATION:

Illinois has a depth in Russian language, literature, and culture across multiple disciplines that very few U.S. institutions of higher learning can match. Russian is our central departmental strength in terms of faculty research, graduate studies, undergraduate course offerings, and enrollments—a Russian major can focus exclusively on that individual language and culture and still not take advantage of our whole range of offerings. Nevertheless, in the post-Cold War and post-USSR world, rendering the Department of *Slavic* Languages and Literatures less Russo-centric is long overdue, especially given our considerable faculty strengths in non-Russian literatures and cultures.

With a renamed major in Slavic Studies, we will mesh better with the area studies offerings of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC) and the new and growing program of study of the European Union Center, which has supported our offerings in Czech, Polish, and Bosnian/Croat/Serbian. Unlike the major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) which has a multidisciplinary area studies and current affairs focus, the major in Slavic Studies emphasizes the study of language, literature, and culture in their historical context. We view this redesigned major with its multiple concentrations as a very pragmatic initiative aimed at meeting the programmatic

demands of the Illinois campus's large heritage populations from the Chicago area. Students who might have taken Polish or Ukrainian for family heritage reasons, but previously saw no programmatic benefit to doing so, now will be able to work toward a major. For very understandable historical reasons—many of our potential students now live in the U.S. because at one time or another their families sought to escape Russian domination of their homelands—housing these new concentrations within a *Russian* major would not be appropriate, which is why renaming our existing major as a Slavic Studies major makes the most sense.

The other proposed changes to our major are designed to reduce some structural obstacles that have prevented students from pursuing the major in the past, and to bring our requirements into line with those of similar language, literature, and culture majors at this institution and at peer institutions as well. Specifically, we want to:

- 1) Reduce the number of hours required for the major from 48 to 30, in keeping with the College’s recommended guidelines of requiring 30-40 hours in the major;
- 2) Remove the supporting coursework requirement to leave additional space in the student’s program for electives;
- 3) Reduce the language requirement in the major from a minimum of 12 hours beyond the second year to a minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year. (In other words, for a student starting from the beginning level of the language, 6 semesters of the language are required for the major, but only the final 2 count toward the major hours.)

A large percentage of our majors in recent years have been double-majors (Russian and Global Studies, Russian and Rhetoric, Russian and Political Science). Current requirements allow for the elimination of the supporting coursework requirement for students completing double majors or minors. The revised major encourages more students to choose Russian with another major by further streamlining the requirements and by eliminating the supporting coursework requirements for all majors. (Note that current LAS guidelines recommend eliminating supporting coursework requirements; see: <http://www.las.illinois.edu/faculty/curricula/majors/> )

Each concentration will follow the same basic structure (listed below) but with different course selections.

Hours	Core Requirements
6	<p><b>Language:</b> A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of a Slavic language, chosen from the following:            RUSS 301,302 – Third-Year Russian I, II            CZCH 484 - Readings in Czech (may be repeated)            POL 301, 302 - Third-Year Polish I, II            SCR 301, 302 - Third-Year Serbian/Croatian I, II            UKR 301, 302 - Third-Year Ukrainian I, II</p>
24	<p><b>Literature and culture:</b> A minimum of 24 hours is required in the following 3 areas:</p>

	6 hours of introductory culture (as specified within each concentration), 6 hours of literature survey, and 12 hours of upper-level (300- and 400-level) literature and culture courses
0-3	<b>Capstone experience:</b> 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.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

- a. **Additional staff and dollars needed.** The proposed revisions do not require additional staff or funding. All of the required courses are currently taught on a regular basis by current faculty.
- b. **Internal reallocations** (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.). If, as we hope, the proposed changes help us to increase our current numbers of majors, it will also help us to more fully enroll the courses we are currently offering. There is room to accommodate a significant increase in numbers of majors within the course enrollment limits of courses as we are currently offering them. Faculty teaching loads would not need to be increased.
- c. **Effect on course enrollment in other units** and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments. All of the required major courses are in our department.
- d. **Impact on the University Library.** Current resources and acquisitions practices will more than satisfy all needs for the revised curriculum; there should be no impact on the Library.
- e. **Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.** There would be no need for additional classroom space.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2013

## **STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:**

### **Slavic Studies**

Department of Slavic Languages and Literature  
<http://www.slavic.illinois.edu>

Head of Department: Michael Finke  
Department Office: 3080 Foreign Languages Building, 707 South Mathews, Urbana,  
(217) 333-0680

### **Slavic Studies**

The major in Slavic Studies enables students to specialize in one of five concentrations: Russian Language, Literature, and Culture; Polish Studies; South Slavic Studies; Ukrainian Studies; and Czech Studies. Unlike the [major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies](#), which has a multidisciplinary area studies and current affairs focus, the major in Slavic Studies emphasizes the study of language, literature, and culture in their historical context. Students develop intensive cultural literacy and communication skills through humanities-oriented training, and 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.

### **Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum**

E-mail: [slavic@illinois.edu](mailto:slavic@illinois.edu)

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minimum required major courses equate to 30 hours including 6 hours in advanced language and 24 hours in literature and culture.

General education: The [LAS General Education](#) requirements are set up so students automatically complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

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.

Students must select one concentration in consultation with an academic advisor. Students in all concentrations must complete a) 6 hours of language beyond the second year, and b) 24 hours of literature and culture courses.

### RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE CONCENTRATION

Hours	Requirements
6	<p><b>Language:</b> A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of the Russian language:            RUSS 301,302 – Third-Year Russian I, II, or equivalent</p>
24	<p><b>Literature and Culture:</b> 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):</p>
	<p>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 - Intro to Russian-Jewish Culture                SLAV 117 - Russ &amp; East Euro Science Fiction                SLAV 120 - Russian &amp; E Euro Folktales</p>
	<p>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.</p>
	<p>12 hours of Upper-level (300- and 400-level) Literature and Culture courses chosen from the following:  <i>Author Courses</i> (6 hrs.):                RUSS 320—Russian Writers                RUSS 322—Dostoevsky                RUSS 323—Tolstoy                RUSS 325—Chekhov                RUSS 335—Nabokov   <i>Literature and Culture Courses</i> (6 hrs.):            Two 400-level literature or culture courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department.</p>
0-3	<p><b>Capstone Experience:</b> 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.</p>

### POLISH STUDIES CONCENTRATION

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
6	<b>Language:</b> A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of the Polish language: POL 301, 302- Third-Year Polish I, II- or equivalent; or Students may choose to complete the second year (200-level sequence) of a second Slavic language, including Russian, in addition to Polish.
24	<b>Literature and Culture:</b> A minimum of 24 hours is required in the following areas (POL 401 and 402- Fourth-Year Polish I, II- can count toward the requirements in any category):
	6 hours of Introductory Culture courses: POL 115 – Intro to Polish Culture and Choose one of the following: REES 200 – Intro to Russia and Eurasia REES 201 – Intro to Eastern Europe RUSS 261 - Intro to Russian-Jewish Culture SLAV 117 - Russ & East Euro Science Fiction SLAV 120 - Russian & E Euro Folktales
	6 hours of Literature Survey courses chosen in consultation with the faculty advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>
	12 hours of Upper-level (300- and 400-level) Literature and Culture courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>
0-3	<b>Capstone Experience:</b> 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.

1. Up to 9 hours of the literature requirement (but no more than 6 at the upper level) can be replaced by courses at the same level in other departments, chosen in consultation with and approved by the Undergraduate Advisor, that treat the history, culture, and society of Poland or the region.

### **SOUTH SLAVIC STUDIES CONCENTRATION**

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
6	<b>Language:</b> A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of a South Slavic language: SCR 301, 302-Third-Year Serbian/Croatian I, II- or equivalent; or Students may choose to complete the second year (200-level sequence) of a second Slavic language, including Russian, in addition to SCR.

24	<b>Literature and Culture:</b> A minimum of 24 hours is required in the following areas:
	6 hours of Introductory Culture courses: SCR 115 – South Slavic Culture and Choose one of the following: REES 201 – Intro to Eastern Europe SLAV 117 - Russ & East Euro Science Fiction SLAV 120 - Russian & E Euro Folktales
	6 hours of Literature Survey courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>
	12 hours of Upper-level (300- and 400-level) Literature and Culture courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>
0-3	<b>Capstone Experience:</b> 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.

1. Up to 9 hours of the literature requirement (but no more than 6 at the upper level) can be replaced by courses at the same level in other departments, chosen in consultation with and approved by the Undergraduate Advisor, that treat the history, culture, and society of the South Slavic region.

### CZECH STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Hours	Requirements
6	<b>Language:</b> A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of the Czech language: CZCH 484 Readings in Czech for 6 hours or equivalent; or Students may choose to complete the second year (200-level sequence) of a second Slavic language, including Russian, in addition to Czech
24	<b>Literature and Culture:</b> A minimum of 24 hours is required in the following areas:
	6 hours of Introductory Culture courses: SLAV 120 - Russian & E Euro Folktales and Choose one of the following: REES 201 - Intro to Eastern Europe RUSS 261 - Intro to Russian-Jewish Culture SLAV 117 - Russ & East Euro Science Fiction
	6 hours of Literature Survey courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>

	12 hours of Upper-level (300- and 400-level) Literature and Culture courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>
0-3	<b>Capstone Experience:</b> 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.

1. Up to 9 hours of the literature requirement (but no more than 6 at the upper level) can be replaced by courses at the same level in other departments, chosen in consultation with and approved by the Undergraduate Advisor, that treat the history, culture, and society of the Czech region.

#### UKRAINIAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Hours	Requirements
6	<b>Language:</b> A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of the Ukrainian language: UKR 301, 302- or equivalent; or Students may choose to complete the second year (200-level sequence) of a second Slavic language, including Russian, in addition to Ukrainian
24	<b>Literature and Culture:</b> A minimum of 24 hours is required in the following areas:
	6 hours of Introductory Culture courses: UKR 113 – Ukrainian Culture and Choose one of the following: REES 200 – Intro to Russia and Eurasia REES 201 – Intro to Eastern Europe RUSS 261 – Intro to Russian-Jewish Culture SLAV 117 - Russ & East Euro Science Fiction SLAV 120 - Russian & E Euro Folktales
	6 hours of literature survey chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>
	12 hours of Upper-level (300- and 400-level) Literature and Culture courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department. <sup>1</sup>
0-3	<b>Capstone Experience:</b> 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 Department of Slavic 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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1. Up to 9 hours of the literature requirement (but no more than 6 at the upper level) can be replaced by courses at the same level in other departments, chosen in consultation with and approved by the Undergraduate Advisor, that treat the history, culture, and society of the Ukrainian region.

For all Concentrations:

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

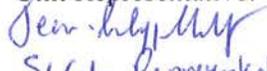
A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60 - 75 hours). Study abroad courses may be substituted for major and minor requirements with approval of adviser.

**CLEARANCES:** (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval) - - These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges, add lines.)

Signatures:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Unit Representative: Michael C. Finke, Head

  
SLCL Representative: JEAN-PHILIPPE MATHY, <sup>ACTING</sup> DIRECTOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_

College Representative:

11/7/2012  
Date:

11/8/2012  
1-2-13

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provost Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Educational Policy Committee Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

## Appendix A:

### Comparative Table of Proposed Changes

#### Current Russian Language and Literature Major compared to the Proposed Russian Language, Literature, and Culture Concentration

NOTE: Because the other concentrations are entirely new, but similar in structure to the Concentration in Russian Language, Literature, and Culture, we are providing only this comparison rather than a comparison of each proposed concentration with the existing major.

Current Russian Language and Literature		Proposed Russian Language, Literature, and Culture Concentration	
Current Hours	Current Requirements	Proposed Hours	Proposed Requirements
12	Russian language: A minimum of 12 hours beyond RUSS 201-202 <sup>1</sup>	6	<b>Language:</b> A minimum of 6 hours beyond the second year of the Russian language: RUSS 301,302 – Third-Year Russian I, II, or equivalent
24	Russian Literature: A minimum of 24 hours is required in the following 5 sections:	24	<b>Literature and Culture:</b> 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):
	Introduction to Slavic Studies (3 hours) select from: UKR 113 - Ukrainian Culture SLAV 117 - Russ & East Euro Science Fiction SLAV 120 - Russian & E Euro Folktales		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 - Intro to Russian-Jewish Culture SLAV 117 - Russ & East Euro Science Fiction SLAV 120 - Russian & E Euro Folktales
	Literature Survey (6 hours): Any two 200-level literature survey courses in Russian or Slavic		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.
	Authors courses (6 hours): Any two 300-level author courses in Russian or Slavic		12 hours of Upper-level (300- and 400-level) Literature and Culture courses chosen from the following:

	Literature and cultures courses (6 hours): Any two 400-level literature or culture courses in Russian or Slavic except RUSS 470		<p><i>Author Courses</i> (6 hrs.):  RUSS 320—Russian Writers  RUSS 322—Dostoevsky  RUSS 323—Tolstoy  RUSS 325—Chekhov  RUSS 335—Nabokov</p> <p><i>Literature and Culture Courses</i> (6 hrs.):  Two 400-level literature or culture courses chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from a list maintained in the Slavic Department.</p>
3	RUSS 470, Russian Advanced Seminar (3 hours) (may be fulfilled by RUSS 493, Honors Senior Thesis)	0-3	<p><b>Capstone Experience:</b> 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.</p>
12	Supporting coursework: A minimum of 12 hours selected from the following:		
	Studies in Western Culture (3 hours) Select from: CWL 241 - Lit Europe and the Americas I CWL 242 - Lit Europe and the Americas II HIST 260 - Survey of Russian History		
	Electives (9 hours) Select from:  Courses on Russia, the former Soviet Union, or East Europe (offered by such units as anthropology, art history, architecture, Asian studies, cinema studies, communications,		

	<p>economics, education, geography, history, music, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology, theatre). See the Russian and East European Center for a list of current course offerings. OR</p> <p>200- and 300-level courses in a Slavic language other than Russian, as indicated on a list maintained by the undergraduate advisor, or 500 level Russian language courses.</p> <p>Additional course work in the Slavic Department or another literature program or department. or</p> <p>Students completing a double-major or a minor in another department need no supporting work.</p>		
48	Total Hours	30	Total Hours

## **Appendix B List of Courses**

### **Literature Survey courses:**

- POL 245 - Survey of Polish Literature
- RUSS 219 - Russian Cinema Survey
- RUSS 220 - Golden Age of Russian Literature
- RUSS 225 - Russian Literature and Revolution
- RUSS 260 – Medicine & Russian Literature
- SLAV 277 - Slavic Literature Survey
- UKR 218 - Survey of Ukrainian Lit

### **Literature and Culture courses:**

- POL 446 - Problems of Polish Literature
- REES 495 - Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- RUSS 418 - 18th Century Literature
- RUSS 424 - Russian Modernism
- RUSS 438 - Modern Russian Poetry
- RUSS 444 - Problems in Romanticism
- RUSS 445 - Problems in Realism
- RUSS 460 - Russian Cultural Studies
- RUSS 461 - Russia and the Other
- RUSS 465 - Russian-Jewish Culture
- RUSS 466 - Russian Women's Writing
- RUSS 474 - Russian Literary Translation
- SLAV 417 - 11th-17thC Russ Lit & Lang
- SLAV 419 - Russian & East European Film
- SLAV 430 - History of Translation
- SLAV 452 - Slavic Cultural Studies
- SLAV 477 - Post-communist Fiction
- SLAV 480 - Intro to Slavic Linguistics
- UKR 498 - Problems of Ukrainian Lit
- YDSH 420 - Jewish Life-Writing (same as SLAV 420)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

EP.13.28

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



January 11, 2013

Gay Miller, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename the Bachelor of Arts in Russian Language and Literature to Slavic Studies.

This proposal has been approved by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Committee on Courses and Curricula and Executive Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristi A. Kuntz".

Kristi A. Kuntz  
Assistant Provost

KAK/njh

Enclosures

c: A. Benmamoun  
K. Carney  
D. Cooper  
A. Edwards  
M. Finke

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2013

Office of the Provost

Office of the Dean

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
294 Lincoln Hall  
702 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801-3631



January 2, 2013

Kritsi Kuntz  
Assistant Provost  
Swanlund Administration Building  
MC-304

Dear Kristi:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula and the Dean's Cabinet, in behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

**Revise and Rename Major in the Sciences and Letters Curriculum: BALAS in Russian Language and Literature to the BALAS in Slavic Studies**

URK 301 and 302 are being developed by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and will be submitted to LAS within the next month. Please address all correspondence concerning this proposal to me. This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation Fall 2013.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Carney  
Associate Dean

enclosure

C: Professor David Cooper  
Professor Michael Finke  
Professor Abbas Benmamoun