

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Proposed Revisions to the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

COLLEGE SPONSOR: Ann M. Mester, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, mester@uiuc.edu, 333-1350

SPONSOR: Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Lilya Kaganovsky, Assistant Professor, Chair of Graduate Program Committee, lilya@uiuc.edu, 333-6157

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

A substantial revision of the PhD program. Coursework requirements for the PhD increased from 32 to 40 hours beyond the MA degree. Slavic linguistics major field of study eliminated. Slavic literature major remains, but with the change that students may specialize in literatures other than Russian. More flexibility for students to pursue specializations in cultural studies and theoretical study of literature.

Expanded Statement and Outline, Ph.D.

Doctor of Philosophy — Degree Requirements

In consultation with the graduate advisor, Ph.D. students design an individualized program of study that includes a major field in one Slavic-area literature (any national literature currently offered by the department), study in a second Slavic-area language, and a minor field.

1. A student is admitted to the Ph.D. program after the successful completion of an M.A. degree in Slavic studies or a related field. In consultation with the graduate advisor, the Ph.D. student designs an individualized program of study that includes a major field in one Slavic-area literature (any national literature currently offered by the department), study in a second Slavic-area language, and a minor field. All candidates for the Ph.D. degree must fulfill the general requirements of the Graduate College. Demonstration of a reading knowledge of a second Slavic-area language and a research language (French, German, or another language chosen in consultation with the graduate advisor) is required before a student is advanced to the preliminary examination. A student entering the program with a Master of Arts degree from another department or university must complete SLAV 576—Methods in Slavic Grad Study.
2. In addition to satisfying departmental language proficiency requirements, the student must complete 40 graduate hours of coursework beyond the Master of Arts degree, of which at least 20 hours are within the student's major field of study. Such courses will include major authors; significant literary movements (such as Romanticism, Realism, the avant-garde, socialist realism, or postmodernism); courses in culture (cinema, art history, music); and courses

in critical theories and methodologies, generally offered under SLAV 576—Methods in Slavic Grad Study (may be repeated for credit under a different topic).

3 Additionally, 12-16 hours must be in graduate-level courses in a minor field (three courses in a single area, or two courses each in two distinct areas) and may be completed outside the department. Possible minor fields include but are not limited to study in another Slavic-area literature and culture, including Yiddish-language literature; Jewish studies; the visual and performing arts; critical theory; gender studies; cinema and related media; philosophy; and history. Courses must be selected in consultation with the graduate advisor.

4. Demonstration of knowledge of a second Slavic-area language and a research language (French, German, or another language chosen in consultation with the graduate advisor) is required before the student is advanced to the preliminary examination. The Slavic-area requirement can be satisfied through four semesters of language study or the successful completion of a translation examination. The research language requirement can be satisfied by completion of FR 500 and 501 or GER 500 and 501, the equivalent courses in another language, or a translation exam.

5 After passing the written preliminary examinations (three 3-hour comprehensive examinations), the student is admitted to the oral examination, the successful completion of which admits the student to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The candidate must then complete and successfully defend the thesis.

Ph.D. Preliminary Examination Committee

The Ph.D. preliminary examination committee generally consists of four faculty members, three of whom must be members of the Slavic department. (Please see the Graduate College requirements for details on how the Ph.D. committee should be constituted.) All members of the committee prepare and read the written examinations and pose questions at the oral examinations.

Preliminary Written Examinations

The preliminary written examinations consist of three three-hour exams, covering the student's major and minor fields, and the area of specialization (to be pursued in the dissertation). The examinations are comprehensive, testing the student's critical abilities and familiarity with subject matter and methodology. The exams serve to indicate whether the student has adequate preparation and ability to carry out independent scholarly research and teaching.

1st. The major field examination focuses on one national literature and covers two or more related periods as defined by the profession. For example, a student specializing in Soviet film should choose Russian 19th and 20th century literature and culture as their field of concentration. Other examples include modern Polish literature from 1795 to the present; modern Czech literature from 1775 to the present; Russian Romanticism and Russian Realism. The field should

be defined in consultation with the Ph.D. examination committee. This exam is intended to test the student's comprehensive knowledge.

2nd. The area of specialization exam focuses in depth on a topic within the major field of study or comparatively within the major and minor field. Here, the specialization may be in a single author or movement, genre, specific historical period or event (1917, for example). This exam may be related to the student's dissertation project.

3rd. The minor field examination focuses on an area of research supplementary to the student's major field of concentration. Possible minor fields include but are not limited to study in another Slavic-area literature and culture, including Yiddish-language literature; Jewish studies; the visual and performing arts; critical theory; gender studies; cinema and related media; philosophy; history. This exam is intended to situate the student's comprehensive knowledge and specialization within the broader framework of comparative or theoretical studies.

A reading list for each examination is established by the student in consultation with the appropriate members of the Ph.D. preliminary examination committee. The grading of written examinations is on a high pass/ pass/ fail basis. In case of a failure on any one part of the examination, the committee will decide whether the student shall be permitted to repeat that part before the student is advanced to the oral examination.

Preliminary Oral Examinations

The preliminary oral examination is one–two hours long, administered after the successful completion of the written examination, and serves to further test the student's knowledge of the national literature and the related fields of specialization. Upon successful completion of the preliminary oral examination, the student is admitted to candidacy for the thesis stage.

4. Completion and defense of a Ph.D. dissertation.

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee

The Ph.D. dissertation committee generally consists of four faculty members, one of whom will direct the dissertation. Two of the members must be Slavic department faculty and at least one an outside member. (Please see the Graduate College requirements for details on how the Ph.D. committee should be constituted.) This committee may be the same as the Ph.D. preliminary exam committee.

Dissertation Prospectus

Early in the semester following advancement to candidacy, the student meets with the Ph.D. thesis committee to discuss the dissertation prospectus. At least one week in advance of the meeting and with the approval of the dissertation advisor, the student should present the Ph.D. committee with a dissertation prospectus (10-15 pages in length, including a statement of purpose and method, a chapter outline, and a bibliography).

Ph.D. Dissertation

The dissertation is a significant work of scholarship of 180–300 pages that engages a scholarly tradition and advances knowledge and/or interpretation in the field. The dissertation should be on a topic that is likely to be accepted for publication as a book by a university press. The dissertation is written in close consultation with the dissertation advisor, who will schedule regular meetings with the student and assist in setting goals and deadlines for work on the dissertation. Students are encouraged to pursue funding for dissertation research abroad.

Ph.D. Oral Defense

Students are expected to meet with members of the Ph.D. dissertation committee prior to scheduling a defense.

The Ph.D. final examination consists of the public defense of the completed dissertation. Public announcement of the defense should be made in advance, and a one-page abstract of the dissertation provided to the departmental faculty and graduate students. The dissertation, as approved by the dissertation advisor, must be made available to each member of the Ph.D. committee at least three weeks before the final examination is to take place. The final version of the dissertation, incorporating any changes deemed necessary by the committee, must conform to all requirements of the Graduate College.

Outline and sequence:

Major field in Russian language, literature, and culture; minor field in Polish literature:

20 hrs. in Russian literature and culture (such as Russ 520, 522; SLAV 452, 505, 576)

12 hrs. in Polish literature and culture (such as SLAV 452, 477; POL 446)

8 hrs. additional electives in the department

24 hrs. electives, thesis hours

64 Total hrs.

JUSTIFICATION:

These changes reflect long-term developments in the Slavic field, including the move after 1989 to a less Russocentric model, supported by increased interest in other cultures in central and eastern Europe; changes in literary studies in general from a philological model to one that is theoretically-informed and includes other cultural texts; and a decline in the field of Slavic linguistics. The current structure of the Slavic graduate program follows an older, no longer viable model of Slavic studies. Revisions to the program will bring it in line with faculty and student interests, and with peer-institutions, making the program more competitive for highly qualified graduate students.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- a. **Additional staff and dollars needed.** The proposed revisions will not require additional financial resources or staffing. Retirement and new faculty hires in the past six years already reflect the changing field of Slavic studies and correlate more closely to the proposed revisions than to the program of study as it currently exists. The proposed revisions maintain the standard faculty teaching load of four courses per year. As the graduate program revives and gains strength, we foresee a need for some additional TA-ships to support our graduate students and make us competitive with peer institutions.
- b. **Internal reallocations.** Presently, we enroll on the average 2 students per year in the MA/PhD program. The proposed changes should attract a better and more highly qualified pool of applicants, and we expect to be able to double the enrollment of entering students as we become more competitive with our peer institutions. We will be able to easily accommodate the additional enrollments in the graduate courses we already offer.
- c. **Effect on course enrollment in other departments.** M.A. students would be required to take one course in either History; Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies; or Library Science. Our current graduate students already regularly enroll in these courses, so there would be no additional enrollment pressure on these courses. We have discussed this with Mark Steinberg (History), Donna Buchanan (REEEC), and Miranda Remnek (Library).
- d. **Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.** There is no need for additional library acquisitions, as current resources and acquisitions practices reflect our needs. Classroom space needs will not change.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

Not needed—graduate program request.

CLEARANCES:

Harriet Murav

Dr. Harriet Murav, Head, Slavic Languages and Lits

Sept 4 2007

Date

Quinn Tappan

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

11/21/07

Date

Quinn Tappan

Graduate College

1/28/08

Date

Provost

Date

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: upon approval

Arthur

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

9/17/07

Date

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Replace the existing sections with this revised content.

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers graduate work leading to the Master of Arts and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Slavic Languages and Literatures. A student can specialize in Russian language, literature, and culture or in any of the other Slavic-area languages and literatures currently offered by the department.

Master of Arts

The master's degree requires 32 hours of graduate courses, 20 of which must be from courses in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Residence and other requirements of the Graduate College must be met. Required courses (or approved equivalents) are RUSS 501 and 502—Russian for Graduate Students, SLAV 576—Methods in Slavic Grad Studies, one approved graduate course in Slavic area studies, and two additional graduate-level literature or culture courses in the department. The degree is awarded upon the successful completion of three 2-hour written examinations. More detailed information may be obtained from the departmental office.

Doctor of Philosophy

A student is admitted to the Ph.D. program after the successful completion of an M.A. degree in Slavic studies or a related field. In consultation with the graduate advisor, the Ph.D. student designs an individualized program of study that includes a major field in one Slavic-area literature (any national literature currently offered by the department), study in a second Slavic-area language, and a minor field. All candidates for the Ph.D. degree must fulfill the general requirements of the Graduate College.

Candidates must complete at least 40 hours of graduate course work beyond the requirements for the M.A. degree. 20 hours must be in graduate-level courses in the major field, completed in the Slavic department. 12-16 hours must be in graduate-level courses in a minor field (three courses in a single area, or two courses each in two distinct areas) and may be completed outside the department. Demonstration of knowledge of a second Slavic-area language and a research language (French, German, or another language chosen in consultation with the graduate advisor) is required before a student is advanced to the preliminary examination. After passing the written preliminary examinations (three 3-hour comprehensive examinations), the student is admitted to the oral examination, the successful completion of which admits the student to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The candidate must then complete and successfully defend the thesis.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of this graduate program.

Additional Graduate College Documentation:

1. *Expanded statement of the required courses, examinations, projects or theses, including an outline of a sample program (or programs) indicating the sequence.* See Appendix A.

2. *Documentation that a qualified core faculty is available and committed to conducting the program.* Slavic faculty (program changes approved in departmental meeting):

Michael Finke, Professor, Chekhov, literature and medicine, literature and psychoanalysis, aviation and popular culture.

Harriet Murav, Professor (split appt. with CWL), dept. Head, Russian culture, film, women's studies, theater, and 19th century literature; also Comparative Literature and Jewish Studies, Yiddish literature.

Steven Hill, Associate Professor, film and drama in Russia and East Europe, descriptive grammar of Russian and Old Church Slavonic, history of Russian, world film history.

Richard Tempest, Associate Professor, acting Head, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian literature; Solzhenitsyn; Russian intellectual history; Russian and East European pop culture; Russian and East European science fiction; Bulgarian history, literature and culture; political bodies.

David Cooper, Assistant Professor, Czech and Russian literature and culture, nationalism, Slavic literary theory and criticism, Slavic folklore, Slovak literature.

George Gasyna, Assistant Professor of Polish Literature (split appt. with CWL), twentieth-century Polish literature; exile and emigration as discourse and as practice; modernism/postmodernism/avant-garde; cultural studies, especially issues of hybridity and transnationalism in narrative; diasporic and minority cultures.

Lilya Kaganovsky, Assistant Professor (split with CWL), soviet literature and film; film and critical theory; gender studies; nineteenth century novel; modernism.

Valeria Sobol, Assistant Professor, Russian literature and culture of the late eighteenth--nineteenth centuries; Russian and European Romanticism; medical epistemology and discourse in literature; Gogol; Ukrainian literature; Czech literature.

3. *Expanded justification of the need and demand for the program.* As a smaller unit (7.5 FTE, no lecturers), we need a PhD program that reflects our strengths. Our peer institutions, with significantly more faculty, are similarly attempting to update the traditional philological model of Slavic studies: the University of Michigan and the University of Wisconsin-Madison have both temporarily suspended PhD programs in Slavic Linguistics (both are hiring and/or restructuring; both currently have 9 tenured or tenure-track faculty plus language lecturers). A more broadly conceived program in Slavic studies (rather than Russian only), with emphasis placed on interdisciplinary and theoretical approaches to literature and culture (rather than linguistics), not only reflects the current make-up of the faculty and student interest, but also the changes to the field of Slavic studies since 1989. The revised program is closer to the model of UC Berkeley, one of the country's leading Slavic PhD programs, with a flexible program emphasizing theoretical and interdisciplinary approaches and the option of specializing in a number of Slavic literatures. We expect the demand for PhD specializations in Slavic literatures other than Russian to remain small, but vital. Current MA and PhD students are already choosing Slavic-area languages and literatures to complement their Russian program of study, and one

student is pursuing a specialization in Polish literature, with a minor in Czech (in anticipation of the program changes).

4. Comments on possible duplication and/or relation to other graduate programs on the campus, including comments from executive officers of related departments. No duplication. The Slavic literature program will continue to provide students with a strong PhD program in literature and related interdisciplinary fields, complementing but not duplicating the current offerings of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (MA-only program focused on politics and sociology), the History department, or the Program in Comparative Literature.