

EP.08.47
(Rev. 3/17/08)

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Proposed Revisions to the Masters of Arts 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 M.A. program. Required coursework for the M.A. revised to include literary theory; linguistics coursework requirements eliminated—courses remain available as electives. Specialization of students in literatures other than Russian permitted.

Expanded Statement and Outline, M.A.

Master of Arts — Degree Requirements

1. Completion of a minimum 32 hours of graduate course work as required by the Graduate College. At least 20 hours must be for courses in the department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Required courses must include:

- RUSS 501 – Russian for Graduate Students I
(in consultation with the graduate advisor may be replaced by another 500-level course)
 - RUSS 502 – Russian for Graduate Students II
(in consultation with the graduate advisor may be replaced by another 500-level course)
 - SLAV 576 – Methods in Slavic Grad Studies
 - HIST 560 – Problems in Russian History or
HIST 551A – Problems in East European History or
REES 550 – Seminar in Russian and East European Studies or
LIS 530 – Slavic Bibliography
 - two 400- or 500- level literature or culture courses offered by the Slavic Department
2. Successful completion of the M.A. written examinations.

Students who plan to continue on to the Ph.D. are strongly encouraged to satisfy one of the two language requirements (a second Slavic-area language or a research language) at the M.A. level. These requirements can be fulfilled through coursework or a translation examination.

M.A. Committee

The M.A. Committee consists of two faculty members and the graduate advisor (who chairs the committee). The members of the committee will submit questions for the examination. If necessary, the committee may call for an oral exam to further test the material covered by the written examination.

M.A. Written Examination

The series of written examinations for the M.A. degree, generally scheduled in the fourth semester, consists of three examinations of two hours each, designed to test the student's ability to synthesize the knowledge gained through course work and independent reading. The three examinations include nineteenth-century Russian literature, twentieth-century Russian literature, and a third area of examination to be selected in consultation with the graduate advisor. This third area may focus on Russian literature pre-1800, critical theory, Russian cinema, a Slavic literature other than Russian, linguistics, or another area chosen by the student in consultation with the graduate advisor. The Master's reading list serves as a guide for preparation for the exams and may be individually amended in consultation with the graduate advisor. For specializations other than Russian language, literature, and culture, early consultation and planning of a reading list and exam topics with the graduate advisor and faculty in the relevant Slavic-area language is necessary.

The grading of examinations for the degree is on a pass/fail basis. In case of a failure of any part of the examination, the committee will determine whether the student shall be allowed to repeat a part of the exam, or if an oral examination is necessary.

M.A. Oral Examination

A Master's oral examination may be scheduled if the written examination is not up to the standard expected by the Slavic department, and in lieu of a repeat of the written exam.

Outline and sequence:

Specialization in Russian language, literature, and culture:

- 12 hrs. core departmental courses (RUSS 501, 502; SLAV 576)
- 4 hrs. Slavic Studies (HIST 560 or 561A or REES 550 or LIS 530)
- 8 hrs. departmental electives
- 8 hrs. electives (in consultation with advisor)
- 32 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 T. Yant
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

11/21/07
Date

Luigi Jappenda
Graduate College

1/28/08
Date

Provost

Date

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: upon approval

[Signature]
School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

9/12/07
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.