

SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

We provide a well-rounded understanding of Russia, Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union through a study of their languages and an exploration of their literatures and cultures.



Education

The department offers a Bachelor of Arts degree with options in Russian language, literature, and culture and East European languages and culture, as well as MA and PhD programs in Slavic languages, literatures, and cultures.

We offer five years of Russian language instruction. We also teach Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Polish, and Slovenian, as well as occasionally Ukrainian, Bulgarian, and Romanian.

The department maintains close ties with the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies program in the Jackson School of International Studies. Several of our faculty have joint and adjunct appointments in other departments and programs.

Students may earn study abroad credit while conducting research or studying language, literature, or culture in Russia or Eastern and Central Europe. In recent years, faculty have led exciting Exploration Seminars to Sochi, Russia, and Romania and Georgia.

The department recognizes the value of intellectual diversity and welcomes students pursuing double majors. We have a high number of such students from departments as far-ranging as Astronomy, Biology, Computer Science, Dance, French and Italian Studies, and Physics.

Scholarship

Subjects of interest to our faculty include literature and cinema of former Yugoslavia and Yugoslav successor states; Slavic linguistics; Slavic minority languages; bilingualism; the literature and culture of Siberia; the role of visual art in Russian culture; Vladimir Nabokov; Russian Jewish literature and film; Russian intellectual history; Russian art and architecture; regional identity and sacred landscapes in early modern Russia; theories of literary translation, cultural representations and perceptions of disability, death, and dying in late/post-Soviet Russia; language pedagogy; and literary theory.

UW's Suzzallo Library has one of the most distinguished Slavic studies collections in the U.S., comprising over a half-million volumes and with stand-out strengths in Russian, Polish, Czech, Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Serbian, and Slovenian materials. Also featuring rich and up-to-date Bulgarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Hungarian and Baltic holdings, the Slavic collection enables in-depth study of nearly any literature or language of the region. Our Slavic media collection numbers over 2,000 feature and documentary films from Eastern Europe available to students on one-week loan.

We are home to the William Brumfield Russian Architecture Collection, a database in development featuring 30,000 digitized photographic images of noteworthy buildings located throughout Russia, taken by North America's leading expert on Russian architectural history. The collection was made possible through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

STUDENTS (Autumn 2017)

- 11 Undergraduate majors
- 5 Undergraduate minors
- 2 Master of Arts students
- 5 PhD students

DEGREES AWARDED (July 2016-June 2017)

- 6 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 2 Master of Arts degrees
- 1 PhD degree

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

- Bibliography and Information Resources
- Bilingualism
- Cross-cultural Semantics and Pragmatics
- Czech and Russian Folklore
- Early and Modern Russian Literature
- East European Comics/Graphic Narrative
- East European Literature and Film
- Early Russian Cinema
- Historical Phonology, Morphology, Syntax
- Post-Soviet and Post-Colonial Literature, Film, and Culture
- Russian Drama
- Russian Visual Arts and Philosophy
- Theory and Practice of Literary Translation
- Yiddish Literature and Culture
- South Slavic Sociolinguistics and Formal Syntax
- Slavic Minority Languages

Faculty

Recent awards, grants, and leadership positions for Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures:

- 1 Thomas L. and Margo G. Wyckoff Endowed Faculty Fellow
- 1 Joff Hanauer Distinguished Professor in Western Civilization
- 1 Member of ASEES USC Book Prize Committee
- 1 Chair of the UW-University of Ljubljana Exchange Committee
- 1 Janko Lavrin Laureate for distinguished lifetime contributions to Slovene literature outside Slovenia
- 1 Member of Board of Directors, American Romanian Cultural Society of Seattle
- 1 Member of the Committee for Science of the Advisory Board of the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles
- 1 Associate Editor for Linguistics for *Slavic and East European Journal*
- 1 Member of the Executive Board of the Slavic Linguistics Society
- 1 Member of the Board of the Southeast European Studies Association
- 1 Member of the Seal of Bilingualism Committee, Washington State
- 1 Recipient of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Award for Excellence in Post-Secondary Teaching
- 1 Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia for Washington State
- 1 President of the Society for Slovene Studies, 2017-2020

Outreach

Slavic Department faculty are active public scholars within the community, presenting Lectures at Temple Beth Am, Stroum Jewish Community Center, the Women's University Club of Seattle and Northwest Film Forum, serving as readers and discussants for Intiman Theatre's production of *Crime and Punishment*, speaking to groups of Holocaust survivors.

Every year the department hosts Washington high school students studying Russian for the ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian. High school Russian heritage language students had the opportunity in summers 2011-2015 to expand their Russian language skills by participating in the UW's intensive four-week STARTALK program that focused on integrating science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and drama. The STARTALK initiative also includes a professional development program for teachers of Russian language in Washington state.

The UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee, formed in 2004, has hosted over 70 guest speakers through the Distinguished Polish Speakers Series, held several exhibits in Suzzallo Library, and conducted numerous fundraising events. The committee also has made significant progress in its campaign to establish a Chair of Polish Studies at the UW, has established a scholarship for study in Poland, and has been bringing Polish Fulbright lecturers to the Slavic Department since 2006. The Department is also actively engaged in building our Ukrainian Studies Endowment.

The department organizes a Polish Table and beginning and advanced on-campus Russian Tables for students, faculty, and staff.

FACULTY (Autumn 2017)

- 3 Professors
- 3 Associate Professors
- 1 Assistant Professor
- 1 Principal Lecturer
- 2 Senior Lecturers
- 3 Lecturers
- 3 Emeritus Professors
- 1 Emeritus Senior Lecturer
- 1 Emeritus Lecturer
- 9 Affiliate Faculty
- 6 Adjunct Faculty

MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (SINCE 2013)

Alvord Fellowship

Rado Lenček Award, Society for Slovene Studies

Joseph Velikonja Undergraduate Prize, Society for Slovene Studies

Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Endowed Scholarship in the Humanities

President's Medal

Rado L. Lenček Graduate Prize

UW Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

UW Polish Studies Scholarship

Vadim Pahn Scholarship

Foreign Language & Area Studies Scholarship

Henry M. Jackson Fellowships

H. Stewart Parker Endowed Fellowship

Vladimir Gross Undergraduate Scholarship



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