

Russian Language and Literature & Slavic Languages

Guidelines for Honors Students

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At ASU, Russian language and other Slavic and Central Asian languages are offered year round, in the School of International Letters & Cultures (SILC) during the academic year, and during the summer in the Critical Languages Institute (CLI), where students can also study Albanian, Armenian, Macedonian, and Tatar. Today, Russian (RUS) is the fourth most spoken language in the world, after Chinese, English, and Spanish, and continues to be the lingua franca of the former Soviet empire, with over 300 million speakers worldwide. In addition, SILC offers Serbo-Croatian (Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, BCS), Polish (PLC), general Slavic (SLV), and Tajik and Uzbek (SLC).

ASU has a full selection of courses in Russian literature in English, with 19th- and 20th century survey courses in alternating years, along with courses on Chekhov, Dostoevsky, Nabokov, Pushkin, and Tolstoy. Courses in culture include the Slavophile/Westernizer debates, film, and the literature of war. Students are encouraged to read in Russian. General Slavic courses taught in English include: Language and Identity, History of Slavic Languages, and Computational Linguistics of Slavic Languages.

Russian has been taught at ASU since WWII; after the Soviet Union launched Sputnik in 1957, ASU hired Dr. Sanford C. Couch (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1961) in 1962, and began to offer a Russian major. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russian, other Slavic languages, and Central Asian languages remain strategic, critical languages, with government scholarships to study abroad, do research and internships, and find jobs in such agencies as the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, CIA, FBI, and NSA, among others. ASU has the highest number of recipients of the nationally competitive Boren Scholarships and Fulbrights for research and study abroad. Students who study Russian and another Slavic or Central Asian languages are especially competitive for scholarships and jobs.

Students can major in Russian language and literature, minor in Russian language, and minor in Slavic Studies. Russian and Slavic are concentration areas for the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS). The Melikian Center coordinates an interdisciplinary baccalaureate certificate in Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies (REEES) for students in agribusiness, anthropology, architecture, economics, geography, history, political science, religious studies, Russian, sociology, and women's studies. Contact SILC advisors Susan Kells and Barbara Fleming for information on the certificate and on majoring and minoring in Russian and Slavic Studies.

We are a relatively small academic section; students are never closed out of classes, and faculty members know who you are and want to see you do well. Faculty who work with honors students on honors contracts and theses, and their areas of expertise, are:

Dr. Hilde Hoogenboom, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Slavic Languages & Literatures, Columbia University), courses in Russian literature, film, and culture

Dr. Donald Livingston, Senior Lecturer (Ph.D., Linguistics, University of Washington), courses in Russian language, linguistics, and culture

Dr. Saule Moldabekova, Lecturer (Ed.D., Leningrad Institute of Culture, now Academy of Culture), courses in Russian language and culture, and Central Asian culture

Dr. Danko Sipka, Professor (Ph.D., Linguistics, University of Belgrade; Ph.D., Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences; M.A., Russian, University of Poznan), courses in Serbo-Croatian and Polish languages, linguistics, computational linguistics, computer-assisted learning, and culture.

Prior to enrolling in HON 492 or 493, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session. Students may complete this requirement by completing *one* of the following:

- A thesis preparation course within your unit (for example, HST 495 qualifies as such a course. There are only a few units that offer such a course)
- HON 498 "Thesis Prep Course," a one-credit course offered on the downtown campus
- One of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett
- The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard.

An honors thesis/creative project in Russian language, literature, and other Slavic languages can take various forms, in direct consultation with the faculty member who will supervise the project, which must meet the following requirements:

1) The thesis must be in the realm of Russian or other Slavic languages, literatures, cultures, or regional studies and is 30 to 40 pages of expository text.

2) The thesis committee is composed of a director, who is a regularly-appointed member of the ASU faculty with professional expertise in the thesis/creative project area, and the second committee member – an individual who you and your director decide is appropriate to serve based on knowledge and experience with the thesis/creative project topic. If needed, a third committee member will offer insights beyond those offered by the director and second committee member.

3) It is your responsibility to formulate the thesis topic, to request faculty to serve on your committee, to submit the necessary forms and to inform the chair of the committee of all Honors College requirements and deadlines.

4) An Honors Thesis Prospectus is to be submitted to the Honors College and to the Russian Honors Advisor at the latest at the beginning of the semester preceding the defense. **The prospectus form and summary are due September 16, 2013 for Spring 2014 defenses and February 10, 2014 for Fall 2014.**

Please consult the following link for more information about honors theses/creative projects: <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/>. If you are looking for internship opportunities, the following link may be useful: <http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/internships/>

Sample titles of honors theses:

- The Momentary and The Eternal: A Translation and Analysis of Poems of Mira Lohvitskaya
- Linguistic Factors in Russian Comparative Complement Selection
- Russian Intelligence Activity in the Pre-Perestroika Era: A Case Study
- The Etymology and Naming System of Sexually Transmitted Disease in Russian
- Demons and the Destruction of the Soul in Two of Nikolai Gogol's St. Petersburg Tales: "Nevsky Prospekt" and "The Overcoat"
- Vampilov and Petrushevskaya: The Urban Grotesque in Soviet Drama
- Human Rights According to Putin: An Analysis of His Rhetoric and Practice
- Beyond the "Mosaic" and Into the Mind: Cognitive Linguistics, Sentence Processing, and Translating Horace's Hyperbaton
- English Language Learner Education in Arizona: A Policy Analysis