

Russian Language and Literature Academic Learning Compact

Expected Outcomes of an Area of Concentration in Russian Language and Literature:

Communication Skills:

The student is expected to demonstrate proficiency in the essentials of Russian grammar, syntax, and usage and to be able to discuss with a reasonable level of idiomatic accuracy both daily life situations and topics of special interest – literary history and culture, political and social developments, contemporary Russian society. Emphasis on control of both basic and more specialized vocabulary is considered to be of particular importance. The student should also be able to write an informative and accurately constructed personal letter or self-reflective diary and to produce grammatically correct and effectively constructed brief literary/analytical essays.

Critical Thinking Skills:

The student should be able to read and analyze texts of moderate difficulty, particularly those which are relevant to the Senior Thesis/Project and to conduct necessary research utilizing both Russian- and English-language sources. Familiarity with the wide range of available online Russian sources (including the BBC Russkaja sluzhba) is expected. The student should be able to situate literary and other texts in the historical continuum and to recognize distinctive stylistic and linguistic features of the text.

Content Knowledge:

The student is expected to demonstrate a broad knowledge of the history of Russian literature and culture and to provide evidence of more in-depth knowledge of at least one period, genre, or personality. Adequate knowledge of social/political history and a broad familiarity with philosophy, art, architecture, religion, and other disciplines is expected, particularly as context for the study of Russian literature, which is almost without exception the focus of the Area of Concentration.

Strategies for Tracking Student Competency and Progress in Meeting Expectations of the Area of Concentration:

Quality of narrative evaluations in relevant course work, normally based on written examinations, oral presentations, class participation, and critical/analytical essays, serve as the most basic tracking indicators. Periodic review of the student's linguistic proficiency and individualized course planning through close contact with faculty are of relevance. The student should have progressed from language instruction on the beginning level to advanced and individualized tutorials; likewise regular course offerings in literature should have resulted in more specialized areas of interest and investigation for the student. Every student declaring an Area of Concentration in Russian is required to complete at least one semester of off-campus study, ideally as a participant in one of the many programs currently offered at Russian universities and pedagogical institutes. Successful completion of this work is a solid indicator of the student's progress. Finally, satisfactory completion of the Senior Thesis/Project and the student's performance on the Baccalaureate Examination will serve as the culminating factors in assessing the overall achievement of the student.

Course Mapping:

Course Title	Content	Communication Skills (Russian "R" / English "E")	Critical Thinking
Beginning Russian I/II	•	R	
Intermediate/Advanced Russian I/II	•	R	•
Russian Readings and Composition	•	R	•
Advanced Language Tutorials	•	R	•
Russian Realism: Five Masterpieces	•	E	•
Survey of Nineteenth-Century Short Fiction	•	E	•
Twentieth-Century Prose Fiction	•	E	•
Dostoevsky: Short Fiction	•	E	•
Tolstoy and Chekhov: Short Fiction	•	E	•
Seminar: <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>	•	E	•
Thesis and Specialized Literature Tutorials	•	R/E	•