

BOSTON COLLEGE



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



SLAVIC AND EASTERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

The Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages and Literatures provides graduate and undergraduate courses of study through its four overlapping components:

- ❖ Linguistics
- ❖ Slavic Studies
- ❖ Near Eastern Studies
- ❖ Asian Studies

Graduate Program Descriptions

The department administers three different Master of Arts degree programs:

- ❖ Russian Language and Literature (29)
- ❖ Slavic Studies (30)
- ❖ Linguistics (41)

Additionally the department participates in a program for the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) with the Lynch Graduate School of Education and entertains applications for dual M.B.A. or J.D. degrees.

Admission

For admission to M.A. candidacy in Russian or Slavic Studies, students must be able to demonstrate working knowledge of the Russian language at least equivalent to the proficiency expected at the end of three years (advanced level) of college study. They must also be acquainted with the major facts of Russian literature and history.

Students applying in Linguistics, a program that stresses the interdisciplinary nature of Linguistics (i.e., not restricted to Slavic topics), should have a good preparation in languages and some undergraduate-level work in Linguistics.

Slavic Studies and Linguistics programs frequently involve work in other departments of the University, and candidates in these areas are expected to meet all prerequisites for such courses and seminars, and to deal with materials in various languages as required.

Application Requirements

Please submit the following items: Application forms, official transcripts from all previously attended institutions, at least two letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and GRE scores if available. The Department also welcomes writing samples and other supporting information. In addition, international applicants must submit official TOEFL examination scores. For full consideration of an application, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences should have received all materials by January 2. For more information on how to apply please visit the admissions website at www.bc.edu/gsas.

FACULTY

Students with an undergraduate degree who require preparation for admission to the M.A. may apply as special students. This mode of application is also suited to those who are looking for post-undergraduate courses without enrolling in a formal degree program and for guests from other universities.

Degree Requirements

ALL M.A. PROGRAMS REQUIRE:

- ❖ a minimum of 10 one-semester courses (30 credits) in prescribed graduate-level course work;
- ❖ qualifying and special field examinations;
- ❖ a supervised research paper of publishable quality on an approved topic.

The grades for the qualifying examinations, special-field examinations and the research paper are reported to the Office of Student Services as a single comprehensive examination grade. Comprehensive examination sectors are in written or oral format, depending on the nature of the subject matter.

The department has exemption procedures to allow limited substitution of requirements. With approval a student may apply up to two courses (six credits) of advanced work from other universities or research institutes toward program requirements, provided this work has not been previously applied to an awarded degree.

MAXIM D. SHRAYER

Professor, Russian and English

Ph.D., M.A., M.Phil., Yale University; M.A., Rutgers University; B.A., Brown University

CYNTHIA SIMMONS

Professor, Slavic Studies

Ph.D., A.M., Brown University; A.B., Indiana University

MARGARET THOMAS

Professor, Linguistics

Ph.D., A.M., Harvard University, M.Ed., Boston University; B.A., Yale University

MICHAEL J. CONNOLLY

Associate Professor, Linguistics, Department Chair

Ph.D., Harvard University; A.B., Boston College

SING-CHEN LYDIA CHIANG

Associate Professor, East Asian Studies

Ph.D., Stanford University; M.A., University of Washington; B.A., National Taiwan University

FRANCK SALAMEH

Assistant Professor, Arabic

Ph.D., Brandeis University; M.A., Boston University; B.A., University of Central Florida

COURSE OFFERINGS

We offer most graduate-level courses as parts of varying course cycles. Access information for any given year through www.bc.edu/courses.

Tutorials and courses of reading and research are intended solely for students who have exhausted present course offerings or are doing thesis work on advanced topics. The precise subject matter and scheduling are determined by arrangement, and students may repeat such courses for credit.

SL 308 Dostoevskij and Tolstoj

A comparative study of two giants of world literature, with their opposing perceptions of reality, art and civilization. A reading of their principal novels and short prose, with a focus on psychological, moral, and religious questions and in light of twentieth-century literary theory. *Maxim D. Shrayar, Cynthia Simmons*

SL 311 General Linguistics

An introduction to the history and techniques of the scientific study of language in its structures and operations: articulatory and acoustic phonology, morphological analysis, historical reconstruction and syntactic models.

M. J. Connolly

SL 322 The Structure of Modern Russian

Prerequisite: Previous experience with an inflected language. A systematic review coverage of the phonology and grammar of Contemporary Standard Russian with attention to specific topics in the linguistic analysis of the language, especially phonological structure, accentuation, and morphological patterning. Open to students requiring a very intensive introduction to Russian, as well as to students in Linguistics or Slavic looking to see what makes the language “tick.”

M. J. Connolly

SL 323 The Linguistic Structure of English

An analysis of the major features of contemporary English with some reference to earlier versions of the language: sound system, grammar, structure and meanings of words, properties of discourse.

Margaret Thomas

SL 324 The History and Structure of Latin

An introduction to the phonological, morphological and syntactic structures and history of Latin from the earliest inscriptions through the classical and medieval periods up to neo-Latin.

M.J. Connolly

SL 326 Morphology

An introduction to the formal study of how various languages derive and inflect words, and of the different approaches which linguists can take to the analysis of word forms and inflectional paradigms.

Claire Foley

SL 327 Sanskrit

The grammar of the classical language of India, supplemented through reading selections from the classical literature and an introductory study of comparative Indo-Iranian linguistics.

M. J. Connolly

SL 328 Classical Armenian

A grammatical analysis of Armenian *grabar*, the classical literary language current from the fifth century. Sample readings from Classical Armenian scriptural, patristic, liturgical and historical texts.

M. J. Connolly

SL 329 Early Slavic Linguistics and Texts

The phonological and grammatical properties of Early Slavic exemplified and reinforced through readings in Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian texts.

M. J. Connolly

SL 332 The Russian Short Story

The development and structure of the Russian short story and novella from the 16th through the 20th centuries in works by, for example, Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Zamiatin, Bunin, Nabokov, Solzhenitsyn, Petrushevskaya, and Tolstaya.

Cynthia Simmons

SL 343 Old Irish

A descriptive and historical examination of the linguistic features of Old Irish among the Celtic and Indo-European languages; the reading of Early Irish texts.

M. J. Connolly

SL 344 Syntax and Semantics

An introduction to the concepts and operations of modern generative grammar and related models, and linguistic theories of meaning.

Margaret Thomas, M. J. Connolly

SL 349 Advanced Russian Writing and Translation

Russian syntax, vocabulary and style through extensive analytic reading and through both imitative and original writing; the theory and practice of preparing refined translations both from and into Russian. Conducted entirely in Russian.

Maxim D. Shrayar

SL 358 The Linguistic Structure of Japanese

A linguistic outline of the Japanese language for students with some previous exposure to Linguistics or to Japanese. The phonological and writing systems of Japanese and their origins; fundamentals of Japanese syntax and characteristics of Japanese vocabulary.

Margaret Thomas

SL 361 Psycholinguistics

Classic issues at the interface of language and mind: the production, perception and processing of speech; the organization of language in the human brain; the psychological reality of grammatical models; animal communication; the acquisition of language by children and adults; the innateness hypothesis.

Margaret Thomas

SL 362 Language in Society

An introduction to the study of language in its social context: varieties of language associated with social class, ethnicity, locale and age; bilingualism; pidgin and Creole languages; language, thought and culture; the structure and role of discourse in different cultures; language and gender; language planning; language and public policy.

Margaret Thomas

SL 367 Language and Language Types

Recent research on the diversity of human language and on the limits of linguistic diversity, with a focus on morphology and syntax. Analysis of the proposals which account for why languages both differ from and resemble each other.

Margaret Thomas

SL 375 Jewish Writers in Russia and America

The experience of Jewish writers living in Russia and America from the 1880s until the present, examined through prose, poetry, drama and memoirs written in English or translated into English from Russian, Yiddish, and Hebrew. The responses of Jewish writers to Zionism, the Russian Revolution and the Holocaust, with attention to anti-Semitism, emigration, limits of assimilation, and the future of Jews in Russia and America. The works of authors such as Ansky, Babel, Bagritskii, Bellow, Bialik, Erenburg, Grossman, Malamud, Arthur Miller, Ozick, Philip Roth, Sholem Aleichem, and Ulitskaia.

Maxim D. Shrayer

SL 376 Studies in Words

The ways of words in the life of language as seen through the linguistic techniques of morphology, lexicography, semantics, pragmatics and etymology. Aspects examined include: word formation, word origins, nests of words, winged words, words at play, words and material culture, writing systems, the semantic representations of words, bytes and words, the creative word, the Word made flesh, awkward words, dirty words, dialect vocabulary, salty words, fighting words, words at prayer, new words, and the Great Eskimo Vocabulary Hoax.

M.J. Connolly

SL 377 Linguistic Analysis and Field Methods

Analysis of a little-studied language through direct interaction with a native speaker: techniques for eliciting, transcribing, and interpreting linguistic data, some of which go back to the beginnings of Western language science, while others employ modern computer technology. Working individually and in small groups, students analyze the sound patterns, words, syntax, and pragmatics of the target language, with some attention to cultural and ethnographic matters. The course also addresses the complex ethical issues involved in archiving linguistic materials that current debate about language rights raises. The identity of the target language varies from year to year (e.g. Austronesian, Dravidian).

Margaret Thomas

SL 378 Second Language Acquisition

An introduction to the study of what it means to learn, and to know, a language other than one's native tongue: acquisition of the phonology, morphology, vocabulary, grammar, and pragmatics of a foreign language. Discussion of the role of the native language; child first and second language learning; proposals about the nature of second language acquisition from the monitor model to generative grammar-based hypotheses; debate about 'input and interaction.'

Margaret Thomas

SL 380 Topics in Syntax

An exploration of key topics, including agreement systems and clausal embedding, in the syntax of seemingly disparate languages and language groups such as Celtic, Icelandic, Belfast English, and Chinese.

Claire Foley

SL 384 Christian Latin

A careful reading, linguistic analysis, and philological appreciation of selected and characteristic medieval Latin texts from the Vulgate and Augustine up through the Counter-reformation.

Examination of a wide variety of genres, including liturgical, biblical, poetic, theological, and devotional literature, as well as ecclesiastical documents, extending into secular documents, as well as into earlier Latin (Itala, inscriptions and fragments) and into Neolatin.

M.J. Connolly

SL 424 Studies in New Testament Greek

A structural review of the important features of Koine Greek grammar with close reading and analysis of selected New Testament texts, supplemented by relevant Old Testament, Patristic, and liturgical materials.

M.J. Connolly

SL 427 The Art and Craft of Literary Translation

Literary translation as an art. Some discussion of the history and theory of literary translation in the West and in Russia, but mainly practice in translating poetry or artistic prose into English or Russian.

Maxim D. Shrayer

SL 472 The Comparative Development of the Romance Languages

Why do the French say *pied*, the Italians *piede*, and the Spanish *pie*? The class, an introduction to Romance Philology, explores the common and distinctive linguistic features of Spanish, French and Italian, as well as the historical and cultural contexts in which each language developed. The second part of the course is dedicated to an examination of three early texts, one from each of the languages.

Laurie A. Shepard

SL 522 Seminar: *Klassicheskaja russkaja literatura*

A survey of selected major works, authors, and movements in Russian literature from the twelfth century up to the Russian Revolution.

Maxim D. Shrayer

SL 523 Seminar: *Russkaja literatura XX-go veka*

Close readings of selected works that have not received sufficient attention in Western Slavic scholarship.

Cynthia Simmons, Maxim D. Shrayer

SL 530 Seminar: *Russkaja fantastika*

A study of the grotesque, bizarre, surreal, supernatural, and fantastic in a wide range of Russian short stories and novels by writers such as Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Bulgakov, Sinyavsky, and Pelevin, with reference to parallels in Western Literature.

Cynthia Simmons

SL 532 Seminar: *Literature of the Other Europe*

Selected writers such as Gombrowicz, Hrabal, Schultz, Kundera, Kis, Selimbegovic, Ugresic, and others.

Cynthia Simmons

Undergraduate Courses

Courses below SL 300 do not normally apply for graduate degree credit but are open to interested graduate and special students. Full descriptions of such courses appear in the Boston College Catalog and at www.bc.edu/courses.

SL 003–004 Elementary Russian I/II
SL 007–008 Introduction to Arabic I/II
SL 009–010 Elementary Chinese I/II
SL 023–024 Elementary Japanese I/II
SL 031–032 Introduction to Korean I/II
SL 035–036 Introduction to Bulgarian I/II
SL 037–038 Introduction to Hebrew I/II
SL 045–046 Continuing Bulgarian I/II
SL 051–052 Intermediate Russian I/II
SL 061–062 Intermediate Chinese I/II
SL 063–064 Intermediate Japanese I/II
SL 065–066 Continuing Arabic I/II
SL 075–076 Continuing Korean I/II
SL 081–082 Continuing Hebrew I/II
SL 084 Literatures of the World
SL 091–092 Biblical Hebrew I/II
SL 102 Bulgarian Language Workshop
SL 103 Hebrew Language Workshop
SL 104 Swedish Language Workshop
SL 106 Arabic Language Workshop
SL 107 Turkish Language Workshop
SL 108 Yiddish Language Workshop
SL 128 *Shedevry russkoj klassiki*
SL 130 *Narody russkogo severa*
SL 149 Balkan Civilizations
SL 157–158 Third-year Russian I/II
SL 159 Poetics Workshop
SL 160 Slavic Workshop
SL 165–166 Third-year Chinese I/II
SL 167–168 Third-year Japanese I/II
SL 171–172 Third-year Arabic I/II
SL 205 Tolstoj and Dostoevskij (in translation)

SL 221 The Language of Liturgy
SL 222 Classics of Russian Literature (in translation)
SL 223 Twentieth-century Russian Literature (in translation)
SL 225 Russian Folklore (in translation)
SL 226 Readings in Russian Short Prose
SL 227 Advanced Russian Grammar
SL 229 Specialized Readings in Russian Texts
SL 230 Russian Literature of the Fantastic (in translation)
SL 231 Slavic Civilizations
SL 232 Literature of the Other Europe (in translation)
SL 235 Chekhov's Plays and Stories (in translation)
SL 237 Sounds of Language and Music
SL 239 Women in Russian Literature (in translation)
SL 240 The Contemporary Russian Novel (in translation)
SL 245–246 Advanced Chinese I/II
SL 249 Women of Eastern Europe at War and for Peace
SL 251–252 Advanced Arabic I/II
SL 257–258 Advanced Japanese I/II
SL 262 Gods and Heroes in Far Eastern Literatures (in translation)
SL 263 Far Eastern Civilizations
SL 266 The Grammar of Numbers
SL 272 War and Peace in Yugoslavia
SL 274 Russian Cinema
SL 275 Nabokov
SL 278 English: The Languages
SL 279 Language and Ethnicity
SL 280 Society and National Identity in the Balkans
SL 281 Linguistics and Communication
SL 283 The Christian East: *Oriente lumen*
SL 285 Russian Civilization and Culture
SL 286 Exile and Literature
SL 288 Literature and Revolution
SL 289 The Novel in Russia and America
SL 290 Medicine and Literature
SL 365 Readings in Chinese Literature and Philosophy



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