Russian Studies Faculty and Committee

- Elena Konstantinovna Murenina (RUS program director), foreign languages and literatures; Russian literature and literary criticism; media and cultural studies
- Michael Bassman (director of Honors program, IC Scholars, and undergraduate research program) ethnic studies, Holocaust literature
- Sylvie Dobrevac-Herzog (director of international programs and MAIS International Studies)
- Richard Ericson (chair: economics) microeconomics theory, comparative economic systems, economics of transition
- Mirthe Horst (School of Music) theory, composition, musicology
- Galina Panova (School of Theatre and Dance) ballet, ethnic dance
- Carmine Scavo (director of MPA) political science, urban politics, public policy, media and politics
- Mauricio Simon (political science) East European political systems
- Scott Snyder (ex-officio), senior associate dean

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or status as an individual with disabilities.
What Is the Russian Studies Program?

The Russian studies program at East Carolina University offers you a broad spectrum of disciplines, providing you a solid background in Russian area studies from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Russian studies courses explore Russia and the republics of the former Soviet Union from their various dimensions—linguistic, literary, aesthetic, ethical, philosophical, historical, religious, political, psychological, gendered, sociological, and economic areas. The study of Russian civilization from its origins to today's reality—leading to the understanding of the strength, complexities, and dilemmas of the Russian cultural experience—will afford a great opportunity for you to think about the eternal problems of human existence and humanity as a whole.

The Russian studies program is interdisciplinary and is sponsored by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. The program draws its principal faculty from the Departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Political Science, Economics, and International Studies, and from the ECU Honors program. Faculty from ECU professional schools such as the School of Music, School of Theatre and Dance, School of Communication, and School of Art and Design also participate in the Russian studies program.

The Russian studies program includes two core interdisciplinary seminars in Russian studies (RUSS) on the introductory and senior levels and a variety of electives in Russian literature in translation, film, culture, media, folklore, history, economics, and political science. Interested students are encouraged to use Russian (RUSS 201-204) to satisfy the foreign language requirement for the bachelor of arts degree, which makes possible not only study at a more advanced level, but also study abroad in Russia. You will work closely with faculty who often serve as your mentors or advisors.

Why Study Russian and Russian at ECU?

• Russia is a great place to visit, with the Kremlin in Moscow, the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the Volga River in Saratov, the Ural in Yekaterinburg, and more.
• Study abroad and make Russian friends.
• Learn Russian to read Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov. Russian is a native language of Tikhomirov and Mussorgsky, Rachmaninoff and Stravinsky, Mendeleev and Dostoevsky, Stolypin and Einstein, Mendel and Ghajal, and Nijinsky and Balanchine.
• Russian program faculty are well-experienced lecturers and distinguished scholars who speak Russian fluently and would like to share with you their knowledge and admiration for this enormous and beautiful country.

The Major

Through the BA multidiplinary studies program, it is possible to pursue a concentration in Russian studies. The requirements for the concentration are the same as those for the minor with the addition of 6 s.h. (MULT 3500, 4199). Unless otherwise arranged, the director of Russian studies will act as mentor/advisor, and students will work under the supervision of the Russian Studies Committee.

Other curricula involving Russian studies—such as the BIS curriculum plan—are possible but will require the cooperation of the director of Russian studies and approval of the Multidisciplinary Studies Committee.

The Minor

The interdisciplinary minor in Russian studies requires a minimum of 24 semester hours of course credit. The student's minor program must be approved by the Russian studies program director. Please see the 2005-2006 courses and requirements below. For up-to-date information on program requirements and prerequisites, consult the current undergraduate catalog.

1. CORE (6 s.h.)

One of the following introductory courses (3 s.h.) is required:

RUSS 2001 Introduction to Russian Studies: Humanities (3) (FCHU)
RUSS 2002 Introduction to Russian Studies: Social Science (3) (FCSO)
RUSS 2003 Introduction to Russian Studies: Fine Arts (3) (FCFA)

The following corequisite course (3 s.h.) is required:

RUSS 4000 Senior Seminar in Russian Studies (3)

2. ELECTIVES (38 s.h.)

Choose 3 s.h. from each of the two areas below:

- Humanities

RUSS 2230 Introduction to Russian Culture (3) (FCHU)
RUSS 2700 Special Topics in Russian Studies (3)
RUSS 3220 Nineteenth Century Russian Literature in Translation (3) (FCHU)
RUSS 3221 Twentieth Century Russian Literature in Translation (3) (FCHU)
RUSS 3230 Russian and Soviet Film (3) (FCHU)
RUSS 3700 Special Topics in Russian Studies (3)

- Social Science

ECON 3855 Russian Economic Transition (3) (FCSO)
HIST 3555 Medieval Russia, 862–1682 (3)
HIST 3555 Imperial Russia, 1682–1917 (3)
HIST 3555 Soviet Russia, 1917–1991 (3)
POLS 3225 Eastern European Political Systems (3) (FCSO)
POLS 3225 Eastern European Politics (3) (FCSO)

A maximum of two of the following courses (6 s.h.) can be counted toward the minor electives; however, the director must approve the course substitution.

RUSS 3011, 3012 Field Study in Russia (3, 6)
RUSS 3500 Selected Topics in Russian Studies (3)
RUSS 3901, 3932, 3933 Directed Readings in Russian Studies (1, 2, 3)

Other appropriate courses in humanities, social science, and fine arts may be substituted in consultation with the Russian program director.

Study Abroad

Russian area studies students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of study abroad opportunities. In addition to a variety of U.S.C. system and nationwide programs that range from a summer to a full year of study abroad, ECU students have the privilege to study for a semester in one of the top Russian classical universities—Saratov State University. Located on the Volga River southwest of Moscow, Saratov is one of the most important educational, cultural, and industrial centers in the European part of Russia, and has nearly a million people. ECU students pay tuition and fees at the ECU rate.

Sponsored Events

• The Russian Studies Guest Lecture Series presents distinguished speakers from Russian studies fields.
• The Russian Films Series offers Russian films with English subtitles during the academic year for ECU students, faculty, staff, and the Greenville community.
• The Russian studies program periodically participates in musical concerts, dance and theatre events, and art exhibitions at East Carolina.
• The program is actively involved in academic and social events organized by the ECU Honors program.

To learn more about the Russian studies program and about current events, please check out our Web site at www.ecu.edu/foreign/Russian/ or contact

Dr. Elena Konstantinova Murinela
Director, Russian Studies Program
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
East Carolina University
3305A Rate Building
Greenville, NC 27858-4553
Phone: 252-328-6540
E-mail: murinela@ecu.edu