

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
WASHINGTON HALL

MEMORANDUM

TO: ISCAPC

FROM: Tony Anemone, Russian Studies CFAC

SUBJECT: Russian Studies

DATE: April 22, 2005

The active members of the Russian Studies CFAC are:

Tony Anemone, MLL
Sasha Prokhorov, MLL
Bella-Ginzburgsky Blum, MLL
Laurie Koloski, History
Fred Corney, History
Paula Pickering, Government

Students:

Although we experienced a significant drop in students starting first-year Russian in the fall of 04 (from approximately 50 students in RUS 101 in fall 03 to approximately 30 in fall 04),¹ our enrollments at second year level stayed stable (28 students in 201 in fall 04, 27 in 201 in fall 03), while enrollments in the third and fourth year Russian language and literature courses increased dramatically (58 students in 04-05 compared to 41 in 03-04). Demand for Russian literature, cinema and culture courses in translation remains very strong: almost all sections of these courses in 04-05 were full, while we increased the enrollment of Russian 250, Russian Myths and Legends, from 60 to over 100 students. Most of these courses are cross-listed with LCST, Film Studies or International Studies. Likewise, courses in Russian and East European History and Politics routinely turn away many students. In addition, our six-week summer study program at St. Petersburg University, now in its fifth year, has a record number of 18 students participating. Finally, we are happy to report that, as of November 2004, there were 19 declared Russian Studies majors at the College.

Other signs of the vitality of the program include: an active Russian House, a record number of 10 inductees to the National Russian Honors Society, Dobro Slovo, a new scholarship fund to support students who would like to study at our program at St. Petersburg University in the summer, and a successful May Seminar application by

¹ While we have no explanation for the dip in enrollment in first year Russian this year, we are happy to report that 30 upper-class students have already enrolled for the fall 06 sections of Russian 101.

Professors Anemone, Prokhorov and Ginzbursky-Blum to revise the upper-level curriculum in Russian.

CFAC sponsored Activities for 2004-05:

Fall 2004

- Field Trip to Washington D.C. to the Hillwood Museum of Russian Decorative Art
- John Alexander, Professor of History at University of Kansas, lecture on “Fedor Korzhavin in 18th Century Colonial Williamsburg”
- Rasha Kawmy, class of 05, lecture (in Russian) on his summer internship in Moscow for the Pepsi-Cola company in Russian House.

Spring 2005

- Charles King, Associate Professor of Government, Georgetown University, lecture on “Europe’s Final Frontier” Territory and Sovereignty in the Caucasus.”
- Helena Goscolo, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh, lecture “We Want Heroes! Politics and Art in Today’s Russia.”
- Anna Brodsky, Associate Professor of Russian Language and Literature, Washington and Lee University, lecture “Historical and Cultural Contexts of the Conflict in Chechnya.”

Programmatic Issues:

At its fall meeting, the Russian Studies CFAC voted to change the name of our program to “Russian and Post-Soviet Studies” in order to reflect the participation of faculty who specialize in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (Koloski and Pickering). This change was approved by the EPC in the spring 05.² At the same time, we updated the list of courses for the concentration to bring it into closer alignment with the actual courses taught by the faculty.³

² This email confirms your recent submission of a Curriculum Change Application from the web site. The following lists the contents of your submission

Date Submitted: 28-Mar-05

Department: Russian Studies

Changes: The Russian Studies CFAC met, discussed and voted to change the name of our program from "Russian Studies" to "Russian and Post-Soviet Studies" in order to make transparent the fact that courses in East European literature, culture, politics and history are included within both our major and minor.

First Semester: fall 2005

New Material: Change titles of major and minor in International Studies to "Russian and Post-Soviet Studies." New catalog copy (pg 126): "The major in Russian and Post-Soviet Studies offers exposure to the diverse literature, history, politics, and economics of Russia, the former Soviet Union and the former Eastern Bloc and examines the rapid changes reshaping this major world region."

³ This email confirms your recent submission of a Curriculum Change Application

Unresolved Issues:

The most critical issue facing Russian (and Post-Soviet) Studies at William and Mary is inadequate faculty resources, especially in the Social Sciences and Humanities departments other than MLL. While, for example, East Asian and Middle East Studies include courses from MLL, History, Government, Anthropology and Religion, Russian Studies includes only MLL, History and Government.⁴ A priority for Russian Studies is to encourage the hiring of at least one more faculty member from a department like Art History, Anthropology, Sociology, Music or Religion whose primary teaching responsibility would be to offer courses in the Russian or Post-Soviet area.

Unlike the faculty in MLL whose primary teaching responsibility is to Russian, Corney, Koloski and Pickering teach at least half their courses in European or Comparative History and Government: these courses, obviously, do not count for the Russian Studies concentration. In addition, when these faculty members go on leave, they are routinely not replaced by their home departments. For example, in the 2005-06 academic year, while Pickering, Corney and Prokhorov will all be on leave for one semester each, the only replacement provided is one adjunct to make up for one of Prokhorov's language courses. This creates a significant (and growing) problem for our concentrators who need specific courses to graduate on time. Indeed, it has already resulted in an appreciable increase in student demand for independent study courses. Additional faculty resources are the only solution to this problem.

Despite these issues, 2004-05 has been a notably successful year for Russian Studies. Interest in our program is increasing, and we are committed to improving and building and improving the program in the years to come.

from the web site. The following lists the contents of your submission

Lines 5 & 6: RUS 387's new title is "Love, Adultery and Prostitution in 19th Century Russian Literature"

RUS 388's new title is: "Revolution, Crime and Romance in 20th Century Russian Literature"

Lines 7 & 8: Add History 490 and 491, Topics in History (Russian and East European topics only) lines 9 & 10: for GOVT 391 and 491, and INTL 390, 480, 495, 496 change "Russian topics only" to "Russian and East European topics only"

⁴ ECON 382 demands so many pre-requisites that almost none of our students are able to take it.