The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center offers an interdisciplinary major and minor in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES). These programs involve students in the study of an important and complex world area in a manner that draws together the approaches of different disciplines, while at the same time building knowledge in a single discipline. A student will construct an individual program of study, depending on the student’s interests and career goals, in consultation with the undergraduate advisor of the Center.

The major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies consists of three components: 1) language study (Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Turkish, and more); 2) a multidisciplinary area studies focus; and 3) concentration in a single discipline. Language study can be in Russian or in any of the other languages of the region offered at the University. Students also take courses in a variety of disciplines (history, sociology, political science) and develop a broad expertise in the history, politics, and culture of the region that includes Russia, but also many other countries, from the Czech Republic to Estonia to Uzbekistan. In addition, the concentration in a single discipline provides students with deep knowledge of a specific field that can qualify them for graduate or professional study. Many students also use this concentration to double major. With this program, the REEES major provides students with an interdisciplinary focus on issues critical to the region and foundational language training necessary for professional specialization in the area.

Students often go on to careers in government service (foreign service, FBI, CIA) or to work at NGOs (environment, human rights, and other international careers) in addition to publishing, editing, writing, translation, international business, law, teaching, and research.

REEES is one of two “Russian” majors (and minors) at the University of Illinois. What is the difference between them and which is the right one for you?

The REEES major has a current affairs focus and multidisciplinary area studies that develops students’ skill sets in the humanities, social sciences, and other fields. The major in Slavic Studies emphasizes the study of language and literature, and students develop intensive cultural literacy and communication skills through humanities-oriented training. Many Slavic Studies majors go on to careers in writing and editing, media, or work with international cultural foundations and organizations. Both majors are excellent preparation for law school or graduate school and careers in teaching or research.

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

E-mail: reec@illinois.edu
Component 3: Courses in a single discipline. Among those disciplines that are most commonly used with this specialization are anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, Russian language and literature, and sociology. Among disciplines also used are business administration, comparative literature, education, English, fine arts, French, German, journalism, linguistics, mathematics, music, philosophy, psychology, and various natural sciences. Others are permitted. Consult your advisor. 

1 The Center maintains a list of applicable courses on its web site.

2 If the study of a language is used for this component, 20 hours must be taken beyond the requirement of 6 additional hours outlined under component 1 above.

Interdisciplinary Minor in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

The interdisciplinary minor in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies allows students in diverse fields to complement their programs with a study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. Programs of study can be tailored to the needs and interests of individual students, in consultation with the undergraduate advisor.

E-mail: reec@illinois.edu

Code | Title | Hours
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REES 115 | Intro to Polish Culture | 3
| Same as POL 115. See POL 115. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Lit Arts Cultural Studies - Western

REES 116 | Intro to Russian Culture | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/116)
| Same as RUSS 115. See RUSS 115. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Humanities - Lit Arts Cultural Studies - Western

REES 200 | Intro to Russia and Eurasia | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/200)
| Survey of the societies and states formerly constituted as the Soviet Union. Interdisciplinary and team-taught. Combines lectures, discussions, and films covering the history, political science, economics, sociology, and culture of the area. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

REES 201 | Introduction to Eastern Europe | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/201)
| Interdisciplinary survey of Eastern Europe focusing mostly on the 20th century to the present, exploring issues of nationalism, socialism, post socialism and EU accession. Focuses on Central Europe and the Balkans, but also references the Baltic States, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. Students will learn about the region using perspectives and methodology from historical, economic, political, sociological and anthropological texts. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

REES 296 | Special Topics | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/296)
| Topics in the interdisciplinary study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. Approved for letter and S/U grading. May be repeated in separate terms to a maximum of 6 hours.

REES 300 | Intro to Russia and Eurasian Studies | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/300)
| Interdisciplinary seminar normally taken in the senior year. Involving faculty in a number of disciplines, this course approaches understanding Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia and the methodologies of its study through questions of identities, cultural values, and change. Taught in conjunction with REES 550. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: Declared major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies or consent of instructor; junior or senior standing.

REES 325 | Social Media and Global Change | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/325)
| Some as LAST 325 and SAME 325. See LAST 325 and SAME 325. Approved for letter and S/U grading. May be repeated in separate terms to a maximum of 6 hours.

REES 390 | Individual Study or Research | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/390)
| Directed reading or research on selected topics. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor supervising the work.

REES 401 | Undergraduate Honors Thesis | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/401)
| Undergraduate honors thesis. No graduate credit. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite: REES major with junior standing and 3.5 grade-point average; consent of instructor supervising the work and the REEEC director.

REES 493 | Honors Senior Thesis | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/493)
| Undergraduate honors thesis. 3 undergraduate hours. Prerequisite: REES major with senior standing and 3.5 grade-point average; consent of instructor supervising the work and the REEEC director.

REES 495 | Senior Seminar | 3 (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/495)
| Interdisciplinary seminar normally taken in the senior year. Involving faculty in a number of disciplines, this course approaches understanding Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia and the methodologies of its study through questions of identities, cultural values, and change. Taught in conjunction with REES 550. 3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: Declared major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies or consent of instructor; junior or senior standing.
REES 496  Topics in REEE Studies  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/REES/496)
Topics in the interdisciplinary study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated to a maximum of 9 undergraduate hours or 12 graduate hours.