To be adopted: Proposed Changes to Russian Major

PRESENT:
The Russian Studies B.A. has been developed for students who are interested in Russian language and literature, Russian history and civilization. Individual major programs are dependent upon the students’ particular interests. In consultation with the advisor, each student plans a coherent program of courses to meet the requirements for the major. Normally, students’ programs are submitted for approval no later than the beginning of their junior year.

1. Lower-division requirement: CPLT 001 or CPLT 001W, and CPLT 002
2. Upper-division requirements
   a. Language requirement: 12 units from
      RUSN 101 (E-Z), RUSN 102 (E-Z), RUSN 120 (E-Z), RUSN 103
   b. Literature requirement: 12 units from
      RUSN 109A, RUSN 109B, RUSN 109C
3. 8 units from EUR 111A, EUR 111B, EUR 111C
4. CPLT 193 (4 units). (CPLT 196 strongly recommended but not required)

Total upper-division units: 36

PROPOSED:
No change

1. Lower-division requirement: CPLT 001 or CPLT 001W, and 1 lower-division CPLT course
2. No change

Justification:
This is to change a core requirement for the literatures and languages majors in the Department of Comparative Literature and Languages. These majors (Chinese, Classical Studies, Comparative Ancient Civilizations, Comparative Literature, French, German Studies, Japanese, Languages, and Russian) share a required curricular rubric which trains students in the basic skills and sensibilities for literary and cultural studies. This rubric of courses is: CPLT 1 (“Introduction to Close Reading”); CPLT 2 (“Reading World Literature”); CPLT 193 (“Capstone Research Seminar”). Our faculty have noted that while the framing CPLT 1/CPLT 193 creates and maintains a curricular coherency and a linkage in concepts and reading and writing practices across time for our students, that CPLT 2 does not; rather, CPLT 2 can tend to offer a sampling of literary readings across world literary traditions, and an introduction to the notion
of “world literature” (itself a problematic and much-debated concept), yet without introducing students to the depth and vibrancy of any one of those traditions in a meaningful way. We therefore have determined, as a collective to remove the CPLT 2 requirement and replace it with any lower-division, elective CPLT course, reflected here as “1 lower-division CPLT course.” It is our shared conviction that students will significantly benefit from this curricular change, because, rather than a more superficial reading of a number of texts across traditions, students will have the opportunity to study a single literary tradition or literary-comparative problem, theme, or field of texts in details. This will, in our shared view, expose students to a tradition or literary language which may not be their chosen area of focus for their major, and which will enrich their intellectual experience in the College for this reason; it will also provide a counterpoint, and an opening onto what is, for the student, a new literary tradition or theme, which they will not have studied before, and which will allow them to think about their chosen major in a new light. Finally, these courses will provide a bridge between CPLT 1 and students’ upper-division course work in their chosen areas of focus, and it will enable and support the shift in sensibility, reading style, and writing approach, required as students move from CPLT 1 to more sustained study at the upper-division level, all of which culminates in CPLT 193, where students produced a sustained piece of literary-critical writing in their chosen area of specialization under the guidance of department faculty. While the requirement “1 lower-division CPLT course” is listed in these terms for ease of recognition and application, we regularly offer a number of courses that fill this requirement, including: CPLT 23 (“Modern Japan and Personal Narrative”); CPLT 25 (“Introduction to Science Fiction”); CPLT 26 (“Introduction to Literature, Film, and Art by French and Francophone Women”); CPLT 27 (“Food and Film”); CPLT 28 (“Justice, Law, Violence”); CPLT 30 (“Introduction to Chinese Civilization”); CPLT 40 (“Literary response to Disaster and Repression”); CPLT 48 (“Chinese Cinema”); CPLT 62 (“Introduction to Southeast Asian Literature”); CPLT 63 (“Reading Southeast Asian Stories”); CPLT 70 (“Introduction to African Literature”); among others.

**Approvals:**
Approved by the faculty of the Department of Comparative Literature & Languages: November 23, 2020
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: February 15, 2021
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: April 5, 2021