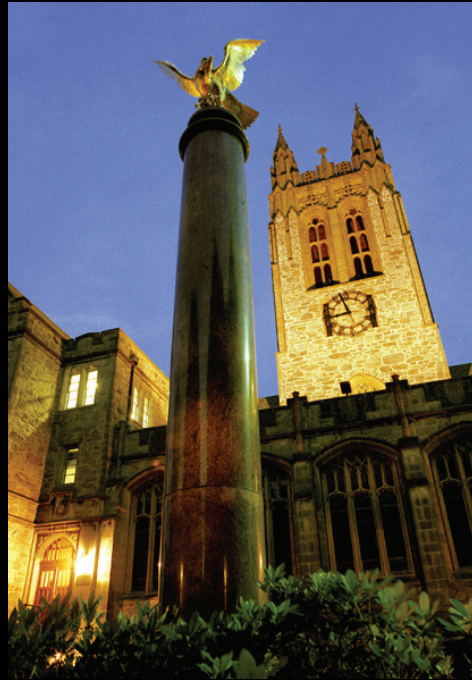


# BOSTON COLLEGE

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



GRADUATE PROGRAM

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 February 1. For more information on how to apply please visit the admissions website at [www.bc.edu/gsas](http://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.

# COURSE OFFERINGS

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## MAXIM D. SHRAYER

### Professor, Russian and English

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

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## CYNTHIA SIMMONS

### Professor, Slavic Studies

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

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## MARGARET THOMAS

### Professor, Linguistics

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

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## MICHAEL J. CONNOLLY

### Associate Professor, Linguistics, Department Chair

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

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## SING-CHEN LYDIA CHIANG

### Associate Professor, East Asian Studies

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

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## FRANCK SALAMEH

### Assistant Professor, Arabic

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

We offer most graduate-level courses as parts of varying course cycles. Access information for any given year through [www.bc.edu/courses](http://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. Shrayer, 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, M. J. Connolly, Claire Foley*

### 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 325 Historical Linguistics (Spring 3)

Prerequisite: SL311 or equivalent, and familiarity with an inflected language. The phenomenon of language change and of languages, dialects, and linguistic affinities, examined through the methods of comparative linguistics and internal reconstruction.  
*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, Claire Foley*

### 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. Shrayev*

### SL 356 Classics in Linguistics (Spring: 3)

Prerequisite: A course in General Linguistics and at least one additional Linguistics elective

Corequisite: Students must be prepared to follow some of the readings in the original languages

Supervised readings, reports, and discussions on formative and impor-

tant works in the development of linguistic thought from the ancient world up through modern linguistic controversies. Readings are chosen with partial consideration of students' research interests.

*Margaret Thomas, M.J. Connolly*

### 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 374 Post-Soviet Russian Literature (Fall: 3)

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, dramatic cultural shifts have transformed Russian literature--writers no longer work under the "red pencil" of censorship, but like writers in the West, under the "censorship" of the marketplace. Crime fiction vies with more highbrow literature, and post-modern themes and devices prevail among a younger generation less influenced by a classical or Soviet heritage. Diversity (e.g., gender and ethnic identities), newly acquired tastes, and a predictable tension between Soviet and post-Soviet values characterize works by Boris Akunin, Valeriia Narbikova, Viktor Pelevin, Nina Sadur, Vladimir Sorokin, Olga Slavnikova, and Liudmila Ulitskaia.

*Cynthia Simmons*

### 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, Claire Foley*

### 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 383 Sound & Form: Morphophonology (Spring: 3)

For students who have already studied some general linguistics, a look, through examples from various languages and through a consideration of available analytic techniques, at operations in phonology which occur in morphological/inflectional context. Also, as time allows, excursions into phonosyntax.

*M.J. Connolly*

### 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 430 Foreign Language Pedagogy (Fall: 3)

Cross Listed with ED 303, RL 597

This course will introduce students to Foreign Language Pedagogy and its basis in the theory of Second Language Acquisition, Linguistic Analysis, and Psycholinguistic Research. Thus, language teaching and methods will be discussed in the framework of these related fields. Although the course will offer reviews of Second Language Acquisition and linguistic theories, it will focus on their practical application in the classroom.

*Mariela Dakova*

### 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.

*Dwayne Carpenter*

### 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](http://www.bc.edu/courses).

- SL 003–004 Elementary Russian I/II
- SL 007–008 Arabic for Scholars 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 Modern 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 075–076 Continuing Korean I/II
- SL 081–082 Continuing Modern Hebrew I/II
- SL 084 Literatures of the World
- SL 089–090 Intermediate Arabic I/II
- SL 091–092 Biblical Hebrew I/II
- SL 097 ILS: Turkish
- SL 099 ILS: Tajik
- 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 110 Spoken Arabic Language Workshop
- SL 116 Lebanese Language Workshop
- SL 128 *Shedevry russkoj klassiki*
- SL 130 *Narody russkogo severa*
- SL 138 Farsi e Dari Language Workshop
- SL 139 Persian Poetry Workshop
- SL 157–158 Third-year Russian I/II
- SL 159 Poetics 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 181–182 Persian for Scholars
- SL 205 Tolstoj and Dostoevskij (in translation)
- SL 208–209 Advanced Russian I/II
- SL 220 Far Eastern Literary Masterpieces
- 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 Literatures of the Other Europe
- 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 Gender and War in Eastern Europe
- SL 250 Conversion, Islam and Politics in the Balkans
- SL 251–252 Advanced Arabic I/II
- SL 255 Modern Chinese Writers (in translation)
- SL 257–258 Advanced Japanese I/II
- SL 262 Gods and Heroes in Far Eastern Literatures (in translation)
- SL 264 Wisdom and Philosophy of the Far East
- 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 291 Near Eastern Civilizations
- SL 293 Russian Civilization and the Western Cultural Tradition
- SL 294 Advanced Readings in Persian Texts
- SL 365 Readings in Chinese Literature and Philosophy



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Department of Slavic and Eastern

Languages & Literatures

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