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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revision of the PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature

**SPONSOR:** Michael Finke, Dept. Head, 244-3068, [mcfinke@illinois.edu](mailto:mcfinke@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Assoc. Dean Karen Carney, LAS, 333-1350, [kmcarney@illinois.edu](mailto:kmcarney@illinois.edu)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The Department of Slavic Languages and Literature (SLL) proposes to add a language pedagogy requirement (SLAV 577) of 4 credit hours to the PhD.

**JUSTIFICATION:** SLL seeks to formalize a practice that has become customary in the unit's graduate program. For the past four academic years, since SLL first received a new lecturer position for language program coordination and language TA supervision, we have been offering a pedagogy seminar and strongly urging all language TAs to take this seminar. The addition of a colleague with expertise in SLA (Second Language Acquisition) and the development of a substantial language pedagogy course was a central step in our efforts to properly train our graduate students as the program grew; it was also an important step toward further enhancing the quality of our language program, which largely serves undergraduates at Illinois.

Our graduate students also need this training to be properly positioned for the job market: there are virtually no academic positions in our field for which our graduates might apply that do not require language teaching, and while all of our PhD students do gain teaching experience, documented coursework in SLA and pedagogy is generally expected by hiring institutions. Unlike the other language and literature programs in SLCL, we do not have a linguistics track, and our graduate students are not able to gain SLA and pedagogic accreditation through the FLTE or SLATE programs. This is our way of providing a minimal level of formal study of language pedagogy. Accordingly, we have been requiring our graduate students to take the language pedagogy seminar at least twice. The requested change in the PhD program's requirements will canonize a requirement that, until now, has been presented as informal.

Our graduate students are encouraged to take the pedagogy seminar early in their career--even before having earned the M.A., and at least concurrently with their first teaching experience, if not before such an assignment. However, it seems best to list this as a PhD requirement, rather than an M.A. requirement, because: (1) about a third of the students we admit have already earned an M.A. elsewhere, which we honor, and we want to ensure that these students take the seminar; (2) though this is rare, we sometimes admit students working toward a terminal M.A. who receive two or more years of fellowship support and therefore never teach for us, and who may not be oriented toward a teaching

career. We encourage students to take the seminar in consecutive years, because the instructor has designed two distinct iterations, to be offered in alternating falls.

SLAV 577 is a 2 credit hour repeatable course with two different topics that will rotate each year. Graduate students will be required to take both topics.

#### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

##### **1) Resources**

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

This proposal is already financially supported. The pedagogy seminar is listed in the job description of the lecturer and language program coordinator position, which was first filled four years ago. Formalizing this requirement will create no new expense for the department.

- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

No surplus or added capacity will be required.

- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

No additional resources will be sought, because none will be needed.

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

Not applicable.

##### **2) Resource Implications**

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

There will be no impact on faculty resources. This seminar is offered every fall, and has been for the past four years. Enrollment levels should not change significantly due to the course becoming a formal requirement of our PhD program.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.

There is no such impact, and no such discussions have been necessary.

Please address the impact on the University Library (*A letter of estimated impact from the University Librarian must be included for all new program*

*proposals. If the impact is above and beyond normal library business practices, describe provisions for how this will be resourced.)*

Absolutely no impact on the University Library.

- c. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

There will be no new impact. The course has been taught in rooms with all IT and video projection capacity, etc., because making use of technology is part of the curriculum. Listing this course as required will change nothing, however, since the course is already offered every fall.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2017

## STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

### Overview tab- no changes

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<http://www.slavic.illinois.edu>

Head of the Department: Michael Finke  
Director of Graduate Studies: Richard Tempest  
2090 Foreign Languages Building  
707 South Mathews Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-0680  
E-mail: [slavic@illinois.edu](mailto:slavic@illinois.edu)  
Major: Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Degrees Offered: M.A., Ph.D.

## Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures offers graduate work leading to the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Scope of the department includes Bulgarian, Czech, Old Church Slavonic, Polish, Russian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Yiddish and Ukrainian.

## Admission

Prospective graduate students of Slavic languages and literatures should have had the equivalent of at least three years of college study in the language of their proposed specialization and advanced coursework in that literature. Applicants should apply online ([www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)) and submit a statement of purpose, three letters of recommendation and a writing sample. Original transcripts (with English translations if applicable) showing all undergraduate and graduate work completed should be sent to:

SLCL Graduate Student Services  
3070 Foreign Languages Bldg.  
707 S. Mathews Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required for all students. The applicant should ask the ETS to submit scores to institution 1836. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and must score at least 79 on the internet-based test (iBT); they must also pass the speaking sub-section of the iBT with a minimum score of 24 (see [www.grad.illinois.edu/Admissions/instructions/04c](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/Admissions/instructions/04c)).

## Graduate Teaching Experience

Experience in teaching is considered a vital part of the graduate program and is expected as part of the academic work of all Ph.D. candidates in this program. Non-native English speakers must first pass a test of their oral English ability (see [www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm)).

## Faculty Research Interests

Graduate courses are offered in:

- Bulgarian
- Czech
- Old Church Slavonic
- Polish
- Russian

- Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian
- Yiddish
- Ukrainian languages and literatures

The faculty represent a broad range of interests and methodological approaches, including:

- the intersections of literature and law, medicine, and psychoanalysis
- Russian-Jewish Studies
- intellectual history
- gender, sexuality, and the body
- Stalinist culture
- film history and theory
- Czech revival culture
- nationalism and literature
- Polish modernism, postmodernism, and visual culture
- exilic and emigre literature
- East European pop culture

## Facilities and Resources

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has one of the country's three outstanding Slavic library collections. The Illinois Summer Research Laboratory on Russia and Eastern Europe brings to the campus more than one hundred postdoctoral researchers from all over the country every year to take advantage of the Slavic library resources.

## Centers, Programs and Institutes

The federally-funded Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (established in 1959) is an important funding source for our graduate students and hosts a variety of conferences and speakers every year.

## Financial Aid

Students may receive various forms of financial assistance, including University fellowships, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships. There are also opportunities for part-time related work in the Slavic and East European Division of the University Library and elsewhere on the campus. Most students are awarded multiple-year support packages that include a mixture of teaching and fellowship, conditional on satisfactory progress through the program (see [www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm)).

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## Doctoral tab

### Doctor of Philosophy in Slavic Languages and Literature

All candidates for the Ph.D. degree must fulfill the general requirements of the Graduate College and must have a reading knowledge of at least one non-Slavic, research related language, most often French or German. A student entering the program with a Master of

Arts degree from another department or university must complete SLAV 576. In consultation with the graduate advisor, the Ph.D. student designs an individualized program of study that includes a major field in one Slavic-area literature (any national literature currently offered by the department), study in a second Slavic-area language, and a minor field. A Ph.D. preliminary examination, consisting of written and oral portions on both major and minor fields, is required. A thesis is required for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Graduate-level courses in a minor field (three courses in a single area, or two courses each in two distinct areas) and may be completed outside the department.		12-16
<u>SLAV 576</u>	Methods in Slavic Grad Study (if not taken during MA program)	0 or 4
Language Requirement: Demonstration of knowledge of a second Slavic-area language and a research language; can be satisfied through four semesters of language study or the successful completion of a translation examination. The research language requirement can be satisfied by completion of <u>FR 500</u> and <u>FR 501</u> or <u>GER 500</u> and <u>GER 501</u> , the equivalent courses in another language, or a translation exam.		
SLAV 577- Slavic Languages Pedagogy Seminar (2 credit hour course, students take the course twice)		4
<u>SLAV 599</u>	Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	24
Total Hours		64

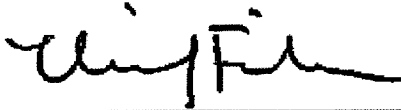
### Other Requirements<sup>1</sup>

Other Requirements may overlap	
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:	20
Minimum Hours Required in Major Field:	20
Masters Degree Required Before Admission to PhD?	Yes
Qualifying Exam Required	No
Preliminary Exam Required	Yes
Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required	Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required	Yes
Minimum GPA:	2.75

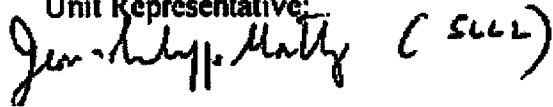
<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Programs Web pages and the Graduate College Handbook.

**CLEARANCES:**

Signatures:

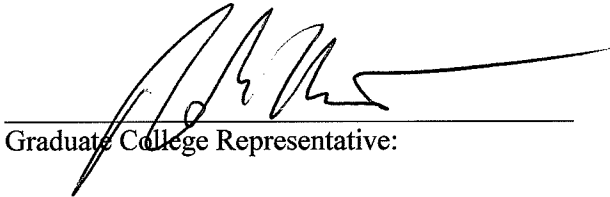


Unit Representative:

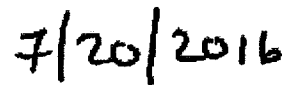




College Representative:



Graduate College Representative:

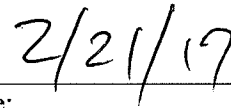


Date:



1-18-17

Date:



Date:

**Appendix A:**  
Comparative Table of Proposed Changes

<b>Current Requirements</b>	<b>Current Hours</b>	<b>Proposed Requirements</b>	<b>Proposed Hours</b>
Graduate-level courses in a minor field (three courses in a single area, or two courses each in two distinct areas) and may be completed outside the department.	12-16	Graduate-level courses in a minor field (three courses in a single area, or two courses each in two distinct areas) and may be completed outside the department.	12-16
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		SLAV 577- Slavic Languages Pedagogy Seminar (2 credit hour course, students take the course twice)	4
SLAV 599- Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	24	SLAV 599- Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)	24
TOTAL HOURS	64	TOTAL HOURS	64



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.17.73

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic  
Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



February 27, 2017

Bettina Francis, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the  
Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literature.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Carney  
A. Elli  
J. Hart  
A. McKinney  
M. Finke  
J. Mathy

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Office of the Dean

2090 Lincoln Hall  
702 S. Wright Street, MC-448  
Urbana, IL 61801



January 18, 2017

Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko  
Dean, Graduate College  
204 Coble Hall MC-322

Dear Dean Chodzko-Zajko:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula, on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

**Revision of the PhD in Slavic Languages and Literature**

Please let me know if you have any questions on this proposal. This proposal is now ready for review by the Graduate College for proposed implementation upon approval.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Karen M. Carney.

Karen M. Carney  
Associate Dean

enclosure

C: Professor Michael Finke  
Professor Jean-Philippe Mathy