

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The subjects of our department are the literatures, languages and cultures of Slavic peoples living across a vast stretch of the Eurasian continent that includes territory in such places as Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Czech, and the Balkans Peninsula. While maintaining a common tradition, most of these people nowadays have their own independent country and language.

It is, needless to say, impossible to comprehensively grasp the entirety of all diverse Slavic cultures. It is important, however, to research from a broad perspective based on as much knowledge as possible, even if one is concentrating on specific works, writers or artists.

Russian literature such as the works of Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov had a profound influence on modern Japanese literature, and Slavistics in Japan developed around Russian literature studies from its birth in the Meiji period. Given these circumstances, our department offers lectures mainly on Russian literature, language and culture: “Introduction to Russian Literature and Culture since the End of 18th Century”, “Topics

in Russian Grammar”, “Reading Russian Literature”, “Russian Language Practice” and so on.

We also aim to prepare an environment where students can choose on their own to study various Slavic languages and cultures. To that end, we offer such lectures as “Old Church Slavonic”, “Polish Grammar”, “Reading on Polish history” in addition to others. Our department also encourages the study of Comparative Literature focusing on Russia and Japan of the modern period.

Students pursue diverse research interests, although Russian literature and culture (including paintings, movie, and thought) tend to be the most popular themes for graduation theses. Graduate students pursue an even great variety of interests.

Students in our department are expected to demonstrate the motivation to acquire the language skills necessary to peruse texts thoroughly, the initiative to expand their interests on their own volition, and an independent research attitude to argue critical issues with colleagues and professors.



L: An open lecture on the relation between journalism and literature at the beginning of the 20th century given by Dr. A. Aleksandrov from the Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkin House), Russian Scientific Academy in January 2017.

R: A lecture devoted to Russian and Soviet semiotic thought given by prof. T. Nakamura in June 2015.