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Center for Slavic and East European Studies

Ohio State University

CENTER FOR SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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Center for Slavic and East European Studies

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES) at Ohio State University promotes the study of Russia, Southeast and Central and Eastern Europe, and independent countries that emerged from the Soviet Union.

Founded in 1965 by Professor Leon Twarog, CSEES is funded as a United States Department of Education (Title VI) Comprehensive National Resource Center. Its mission is to foster East European area and language studies at OSU and to conduct an outreach program that extends throughout the state of Ohio and the Midwest.

At OSU, CSEES administers a Slavic and East European studies MA program, awards Foreign Language and Area Specialist (FLAS) Fellowships to graduate students, supports the development of new courses, funds classes taught by visiting specialists from the region, organizes lectures and conferences, coordinates exchange programs with foreign universities, provides monies for library acquisitions, and maintains a large film library.

CSEES outreach beyond OSU includes area studies conferences and symposia, public lectures, annual K-12 teacher workshops, guest lectures at local schools, business seminars, video loans, and a 1200-subscriber newsletter.

Academic Programs

East European area studies at OSU is facilitated by the presence of approximately 50 area specialist faculty members who teach nearly 300 different courses in East European languages and area studies.

Language Instruction

OSU currently offers instruction in ten East European languages: Czech, Georgian, Hungarian, Modern Greek, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Turkish, and Yiddish. Other language offerings include Old Church Slavonic, Bulgarian, Uzbek, and Ukrainian.

BA in Slavic and East European Studies

OSU's Undergraduate International Studies Program offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in nine specializations, including Slavic and Eastern Europe. The degree requires 50 quarter hours of coursework drawn from at least four different disciplines, including 40 hours in the humanities and social sciences and 10 hours of foreign language beyond the OSU College of Arts and Sciences minimum language requirement. An undergraduate minor and certificate in Slavic and East European Studies is also available.

MA in Slavic and East European Studies

The interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Slavic and East European Studies is administered by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies. The program lends itself to a career in business or government as well as further graduate study. It allows students to craft a course of study that satisfies their personal and professional goals and that applies a broad but focused approach to the study of Russia, the area of the former Soviet Union, and/or the countries of Eastern Europe. Recent program graduates have gone on to careers with such organizations as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the U.S.-Russia Business Council.

Dual Master's Degree

Students can combine an MA in Slavic and East European Studies with a master's degree in any of several disciplines that offer East European specializations. These disciplines include history, political science, Slavic and East European languages and literatures, sociology, history of art, history of music, and geography. Additionally, CSEES and the Glenn School of Public Affairs offer a dual MA degree.

Specialist in Russian Area Studies

The Specialist in Russian Area Studies certificate is awarded to graduate students in various areas who fulfill course requirements in Russian language and in other disciplines and who write a master's thesis on a Russian topic. The program is designed to supplement work for an advanced degree in humanities or social science disciplines or in professional fields. The departments participating in the Russian specialist program include history, history of art, geography, music history, political science, Slavic and East European languages and literatures, and sociology.



Financial Assistance

Each year CSEES awards Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) to qualified OSU graduate students engaged in East European studies. FLAS fellowships are used to support foreign language study, both in the United States and abroad. FLAS applications are usually due in February. Additional funding in the form of University Fellowships is available to qualified applicants.



Center Activities

Midwest Slavic Conference

CSEES organizes the Midwest Slavic Conference, held annually at the Ohio State University in March. The Midwest Slavic Conference draws over 300 participants per year and is the largest regional Slavic conference in the United States. The three-day conference provides an opportunity for Midwestern faculty and students, as well as business and community leaders to present their research and to discuss their professional experiences.

Lecture/Film Series

Each year CSEES sponsors approximately 30 lectures, coordinates three different film series, and organizes various other events focused on Russia and Eastern Europe. Presenters include local faculty, members of the community, and internationally known specialists.



Area Studies Symposia

For the benefit of the OSU community, as well as for other Ohio college faculty and students, the Center holds symposia on a regular basis focusing on an East European theme.

Study Abroad Programs

OSU currently sponsors East European study abroad programs in the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Turkey, and Russia. Some of those programs focus on language study. Others concentrate on specific subjects such as cultural studies, social work, archeology, and ecology.



Funding of East European Languages

CSEES recognizes the need for Less Commonly Taught Languages to become part of the curriculum at OSU. Toward that end, CSEES supports courses in Czech, Georgian, Hungarian, Polish, Serbo-Croatian and Uzbek. It also co-sponsors a distance-learning program for intermediate Uzbek through a cooperative arrangement with Indiana University.

Outreach

Business Seminar

The Center also provides outreach activities to the non-academic community, including seminars and workshops on trade with and investment in Eastern Europe. These events attract businesspersons and investors working throughout Ohio.

High School Teacher Workshops

Each year CSEES holds teacher workshops that seek to broaden the international content of P-12 education. The fall workshop provides teachers with information and materials that help them incorporate Russian culture in all levels of classroom teaching. The spring workshop on "Global Hotspots" enrolls social science teachers and deals with international issues which are in the focus of current news.

Additional Center Resources

Film Library

CSEES maintains a 2000+ title East European film library which loans out videos free of charge to OSU faculty and students and to educators at large. A searchable catalog is available on the Center's website.

Monday E-Mail List

The Center issues a weekly newsletter of upcoming events at OSU and in neighboring communities. The List also provides valuable information about grants, scholarships, internships, and, occasionally, job searches.

Bi-Weekly Job List

During the academic year the Center sends out to subscribers a listing of job openings for specialists in area studies. The listing includes jobs with the U.S. government, private organizations which have an international orientation, and educational institutions.

Newsletter

The Center publishes its *Ohio Slavic and East European Newsletter* three times a year. The newsletter reaches over 1200 subscribers at OSU and throughout Ohio.

East European Resources at OSU

East European Library Collection

The Ohio State University Libraries system houses a collection of over four million books and periodicals and over three million microforms. More than 500,000 volumes pertain directly to Slavic and East European topics. Special strengths include the Russian, Polish, Serbian/

Croatian, and Bulgarian collections. Basic reference works and current newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals in Slavic languages and in English are available in the Slavic and East European Reading Room, located in the Main University library.

The Hilander Research Library

The Hilander Research Library is a special research collection for the study of medieval Slavic Orthodox Christianity. It is housed in the Main Library building. With over 4500 manuscripts, chiefly in microform, the Hilander Research Library contains the largest collection of medieval Slavic manuscripts in North America and the second largest in the world.



Publications

The Current Digest of the Post-Soviet Press

A weekly English-language journal of selections from a variety of Russian-language newspapers and periodicals, the *Current Digest* is an essential source of information on events in the former Soviet Union and its successor states.

Working Papers in Slavic Studies

The *Working Papers in Slavic Studies* is a book series published in conjunction with the OSU Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures. It often publishes materials from various OSU Slavic conferences and provides a forum for works and studies in progress.

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