



## SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Specializing In Eastern European literatures and cultures

In 1910, the University of Michigan offered the first Russian language courses in response to the growing importance of Russia in international commerce and diplomacy. By 1958, Michigan was among the first universities to be designated a Slavic and East European Languages Center by the National Defense Education Act. The department strives to remain a leader in the field nationally—a source of knowledge and cutting-edge research on Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian literature, cinema, and culture. Our teaching remains crucial for undergraduates who intend to work in the region and for scholars in the humanities and social sciences who are engaged in research related to it.

Slavic Languages and Literatures is an interdisciplinary department with strong intellectual connections to the fields of comparative literature, literary theory, history, philosophy, social sciences, linguistics, and language pedagogy. Our faculty members specialize in Eastern European literatures and cultures, including focus on cinema, architecture, and the visual arts. The cultures we cover include Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, also with strong interests in Judaic, Central Asian, Baltic, and Balkan cultures (including Greek and Albanian).

Gifts are needed to maintain and expand our efforts in the teaching of Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian language and culture. We need to be able to attract the very best students with undergraduate scholarship support and global learning opportunities. Also, due to decreasing federal support for language teaching, we depend on gifts from alumni and friends to fund language lecturers in less commonly taught languages.

## GLOBAL EXPERIENCES IN EASTERN EUROPE

Undergraduate support is vital for study abroad experiences in Eastern Europe. We are committed to expanding opportunities for study abroad, especially related to semester-long study and internships. Because such learning experiences are costly, with high airfare and living costs, scholarships make such opportunities possible for students. A gift of \$10,000 would support five students for a semester.

## LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

We have a critical need to hire language teachers in three less commonly taught languages:

- Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian
- Czech
- Ukrainian

Our teaching of these languages remains crucial for undergraduates who intend to work in the region and/or work in government, or to continue their education in pursuit of an M.A. or Ph.D. We are one of a very small number of major research universities in the country that continue to offer all of these languages. An endowed gift of \$1M per language or \$50,000 annually would ensure our ability to provide this needed instruction.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

## CONTACT INFO

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