

RUSSIAN EVENING 1.
University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
Russian 0710 - Evening Russian I
Instructor: Yuliya Basina
Fall 2012

Class Schedule

MoTh 6:00 -7:40 PM 314 CL

Instructor: Yuliya Basina

basina@pitt.edu

Office: Cathedral of Learning 1421

Office Hours: M Th 12:00-1:00 PM or by appointment

Required Materials

Blackboard

Lekić, Maria D., Dan E. Davidson, and Kira S. Gor. Russian Stage One: Live From Russia!. second ed. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt / ACTR, 2008.

Note that Live From Moscow! consists of several components. Be very careful when purchasing used textbooks or from online sellers. The program consists of a textbook and workbook packaged together with audio CD and video DVD components. The audio and video components are basic parts of the “textbook” and are not optional. They will be required for daily completion of homework assignments.

Recommended Materials

Cruise, Edwina. English Grammar for Students of Russian. Second edition. Ann Arbor: Olivia and Hill Press, 1993.

Course Description

This course is the first half of a year-long introduction to the Russian language. The course has two main goals. The first goal is to give you, in the course of one year, a solid and thorough introduction to the structure of the Russian language. This knowledge will be the foundation for intermediate and advanced study. The second goal, no less important than the first, is to help you gain as high a level of proficiency in spoken and written Russian as is possible in the course of one year. At the end of the academic year you should be able to engage in simple conversations on everyday topics, talk about yourself in some detail, perform many of the everyday tasks that a student might need to perform in Russia. You will gain a basic familiarity with the cultural context that structures a Russian person’s daily life and his/her language use.

Course Format and Methodology

The course has a very important feature: the online content. It means that besides 4 contact hours per week, each student has an opportunity and obligation to work on his or her own using the Blackboard portion of the course. That part will help you to prepare for class meetings, complete your homework assignments, and prepare for the tests.

The course presumes active learning on the part of all students. It is not the instructor's job to teach the material to you. The instructor's role is to provide you with extensive opportunities to practice in class what you have learned during your homework preparation. While the instructor is available both during class and in office hours to provide help with difficult material, the instructor will not teach material in class that was expected to be learned at home.

Homework will consist of various combination of reading assignments, preparation of activities and exercises, reading and speaking exercises, and the completion of written homework assignments, many of which include a listening component. Activities and exercises should be reviewed outside of class, all new vocabulary should be learned, and students should be prepared to engage in these activities in class with the textbooks closed! The purpose of all classroom activities is to give the students practice speaking Russian. Therefore, Russian is the only language to be used by both student and instructor during a normal class meeting. You will only learn Russian by speaking it and your full active participation in every class session is required. It is your responsibility to thoroughly learn the assigned material. The instructor may from time to time switch to English in order to explain that evening's homework assignment. In these cases, students may also ask for clarification in English. However, this will happen irregularly and, by the middle of the semester, very rarely. Students should never assume that they will be able to speak English in class.

Requirements

1. Participation in all aspects of the course is mandatory. This course is designed to develop all language skills and cannot accommodate students who wish to learn only the written language. Asking the instructor in this course not to require active spoken participation in class is every bit as unreasonable as asking a calculus instructor to teach only addition and subtraction.
2. Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. The instructor will not review or re-teach material to students who were absent from class. Students absent from class will receive a zero for that day (see below for grading system).
3. Students should come to class fully prepared. Written homework and online exercises will be assigned for practically every class meeting and must be turned in on the day it is due. Late homework will not be accepted.
4. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced and given at any time. No quiz may be made up for any reason.
5. Chapter tests and Oral tests are announced in advance and must be taken at the scheduled time. If a student misses a major test or exam due to his/her being seriously ill or due to a death in the family, the instructor must be informed no later than the day of the test and the circumstances must be documented in order to have the zero removed from the record.
6. Technical requirements: you must have access to a computer capable of playing CDs and DVDs and connecting to the Internet. Please, refer to the Introduction section of the CourseWeb for the details of how to create and submit audio recordings.

Grading and Evaluation

The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation and attendance: 25%

Oral Presentations 10%

Homework: 15%

Chapter Tests and quizzes: 25%

Final Exam (including oral and reading components): 25%

Academic Integrity

By remaining enrolled in the course, you not only agree to abide by the stipulations of this course overview, but also understand that we will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the Handbook on Integrity regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and observe them. Any infraction will be penalized accordingly.

Disability

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Miscellaneous notes

A solid knowledge of English grammar will help you in this course. If you do not know English grammar well, you are likely to encounter problems at some point in the course. Please seek out your instructor after class or during office hours if this is a problem. Do not hesitate to seek out any of the course instructors should you find yourself in need of extra help. Students who wish to engage the help of a private tutor are advised to consult with Christine Metil in the Slavic Department main office. She maintains a list of Russian majors and native speakers who offer this service. Payment is negotiated directly between the tutor and the student.