

University of Pittsburgh
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 Russian 0420: Russian Newspapers and Magazines

Fall 2010: 30 Aug – 12 Dec
 Tuesday & Thursday 9:30–10:45 AM
 CL 1432
 CRN: 13420

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I. Course Content

This course is an advanced language course with emphasis on contemporary print culture. Although we will be dealing with a number of grammatical concepts throughout the course, our primary focus will be on the style and content of the texts we read. Students should come out of the course with a general knowledge of the major Russian media outlets (newspapers, magazines, television stations, blogs, etc.), both national and regional. Students will also learn how to approach and decipher authentic journalistic texts and identify markers of Russian journalistic style. In addition, students will improve oral proficiency through discussions of texts and in-class presentations, and writing skills through daily written assignments and creative projects.

II. Required Texts

Москвитина, Л. И. *В мире новостей*. Часть 1. «Златоуст». Санкт-Петербург, 2005.

Readings and assignments will also be distributed as handouts. Some materials may come from other textbooks, while other assignments will be authentic texts drawn from the web. A working internet connection at home is strongly recommended. Extra copies of any handouts distributed in class will be available in a folder in the instructor's mailbox in CL 1417.

III. Recommended Texts

The instructor recommends a high-quality Russian-English dictionary (Oxford, Katzner, etc.) to be used as a reference. For a good online dictionary, see <http://multitrans.ru>. (Bookmark this site if you haven't already—it will be your good friend.)

You may be interested in investing in a reference grammar as you enter advanced language studies. The most accessible is Terrence Wade's *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar* (2nd ed.) Wiley-Blackwell, 2000. Although on the pricey side (\$45 new/\$35 used on amazon.com), it's a great reference book that will stand you in good stead through the rest of your career in Russian studies.

IV. Internet Resources

A few internet resources are provided here to get you started in browsing Russian newspapers and magazines on the web.

Russian news sites:

<http://www.izvestia.ru/index.html>

<http://www.pravda.ru>

<http://www.kommersant.ru>

<http://www.ropnet.ru/ogonyok>

<http://www.rg.ru>

<http://www.s-info.ru>

<http://www.itar-tass.com>

<http://www.aif.ru>

<http://www.ng.ru>

<http://magazines.russ.ru/magazines.html>

English news sites:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/europe/2007/resurgent_russia/default.stm

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/russia/index.html>

Russian search engines:

<http://www.yandex.ru>

<http://www.yandex.ru>

<http://www.google.ru>

V. Class Procedures

Since this is an advanced language course, the primary language of instruction is Russian. However, at times the instructor may switch to English. Lectures and finer grammatical points will be covered in English to ensure maximal comprehension, but all discussions of homework, readings, and class presentations will be in Russian. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor periodically during office hours (or by appointment) to review their progress in the course, or to discuss any difficulties or concerns related to the course.

Attendance is required at ALL class meetings. Successful completion of the course requires not only attendance of ALL classes but also **daily preparation of ALL oral and written homework assignments.** Students will receive daily grades for preparation to and participation in each class session. Daily grades will be based on each student's level of preparedness to class, contribution to group and class discussions, as well as grammatical/lexical performance.

Students are allowed **THREE** absences throughout the term without penalty. All absences will automatically receive the grade of "UE" for the missed session. The fourth absence will result in the lowering of the student's grade by one notch (A to A-, B+ to B, etc.). **Five such "UE" grades will result in an "F" grade for the course, regardless of the student's previous**

standing. If you miss class, it is **your** responsibility to find out what material you missed by contacting one of your classmates **before the next class.** It is **your** responsibility for keeping up with work missed during your absence. Work assigned during a student's absence will not be given extensions unless otherwise arranged with the instructor. Space for contact information for classmates is provided below.

Classmate 1 (Name): _____ (Phone): _____

Classmate 2 (Name): _____ (Phone): _____

VI. Quizzes

There will be a number of announced and announced quizzes throughout the term. They will be based on the material covered in or outside of class in the assigned homework. **There are no quiz make-ups FOR ANY REASON!**

VII. Examinations

There will be TWO session-long in-class examinations, which may also include a short take-home section. Examinations will be written and administered in Russian. Tests may consist of grammatical exercises, vocabulary, essays, and translation.

NOTE: Except for serious medically excused absences (you're dying or have an arterial bleed--not because you stubbed your toe) or death in the immediate family, there will be absolutely no make-ups of the examinations. All absences must be documented (doctor's note, obituary, etc.).

VIII. Projects and Oral Presentations

Each student will be required to make two ten-minute presentations over the course of the semester. Both presentations will be the culmination of ongoing projects (stuff you've been working on already). The first presentation will be a team effort, in which all members of the team must divide all work (written work, as well as the speaking roles during the presentation) equitably. The team will receive a shared grade for the presentation itself, although written work will be evaluated on an individual basis. The second presentation will be solo, and each student will be evaluated separately. **All students must consult with the instructor before their presentations. Consultations with the instructor will take place NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK before the scheduled presentation. Preparation for this meeting will receive a separate grade that will be factored into the final grade for each presentation.** The first presentation will be completed mid-way through the semester, while the second presentation will be completed during the final class period.

IX. Important Dates

Oct. 5: First Presentation
 Oct. 7: First Exam
 Dec. 7: Second Exam
 Dec. 9: Second Presentation

X. Integrity Policy

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves thoroughly with the university policy of academic integrity and for adhering to it. The rules can be found on the University's Academic Integrity *Policies* site (Policy 02-03-02, <http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html>). Academic dishonesty will result in course failure.

XI. Evaluation Criteria

Class performance will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Daily preparation and participation in class discussions	30%
Homework and Quizzes	20%
Projects and Presentations	30%
Midterm and Final Exams	20%
TOTAL:	100%

XII. Grades

The following grading standards will be employed in assigning final grades in this course:

99-100%	A+	78-79%	C+	60% < F
94-98%	A	73-77%	C	
90-93%	A-	70-72%	C-	
88-89%	B+	68-69%	D+	
83-87%	B	63-67%	D	
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-	

XIII. Disability Policy

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she is encouraged to notify the instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.