

**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures**  
**RUSS 1430-1030: 4<sup>th</sup> Year Russian**  
**«Юмор и сатира в русской культуре»**

Цирк уехал, а клоуны остались.  
 --Народная шутка

<b>Spring 2018</b> <b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Olga Klimova <b>Office hours:</b> Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am-12:00pm and Sunday 1-2 pm through Skype/GoToMeeting or by appointment <b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:yokl@pitt.edu">yokl@pitt.edu</a> <b>Skype:</b> olgaklim5	<b>Class meetings:</b> MWF <b>Room:</b> 149 Cathedral of Learning <b>Time:</b> 11-11:50am <b>Office telephone:</b> ext. 49958 <b>Office:</b> 1235 Cathedral of Learning <b>GoToMeeting:</b> <a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/804833037">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/804833037</a>
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this fourth-year Russian course students will read and watch a number of authentic literary, visual, and media-based texts that focus on humor and satire in Russian culture. This proficiency-based and culture-based course is designed to further broaden the students' knowledge of Russian language and culture. The aim of the course is to present students with opportunities to perform in a range of authentic contexts by integrating all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in a variety of modes (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) while encouraging more precise, fluent, and coherent language use.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will:

1. Acquire productive language skills of writing and speaking in Russian at Advance Low—Advance Mid level, according to the ACTFL guidelines.
2. Gain the ability to hold conversations in Russian on a variety of topics related to Russian culture as well as students' own communities and cultures.
3. Develop comprehension of speech of well-educated, highly articulate native speakers.
4. Expand comprehension skill necessary to understand authentic written materials at the upper-advanced level.
5. Expand and improve vocabulary and idioms and a knowledge of grammar and syntax, lexis, register and style, as well as language awareness in order to consistently convey complex ideas and details and represent a point of view.
6. Lead the discussion incorporating appropriate cultural and historical references in his or her speech.
7. Develop advanced skills of individual research and work with authentic Russian sources and materials.
8. Acquire skills of constructive participation in group discussions, debates, and projects.
9. Develop proficiency in using computer-assisted and Web-based tools to create digital culture projects.



## REQUIRED TEXTS:

Various printed, video, and audio materials on Courseweb or through the Web.

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Wade, Terence. *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. Ed. David Gillespie. 3rd Ed. Oxford: Blackwell Publisher, 2011.

Cruise, Edwina. *English Grammar for Students of Russian*. Ann Arbor: Olivia and Hill, 1987.

Any good quality Russian-English/English-Russian Dictionary (e.g., Katzner, Larousse, Harper Collins, Oxford, Webster).

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

The Pushkin Institute's apps for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/dev?id=8199829179519428228>

The Pushkin Institute's apps for iPhone/iPad:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/developer/psrli/id921487542>

Russian films on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/mosfilm>,

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LenfilmVideo>

Russian TV and radio channels: <http://www.webtelek.com/>

Online dictionaries: <http://slovari.yandex.ru/>, <http://multitrans.ru>

## COURSE METHODOLOGY:

This course will be structured in an interactive recitation format and will meet 3 days a week for 50 minutes. All instructions in the course will be conducted in Russian and students must express their questions/responses in Russian as well.

Students are required 1) to complete all viewing, reading, listening, and writing assignments scheduled for each class meeting, 2) to be prepared to actively participate in discussions, debates, and learning activities in class; 3) to prepare a presentation; 4) to prepare individual and group projects; 5) to take all written and oral tests.

Students experiencing problems in the course are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with me. I will be more than happy to discuss any aspect of the class with you including language learning strategies, study habits, where to seek additional opportunities to practice your Russian or Russian culture in general.

## INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH:

This class is a communicative language class in context. We will spend much of our time talking in Russian, either in small groups/pairs or as an entire class on specific topics. Because the majority of our in-class activities and discussions will be conducted in Russian, it is imperative that students read the assigned texts or watch the assigned video materials and prepare for oral



discussions on previously assigned topics **before coming to class**. You will also have a chance to present your projects and look at other students' projects in class and discuss them. If there is something you do not understand, please let me know immediately. Also, please do not be afraid of making mistakes in class—we all learn during the process, and fluency and accuracy come from a regular practice.

## GAMIFICATION

This class is organized using the principles of gamification—“the integration of game elements, mechanics, and frameworks into non-game scenarios.” There are three elements of video-gaming that we will be using in this class:

1. As in a video game, you will be collecting points for each successfully completed homework and in-class task or assignment. Your attendance and active in-class participation, as well as your presentations, projects, and tests will also be a part of the point system. You will start with “zero” points, and would gradually collect points for completing the requirements of the course. Throughout the semester, you will be moving from lower level of the game to the more advanced level of the game, thus, from one (less advance) level to another (more advanced) level of language proficiency.
2. As in an adventure video game, you will have a mission to complete. In order to do it successfully, you will be given various language performance-based tasks. Some of the tasks will be mandatory for all students, however, often, you will have an opportunity to choose your own path and your own task from a list of tasks (each will have different points depending on the level of their complexity). For example, you will be assigned to watch either a music video, a commercial, or an excerpt from a TV show. Using one of these video texts, you will have to create your own video-project and will receive a specific number of points. Or you, will have the same text (for example, a Stalinist film comedy), but you will have a list of tasks you may be able to choose from, for which you will get a specific number of points, depending on what task you have chosen to do. For instance, you will have a chance to write a short film review in Russian, a historical/cultural analysis of the specific scenes, or create an alternative ending for this film with your own reflections.
3. Finally, like in video games, from time to time, you will be given an opportunity to earn an additional badge, or additional points. You might be able to get a badge for doing something extra in class or on your homework assignment or choosing to complete another small project or add specific components to your regular homework assignment. Extracurricular events and activities that the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures or Center for Russian and East European Studies will organize in the spring semester (the Maslenitsa celebration, guest-talks, film screenings, The ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian, The ACTR Post-Secondary Essay Competition, etc.), will also be counted toward your badge/award. The system of badges will help me to identify the “exceptional level” of performance and participation in this class that will equal an “A” in this class. Without badges, you may collect up to 899 points that equals B+ or “extensive achievement” in this class.



**LEVELS AND POINTS:**

Уровень 5: Скоморох	900-1,000 points (“A- through A+”)
Уровень 4: Шут	800-899 points (“B-through B+”)
Уровень 3: Паяц	700-799 points (“C- through C+”)
Уровень 2: Фигляр	600-699 points (“D through D+”)
Уровень 1: Клоун	500-599 points (“F through F+”)

Attendance and classroom participation:	400 (40 classes*10 points)
Homework assignments:	150 (30 assignments*5 points)
Projects	120 (6 projects*20 points)
Presentation	50
Written and oral tests	180 (3*30 written+3*30 oral)
<b>Award/badges</b>	<b>100</b>

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TOTAL: 900 (1,000 with badges)

**THE NARRATIVE**

You are living in Russian and are attending Moscow State University (or working there). One day, on your way home from the university, you are approached by a strange man. He wears very unusual, bright clothes and funny shoes. He tells you that he is from the future, from the year of 3402, and he is a *futuroskomorokh*. He tells you that humor in Russia in the 3000s is prohibited, and he is the last *futuroskomorokh* in the country. He informs you that, because of this, the cultural and intellectual level of people in the 3000s has been drastically declining. He needs to collect various artifact from Russia’s past related to humor and satire, including from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. He believes that if he takes all these artifacts and organizes all of them into a Museum of Russian Humor and Satire, he will be able to draw people’s attention to this part of Russian culture, and reverse the intellectual and cultural degradation of the nation. *Futuroskomorokh* has access to a time machine that can take you to any point in Russia’s history, past, present, or future. You need to help him not only to collect and create various artifacts, but also to include your analytical and critical comments. He will use all these collected materials for the Museum of Russian Humor and Satire, and will be able to restore the Russians’ intellectual abilities.

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR**

If you have any questions or feel that you are falling behind in this course, please, contact me as soon as possible, so I can provide you with some guidance and help. I will be able to respond to you email within 24-48 hours, and 48-72 hours over the weekend.

I am also available during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am-12:00pm at 1235 Cathedral of Learning. I also have an “online office” through GoToMeeting on Sunday at 1-2 pm. You need to follow this link in order to get into the online room:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/804833037>. You might need to download the launcher, when you use this program for the first time. If you cannot attend my scheduled online office





hour, please, email me in advance and we can schedule a meeting through GoToMeeting on a different day.

We have a Courseweb page, on which I will be posting important announcements, grading rubrics, and instructions for projects, additional resources, links to video tutorials, and other instructional and administrative materials. Your detailed gradebook is also located on Courseweb. Make sure to check it regularly.

## EXPLANATION OF EVALUATION CRITERIA

### CLASS PARTICIPATION:

This component of class performance takes into account a number of variables including, but not limited to:

- your preparation to class on a **daily basis**;
- your alertness and involvement in all activities throughout the entire class session;
- your use of Russian in the classroom;
- your willingness to participate in discussions and share your ideas and thoughts with others, when asked to do so;
- your cooperation in individual, pair, and group activities;
- your willingness to ask for clarification, whenever you are confused or in doubt;
- your respect and attitude towards the class and your peers;
- your attendance and arriving at class on time.

The idea of the course is to focus on developing communicative skills. Speaking activities will include various types of communicative competence exercises: self directed, group and guided interviews, questioning and guessing games, “opinion polls,” discussions and disputes, role plays, and many more.

Class participation will be evaluated each class on the scale from 0 to 10. Classroom participation grade reflect attendance, participation, and creativity.

“10” is given if you are well prepared, have completed all assignments, and constantly participate, often, on your own initiative;

“7” is given if you are prepared for the class, have completed the majority of assignments, and regularly participate, but mainly, when the instructor calls on you;

“5” is given if you are not well prepared and participate randomly, only when the instructor calls on you.

“0” is given for a complete failure to prepare and participate or for missing a class.

Students will receive daily grades for each meeting of the course that will be combined into a weekly attendance and participation grade and recorded in Blackboard. At the end of the semester, I will drop **TWO lowest participation/attendance grades** (including the missed classes during an add-drop period).



**ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES:**

This class meets 3 times a week for 50 minutes. Students are expected to attend all classes and be on time. Students will receive daily grades for each meeting of the course. Attendance will be recorded each class.

Failure to come to class will result in a **ZERO** for that day. Missing class jeopardizes your participation records and puts you in danger of missing tests and important language explanation and practice. Any student who misses more than 6 classes (2 weeks of classes) will have his/her final grade lowered by one letter grade (e.g., from A to B+). Any student who misses more than 9 classes (3 weeks of classes) will have his/her final grade lowered to a full letter grade (e.g., A to B).

Please, be aware that 12 missed classes (four weeks of classes, excused and/or unexcused) automatically translate into an F for the course, regardless of the student's prior standing. Please, note: repetitive lateness for class or using electronic devices in class unless is required by the assignment will result in lowered grade.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates what important information was announced or passed out during the session you missed (this includes audio or visual material presented in class). Therefore, you should exchange e-mail addresses or phone numbers with another student in the class or contact me through e-mail or arrange a meeting at their offices to review material.

Student athletes must provide a schedule of sporting events that will necessitate absence from class from their coach as early in the term as possible and definitely before these events take place if they are to be excused.

**HOMEWORK:**

All homework assignments should be completed as indicated in weekly class schedules. Be prepared to spend at least 1.5-3 hours on your homework. Complete all the assignments **by the next class session**. Class time will be spent clarifying “muddy” points and providing language reinforcement through class activities and exercises.

Students must prepare at home thoroughly for every class. It is absolutely crucial that students understand that homework is not so much designed to practice what has been learned in class that day, but to teach students what they must know in order to participate in class the following day.

Any written homework must be submitted **at the beginning of the class** and will be evaluated for one daily homework grade. There will be some homework assignments, which will have to be submitted by students on-line, on the web site, or e-mailed to the instructor. Some of the assignments will be through specific websites and social media. Students should complete and submit homework assignments **by 10 am of the workday** for digital projects and **by the beginning of the class** for written homework. If you encounter any technological problems with these websites, immediately send me an email or a message over Skype. If you submit less than one half of the home assignments, your final grade in the course will be lowered by one full



letter grade (from B to C).

Before submitting your homework, staple the pages together. Write your name and the date submitted in the upper right-hand corner. Unstapled work will not be accepted. No late homework will be accepted unless prior arrangements due to extenuating, and documented circumstances have been made. Some of the homework assignment will be submitted online, on social media websites, through emails, or other digital platforms. Make sure to follow the directions in your weekly syllabi for this kind of assignments.

Your homework will be graded in the following manner:

“5” (excellent) – well done, even if you have several mistakes but it is obvious for me that you have studied the language material before writing and were fully prepared for class activities.

“4” good, you have a significant number of mistakes, but it is clear that you have studied the material and have some problems with it. If you have 4 or 4- and do not understand the material after we have studied in the class, please, get an appointment with me and revise this material together with me.

“3” there are a lot of mistakes and corrections and it is clear that you have studied enough at home or paid enough attention in class. If you have 1, you have to

- 1) study all the material again, then
- 2) ask other students from your group to help you with it
- 3) and then revise the material together with me during a scheduled meeting.

“0” the homework is not completed or not submitted on time.

#### PROJECTS:

Throughout the semester, all students will have to prepare individual and group projects. You will be using PowerPoint, Prezi, iMovie, website design tools, Pinterest, Twitter, and other Web-based tools. The language of all projects is Russian. You may have to submit the first draft of the text for my corrections before the project is due. I will distribute more detailed instructions, dates, and grading rubrics for each project later in the semester.

#### TESTS:

There will be three written and oral tests throughout the semester. Each written test will be about 50 minutes long. These tests will assess a variety of skills and will cover the visual and textual materials from the previous weeks. The format of all tests will be the same (short essays, reviews, opinion pieces, etc.) and be discussed in detail later in the course. There will be **no test make-ups** without written documentation of your absence and without notifying me in advance.

The nature of the oral test may be either a one-on-one interview with the instructor or in pair with another student. We might have to schedule these tests outside the classroom during my office hours or over Skype. Each meeting will last between 5 and 10 minutes. The format of the oral test will be very similar to the format of communicative activities in which we will engage during the entire course of study and, therefore, will be familiar to students. Students' active



involvement in these activities is essential, as they will provide plenty of practice for both oral exams. I will post grading rubrics for the oral tests on our Courseweb page.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

There will be one final oral presentation (app. 4-5 minutes) at the end of the semester, which each student need to prepare individually. This presentation should follow the main topic of our course—humor and satire in Russian culture. However, students can and should chose a more specific topic for their presentation that is connected to their own interests and background. You should prepare handouts, slides, or any other materials for the rest of the group.

#### **DISABILITY POLICY:**

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she must notify the instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Service as early as possible in the semester. The student may be asked to provide documentation of the disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify, call to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 140 William Pitt Union, phone: Phone: 412-648-7890, video Phone: 412-228-5374.

#### **PLAGIARISM:**

As “Student Obligations and Adjudication” (University Policy 02-03-03) states, “students have an obligation to exhibit honesty, and to respect the ethical standard of his (their) chosen profession in carrying out (their) academic assignments”. According to the University of Pittsburgh’s policy, a student “violates this obligation” if he/she: “a) presents as one’s own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or works of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources; b) submits the work of another person in a manner which represents the work to be one’s own; c) knowingly permits one’s work to be submitted by another person without the instructor’s authorization”.

The penalties for academic misconduct like plagiarism can be very severe. The immediate consequence of plagiarism will be receiving a grade zero for the particular assignment and can lead to an F for the course. For the references, please, check and The Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Science’s Academic Integrity Code at <https://as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code> and the Guidelines on Academic Integrity at [https://provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic\\_integrity\\_guidelines.pdf](https://provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic_integrity_guidelines.pdf).

#### **CELL PHONE AND LAPTOP POLICY**

All cellular telephones must be switched off before coming to class. The use of all mobile devices during Russian class is prohibited, unless it is a requirement for our in-class learning activities. If you need to make or accept an urgent phone call, you should do it outside the classroom. There should be absolutely no text messaging during the class period. The use of laptops is prohibited during our classes. You are allowed to use your laptops only if they are required for our in-class learning activities.



**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Every week you will be provided with a more detailed syllabus with in-class and homework assignments. I reserve rights to make changes in course schedule throughout the term.

Date	Topic
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>Знакомство. Введение. Требования курса. Программа курса.</b>
Monday, January 8	
Wednesday, January 10	
Friday, January 12	Михаил Бахтин: смех и карнавал в средневековой культуре.
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>День рождения Мартина Лютера Кинга. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ!</b>
Monday, January 15	
Wednesday, January 17	
Friday, January 19	Смеховая культура времён Петра Первого. Шуты.
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>Проект #1. Обсуждаем проекты.</b>
Monday, January 22	
Wednesday, January 24	
Friday, January 26	Сатира и Эзопов язык в баснях И. Крылова.
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Сатира и смеховые жанры А. Пушкина.
Monday, January 29	
Wednesday, January 31	
Friday, February 2	<b>Тест № 1.</b>
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>Проект #2. Обсуждаем проекты.</b>
Monday, February 5	
Wednesday, February 7	
Friday, February 9	Юмор и сатира в русской публичной культуре.
<b>WEEK 6</b>	Сатира в советском журнале «Крокодил».
Monday, February 12	
Wednesday, February 14	
Friday, February 16	Сатира в плакатном искусстве 20-ого века.
<b>WEEK 7</b>	<b>Проект #3. Обсуждаем проекты.</b>
Monday, February 19	
Wednesday, February 21	
Friday, February 23	Стёб в культуре 1970-1980-х.
<b>WEEK 8</b>	Соцарт и сатира: Комар и Маламид.
Monday, February 26	
Wednesday, February 28	
Friday, March 2	<b>Тест № 2.</b>
<b>WEEK 9</b>	<b>ВЕСЕННИЕ КАНИКУЛЫ. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ!</b>
Monday, March 4	
Wednesday, March 6	
Friday, March 8	



WEEK 10	<b>Проект #4.</b> Обсуждаем проекты.
Monday, March 11	
Wednesday, March 13	Сталинские комедии.
Friday, March 15	«Грустные» комедии Эльдара Рязанова.
WEEK 11	Иронические мультфильмы: «Падал прошлогодний снег»,
Monday, March 18	«Жил был пёс», «Ишь ты, Масленица», «Пластилиновая ворона».
Wednesday, March 20	Постсоветские кинокомедии: «Особенности национальной охоты» и др.
Friday, March 22	Кино комедии 2010-х: «Ёлки» и др.
WEEK 12	<b>Проект #5.</b> Обсуждаем проекты.
Monday, March 25	
Wednesday, March 27	Юмор на телевидении: юмористы—Райкин, Хазанов, Жванецкий, Задорнов.
Friday, March 29	Юмор на телевидении: КВН и «Ералаш»
WEEK 13	Юмор на телевидении: «Городок», «Камеди клуб», «Маски-шоу».
Monday, April 2	
Wednesday, April 4	Юмор на телевидении: «Вечерний Ургант», «Прожекторперисхилтон», «Наша Раша».
Friday, April 6	<b>Тест № 3.</b>
WEEK 14	<b>Проект #6.</b> Обсуждаем проекты.
Monday, April 9	
Wednesday, April 11	Юмор и сатира в Интернет культуре. Веб-звезда Масяня.
Friday, April 13	Интернет культура: олбанский язык.
WEEK 15	Интернет культура: мемы и «пирожки».
Monday, April 15	
Wednesday, April 17	Интернет культура: шутки в социальных сетях.
Friday, April 19	<b>Презентации.</b> Обсуждаем презентации.
WEEK 16	<b>ЭЗАМЕНАЦИОННАЯ НЕДЕЛЯ.</b>
Monday, April 22 – Friday, April 26	

