

РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК 101  
Tulane University  
Russian 101-01  
Introduction to Russian  
Fall, 2003

Geo. Cummins  
Office: Newcomb 305C (865-5276 (voice mail, -3095 inner office)  
[gcummins@tulane.edu](mailto:gcummins@tulane.edu)  
<http://www.tulane.edu/~gcummins/>  
office MWF 11-12, T 12-1 and by appointment

### Course Description

This course introduces the student to the language of the Russians and to the people of the world's largest and perhaps most paradoxical nation. Fundamental grammatical notions and basic discourse skills will be taught; students will learn to write Russian and to make and understand simple conversations about their families, academic interests, and daily lives, as well as about the geography and culture of the Russians. Internet materials and computer-assisted teaching models supplement the textbook. No knowledge of Russian is required. The class meets MWF at 12 in N115 and T at 1 in N200A (I think – check this; new room).

### Text

Smorodinskaya, Lubensky, Ervin, Jarvis. *Начало. When in Russia...* 2001. Second Edition. With accompanying Workbook and Laboratory Manual. Audio materials and accompanying video are available in the Language Learning Center, 402 Newcomb Hall.

### Course Goals and Objectives

The course focuses on introducing and developing basic discourse and writing skills. The student will learn to write in Russian, to understand and respond to simple utterances and to speak about himself and selected topics in Russian culture. (S)he will manipulate learning tools: the language and multi-media center, the internet with its rich Russian site bank, and will explore strategies for learning this difficult and very 'foreign' tongue.

### Course Requirements:

Attendance is essential for success in acquiring language skills and is mandatory in this class. Unexcused absences will be reflected in the participation grade (see below); after four such absences, the final grade will be reduced by one point (A > A-, A- > B+, etc.) for each absence. Students are encouraged to attend as regularly as possible, and in return have the instructor's word that they will not be badgered, grilled, or punished for incomplete homework assignments. All students who attend this class are sure to learn some Russian and will be treated with respect.

Note: *"Instructors are not authorized to excuse absences that extend calendar holidays. Only the student's dean may excuse such absences. A student who has excessive unexcused absences or ceases to attend a course without an official withdrawal will, at the instructor's request and with the approval of the associate dean, be withdrawn from the course and receive a grade of WF."* (University policy)

May I quote to you from our departmental policy on introductory and intermediate language classes: "Actively participating in class, that is, interacting with others in the target language, is the single most important aspect of language learning." Participation includes not only attending

class and participating in discussion and debate, but also completing homework on time, reading a preparing the assigned text materials, and asking questions when you do not understand.”

I ask you to do written homework assignments on time as much as possible, to participate in class recitation and discussion, to ask questions when I am unclear, to take quizzes and tests with good humor and equanimity. The key to learning a language is good, steady work, work that is sustained and pleasurable that is goal-directed toward real results. Be prepared to enjoy what you are doing and to do it regularly.

In the course of the semester we will have three or four scheduled in-class conferences to discuss your progress and your grades in Russian.

### Tests

I will offer weekly or bi-weekly quizzes summarizing class material; no midterm; a comprehensive oral and written final.

### Grades

The course grade will be computed on

quizzes	40%
recitation/homework	40%
final exam	20%

Scale:

93-100	A	72-76	C
89-92	A-	69-71	C-
86-88	B+	67-68	D+
82-85	B	62-66	D
79-81	B-	58-61	D-
77-78	C+	x-57	F

### Disabilities

If you have special needs related to a disability that may affect your performance in the course, please speak to the instructor after class or arrange an appointment to discuss your needs privately. This should be done as early as possible in the semester.

Schedule of Work (full schedule, with detailed assignment and quiz announcements, will appear)

W 27 Aug	First day of classes. Introduction to the course. Russian alphabet, <i>русская азбука</i> . Introduction to the writing and sound system of Russian.	1-1
R	(We do not meet on Thursdays)	
F 29 Aug	Alphabet, continuation.	1-2
M 1 Sep	Labor Day Holiday	
T 2 Sep	Начало, Lesson 1. Weeks II-IV. Introduction to basic communication. Who we are, what we do,	2-3

Russian 101 Fall 2002 Syllabus

	where we live and work, what languages we speak. Introduction to the Russian family and major Russian cities.	
W 3 Sep		2-4
F 5 Sep		2-5
M 8 Sep		3-6
T 9 Sep	Last day to add classes	3-7
W 10 Sep	Quiz: Lesson 1. Introduction to Lesson 2.	3-8
F 12 Sep	Gender, prepositional and accusative cases, declensional structure. Present tense of first and second conjugation verbs. Intonation patterns of yes/no questions, wh-questions, simple affirmations. Continuation of communication skills.	3-9
M 15 Sep		4-10
T 16 Sep		4-11
W 17 Sep		4-12
F 19 Sep		4-13
M 22 Sep		5-14
T 23 Sep		5-15
W 24 Sep	Quiz: Lesson 2. Introduction to Lesson 3.	5-16
F 26 Sep		5-17
M 29 Sep	Last day to drop without record	6-18
T 30 Sep	Advanced writing skills: longhand Cyrillic. Writing at dictation, writing translation into Russian. Grammar: past tense, cardinal numerals, genitive case.	6-19
W 1 Oct		6-20
F 3 Oct		6-21
M 6 Oct	Yom Kippur holiday. No classes.	
T 7 Oct		7-22
W 8 Oct		7-23
F 10 Oct		7-24
M 13 Oct		8-25
T 14 Oct	Quiz: Lesson 3.	8-26
W 15 Oct	Midterm grades due for freshmen	8-27
F 17 Oct		8-28
M 20 Oct		9-29
T 21 Oct		9-30
W 22 Oct		9-31
F 24 Oct		9-32
M 27 Oct	Elaboration of all skills: writing, understanding,	10-33

Russian 101 Fall 2002 Syllabus

	speaking. Geography of Russia and of the United States. Travel; shopping, going to cultural and sporting events. Verbs of motion.  Last day to drop	
T 28 Oct		10-34
W 29 Oct		10-35
F 31 Nov	Quiz: Lesson 4.	10-36
M 4 Nov		11-37
T 5 Nov		11-38
W 6 Nov	Phone registration for spring begins R 7 Nov	11-39
F 8 Nov		11-40
M 10 Nov		12-41
T 11 Nov		12-42
W 12 Nov		12-43
F 14 Nov		12-44
M 18 Nov	Quiz: Lesson 5	13-45
T 19 Nov		13-46
W 20 Nov		13-47
F 22 Nov		13-48
M 24 Nov		14-49
T 25 Nov		14-50
W 26 Nov	Thanksgiving recess	
F 28 Nov	Thanksgiving	
M 1 Dec		15-51
T 2 Dec		15-52
W 3 Dec	Quiz: Lesson 6	15-53
F 5 Dec	Last day of class. Conclusion, preparation for final examination.	15-54
	Study period: Sa 6 Dec – T 9 Dec	

Final Examination: Tuesday December 16, 2003, 1:00 PM, in our regular classroom.