

Русский язык 101
Tulane University
Russian 101-01
Introduction to Russian
Fall, 2009

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<http://ruslangcourses09-10.blogspot.com/>

MWF 12:00-12:50
T 12:30-1:20

office hour MWF 1:00 – 1:50, T 1:20 - 1:50 N305B
and by appt; do not call department, call 504-495-3877, leave message

Dear Students:

Здравствуйте, студенты! Здорово, люди дорогие, привет, будьте как дома!

Welcome to Tulane! No knowledge of Russian is required for this course. If you've had substantial Russian, you should ask for placement to an upper-level course.

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 12:00-12:50 and T 12:30-1:20.

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.

Specific objectives include:

- (1) The course will teach elementary knowledge and skills of the first-level introduction to foreign language, as required by SLA for language proficiency
- (2) The course will introduce the student to the elements of Russian culture through the language, using visual and oral aids
- (3) The course will introduce the student to the geography, historical background, political and social structure of the speakers of Russian

Outcomes

In light of the stated objectives students will be able to

- (1) converse in basic sentences and vocabulary about everyday situations
- (2) write and read Cyrillic texts of first-level difficulty
- (3) understand elementary spoken utterances, affirmations, questions and exclamations
- (4) understand and discuss the position of Russia in today's political and social climate

Mission Statement

By active participation in the course students will develop knowledge, skills and values as defined in the mission of the Department of Slavic Studies and Tulane University.

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 strongly 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 and 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 scheduled in-class conferences to discuss your progress and your grades in Russian.

Outcomes:

- (1) regular attendance will stimulate regular learning of speaking and writing skills, learning of grammar and vocabulary
- (2) attendance will allow students to have immediate response from the instructor on written and oral work and to prepare strategies for study
- (3) regular submission of homework assignments, even if in incomplete form, will make the tasks clear and understandable

Tests

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

- Outcomes:**
- (1) quizzes will aid the student in synthesizing all the principles and materials of a weekly or biweekly lesson
 - (2) quizzes will serve as a weekly check on vocabulary building and grammar
 - (3) quizzes will incentivize achievement and reward good work
 - (4) quizzes will help the instructor evaluate and regulate his teaching plan, identify and correct weak or poorly presented material

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

Final Examination Outcomes:

- (1) counting 20% of the course grade as it does, the exam permits the student to make a systematic review of selected material the instructor wishes to highlight and be rewarded for his effort
- (2) the exam, in the instructor's view, may serve as a springboard for the student to boost her final course grade by demonstrating a cumulative knowledge and understanding of writing and understanding that surpasses his average (!)

Course Outcomes:

- (1) Students will be able to understand simple oral utterances (questions and statements) concerning everyday life, the family, the academic environment, their course plan and goals
- (2) Students will be able to respond to elementary written and oral questions and write in Cyrillic grammatically accurate and coherent answers
- (3) Students will understand and produce nouns in the nominative, accusative, genitive and prepositional cases, and conjugate verbs in the present and the past tenses, understand and reproduce the intonation of yes/no questions, wh-questions, affirmations and exclamations
- (4) Students will produce and understand utterances with the genitive such as have-constructions, permission and negation, cardinal numerals
- (5) Students will understand and produce nouns phrases with possessive and adjectival modifiers, relative clauses, motion verbs
- (6) Students will understand and produce utterances with informal and formal styles of address, learn the sociology of address to children, family members, adult strangers, adult co-workers
- (7) Students will be familiar with the basic cultural realia of post-Soviet life in Moscow and Leningrad

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

(A full schedule, with detailed assignment and quiz announcements, will appear in time.)
 Dates of quizzes are subject to change, if we are not ready! Please point out any errors to me.
 This syllabus is a working plan and **is subject to change** as the course unfolds.

Date	Assignment or comment	week/class number
M 24 Aug	First day of classes. Introduction to the course. Russian alphabet, русская азбука. Introduction to the writing and sound system of Russian.	1-1
T 25 Aug	Начало, Lesson 1. Introduction to basic communication. Who we are, what we do, where we live and work, what languages we speak. Introduction to the Russian family and major Russian cities.	1-2
W 26 Aug	[specific assignments, placed on the web site every week, will follow]	1-3
F 28 Aug		1-4
M 31 Aug		2-5
T 1 Sep		2-6
W 2 Sep		2-7
F 4 Sep	Quiz: Lesson 1. Introduction to Lesson 2.	2-8
M 7 Sep	Labor Day Holiday	
T 8 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
W 9 Sep		3-10
F 11 Sep		3-11
M 14 Sep		4-12
T 15 Sep		4-13
W 16 Sep		4-14
F 18 Sep		4-15
M 21 Sep	Quiz: Lesson 2. Introduction to Lesson 3. Last day to drop without record	5-16
T 22 Sep	Advanced writing skills: longhand Cyrillic. Writing at dictation, writing translation into Russian. Grammar: past tense, cardinal numerals, genitive case.	5-17
W 23 Sep		5-18
F 25 Sep		5-19

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M 28 Sep	Yom Kippur Holiday	
T 29 Sep		6-20
W 30 Sep		6-21
F 2 Oct		6-22
M 5 Oct	Quiz: Lesson 3. Introduction to Lesson 4. Possession, postulating existence. Genitive case; speaking languages, playing instruments. Permission and prohibition.	7-23
T 6 Oct		7-24
W 7 Oct		7-25
F 9 Oct		7-26
M 12 Oct		8-27
T 13 Oct		8-28
W 14 Oct	Midterm grades due for freshmen. Conference scheduling to review everyone's standing and progress.	8-29
R 15 – F 16 Oct	Fall Break. View foliage in New England.	
M 19 Oct	End of Fall Break. Classes resume.	9-30
T 20 Oct		9-31
W 21 Oct	Quiz: Lesson 4. Introduction to Lesson 5. Adjectives and possessives in oblique cases. Modals. Reflexives. Motion verbs. Relativization	9-32
F 23 Oct		9-33
M 26 Oct		10-34
T 27 Oct		10-35
W 28 Oct		10-36
F 30 Oct		10-37
M 2 Nov		11-38
T 3 Nov		11-39
W 4 Nov		11-40
F 6 Nov		11-41
M 9 Nov	Quiz: Lesson 5. Introduction to Lesson 6. Dative case. Numerals; expressing age. Expressing likes and dislikes. Formal and informal speech.	11-42
T 10 Nov		11-43
W 11 Nov		11-44
F 13 Nov		11-45
M 16 Nov		12-46
T 17 Nov		12-47
W 18 Nov		12-48
F 20 Nov		12-49
M 23 Nov		13-50
T 24 Nov		13-51
W 25 Nov	Thanksgiving Break begins	

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M 30 Nov	Classes resume.	14-52
T 1 Dec	Quiz: Lesson 6.	14-53
W 2 Dec	Review for Final Examination	14-54
F 4 Dec	Last day of classes. Prepare for Final Examination	14-55