

RUSS 3540 (Russian Translation)
SPRING SEMESTER 2010
T/R 9:00 - 10:15, OLD MAIN 006

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Office hours: Tu/Th: by appointment

TEXT: NONE-- YPA!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to familiarize you with the practice of translation. Topics discussed in the class will include specific problems with Russian-English, English-Russian translation dealing with both linguistic and cultural dimensions. The students will be provided with the basics of translation techniques, taught how to find the necessary reference sources and given a lot of practice in both written translation and oral practice. The class is not designed to make you a professional translator. Nevertheless, you will gain sufficient skills that you may choose to sharpen and develop more through making translation your career.

One of the advantages of this course is that it combines translation with instruction in cross-cultural communication by working with authentic texts, and discussing the opportunities and challenges of the translator's job in connection with the Russian language.

COURSE GOALS:

1. Gain an insight into the practice of translation
2. Apply theoretical material to the specific problems of the Russian translation
3. Develop research skills
4. Enlarge vocabulary on the number of topics
5. Learn how to express ideas in the meaningful, grammatically correct and full sentences in the Russian language
6. Practice both Russian-English and English-Russian translation
7. Understand how culture and translation are connected and influence each other

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

GROUP PROJECT:

I will have groups of 2 to 4 students translate the lyrics of a Russian song. Each group will translate TWO songs. On the last three days of the semester, each group will hand out the translated into English AND the original lyrics. The group will explain the meaning of the song to the class. Then they will play the song (either find it on Youtube, or copy from a CD, or bring your own instruments) and sing along to the song (along with the class). This project is worth **100** points.

PARTICIPATION (TRANSLATIONS IN CLASS):

We will be translating four articles, two-from Russian to English (1.5- 2 pages long), and two - from English to Russian (1-1.5 pages long). Each translation will be worth 100 points (**400** points in total). Students might be surprised at how few articles we are tackling. Most students, however, are not aware of the level that is required from professional translation, so we are focusing on quality. This practice should prepare you to be able to translate in the future in your area of expertise. We will not be able to translate the full articles in class although you should try. I will expect you to finish the translation by the dates indicated in the syllabus. **You are required to turn in the article TYPED UP, I will not accept hand written translations. Late work will be automatically deducted 5 points a day, unless I move the due date for the whole class.**

SKYPE CONFERENCES

There will be several periods in the semester where we will talk with various Russian professionals over Skype. Each student in the class will be required to prepare 1 question in Russian for the teleconference session. You will need to email the question to me by the date that I will indicate. On the date of the conference, be ready to ask the question yourself. This will be worth **25** points.

ATTENDANCE:

Translation can be most successfully practiced and learned in the interactive classroom environment, that is why I want you to attend this class regularly. The total of **100** points is given for the attendance. You are allowed to

miss three class periods without penalty. After that you lose **4 points for each missed class.**

GRADE IS COMPUTED AS FOLLOWS:

GROUP PROJECT- 100 points

PARTICIPATION (TRANSLATIONS IN CLASS) - 400 points

ATTENDANCE - 100 points

SKYPE QUESTION- 25 points

GRADING CURVE:

100%-94% = A

94%-90% = A-

89%- 86% = B+

86%- 83% = B

83%- 79 = B-

79%-76% = C+

76%-73% = C

73%-69% = C-

69%-66% = D+

66%- 63% = D

63%-59% =D-

59%- 0% =F

COURSE OUTLINE:

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Month/Day	Lesson	Homework
<u>JANUARY</u>		
12 Tuesday (1)	Getting acquainted, introducing course objectives, course organization, and assignments	Find an article in Russian 1.5-2 pages long on a topic relevant to your major. Find an article in English 1-1.5 pages Prepare your questions
14 Thursday (2)	6 selected peoples prepare Skype questions due in email form Bring your articles to class Going over the differences in translating from Russ to Eng and from Eng to Russ. Translating in class (½ class for each article)	
19 Tuesday (3)	SKYPE conference	Have questions ready to be able to ask them yourself.

21 Thursday (4)	Translating in class	
26 Tuesday (5)	NO FORMAL CLASS Keep translating	
28 Thursday (6)	Translating in class	Finish up the first article
<u>FEBRUARY</u>		
2 Tuesday (7)	Translating in class	
4 Thursday (8)	Translating in class	Finish up your 1st Russ to Engl Article Research your 2nd Russ to Engl Article and bring it to class
9 Tuesday (9)	Turn in the 1st Russ to Eng article Bring 2nd Russian article to class, keep translating the 1 st English article in class	Prepare your questions
11 Thursday (10)	Skype questions due in email form Translating in class	Finish up your 1st Eng to Russ article
16 Tuesday	NO CLASS (Monday classes)	
18 Thursday (11)	SKYPE conference	
23 Tuesday (12)	Translating in class Turn in your 1st Eng to Russ article	Find a 2nd Eng to Russ article to translate.
25 Thursday (13)	Bring 2nd Eng to Russ article to class, keep translating 2 nd Russian article in class	Prepare your questions

<u>MARCH</u>		
2 Tuesday (14)	Skype questions due in email form Translating in class	
4 Thursday (15)	Translating in class	
9 Tuesday (16)	SKYPE conference	
SPRING BREAK	March 15-19 NO CLASS	
23 Tuesday (17)	Translating in class	
25 Thursday (18)	Translating in class	
30 Tuesday (19)	Translating in class	Finish up your 2nd Russ to Engl Article Prepare your questions
<u>APRIL</u>		
1 Thursday (20)	Turn in your 2nd Russ to Engl Article Skype questions due in email form Keep translating 2 nd English article in class	
6 Tuesday (21)	SKYPE conference	
8 Thursday (22)	Translating in class	
13 Tuesday (23)	Translating in class	
15 Thursday (24)	Translating in class	

20 Tuesday (25)	Group meetings, NO FORMAL CLASS	Finish up 2nd Eng to Russ article
22 Thursday (26)	<u>Turn in 2nd Eng to Russ article</u> Group Presentations	
27 Tuesday (27)	Group Presentations	
29 Thursday (28)	Group Presentations	