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Russian 2010: Intermediate Russian

Fall 2007

MTWR 10.30-11.20 am, Geology 308

Course Objectives

Welcome to Intermediate Russian! In this class, you will continue to develop your facility in the four areas of language competency: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. You will continue learning and reviewing the fundamentals of Russian language while working towards an intermediate level of proficiency. You will also continue to become more familiar with Russian culture, and there will be days throughout the semester devoted to the enjoyment of Russian film, music and art. You will be encouraged to use the material you are learning for communicative purposes, and by the end of the semester your vocabulary will expand to allow you to:

- Talk and write about yourself
- Describe the weather, understand weather reports, discuss seasons, and prepare for travel
- Issue invitations
- Manage phone conversations and leave and take phone messages using proper telephone etiquette
- Describe your city, give and understand simple directions, read maps and become familiar with Russia's transportation system
- Make hotel/ travel arrangements, deal with travel problems, read ads for hotel and travel services
- Discuss dates (calendar)
- Talk about movies and television
- Express likes and dislikes, agreement and disagreement, make comparisons
- Read Russian cursive

Required Texts

Robin, Richard, K. Evans-Romaine, G. Shatalina. *Golosa: A Basic Course in Russian* Book 2, Third edition, Prentice Hall, 2003.

Robin, Richard, K. Evans-Romaine, G. Shatalina. *Golosa: Lab Manual/Workbook*, Third edition, Prentice Hall, 2003.

Suggested Additional Texts

A medium-sized Russian-English/English-Russian dictionary, such as Katzner or Oxford *501 Russian Verbs*

Course Requirements

This is a four-credit course and meets four times per week. During the semester you will also have an occasional scheduled recitation hour when you will meet with a tutor (located in the language lab in Old Main).

Class Attendance

Coming to class on a daily basis is vital to your success in learning Russian! Learning a foreign language takes time and practice, and it is impossible to master the material in this class simply by cramming the night before an exam. Make life easy on yourself by doing a little every day and coming to class prepared!

Attendance is taken every day. After **three** unexcused absences, your course grade may be lowered by **one** step (e.g., A to A-, B+ to B, D to F, etc.). **Five or more** unexcused absences may result in the lowering of your grade by a full letter (e.g., A to B, B to C, etc.).

Class Participation

By coming prepared to class each day and by participating actively in all class activities, you will build up confidence in using Russian. Assessment of daily class participation will be based on the following criteria:

Grade	Criteria
3 points	Present, on time, and completely prepared. Attentive and volunteers occasionally; tries to use Russian with classmates and instructor; makes the most of each activity and exercise; shows real resourcefulness and imagination when using the language; responds to and engages classmates in a respectful manner; remains critical and open-minded toward target and native culture
2 pts	Present, on time, and partially prepared. Demonstrates that given homework assignment was only partially completed. Some engagement of classmates and material in fulfilling assignment.
1 pt	Present but completely unprepared. Did not prepare the material for the given day but attempts to participate. Must be encouraged to use Russian with instructor and classmates and to participate in classwork.
0 pts	Absent or makes no contribution to class whatsoever.

At the end of the semester, the lowest three daily participation grades will be dropped, and the remainder will be averaged to give the overall class participation grade. Please note that each absence also has an impact on your participation grade.

Homework

Students in Russian 2010 will be assigned homework on a daily basis. You are welcome to complete any or all of your homework together with a friend or friends from class! In fact, I encourage you to do so, as teamwork will give you more oral practice, make the work go faster, and be more fun!

There are several types of homework in this class:

- **READING ASSIGNMENTS.** These may include cultural sections from the textbook, grammar explanations that you may be asked to read in preparation for a class or as a review following a class, or the reading of dialogues prior to class. Students are expected to come to class each day prepared to ask questions on the difficulties they encountered with the day's assignment, to request points of clarification, and to do oral and/or written work in class using the new material.

- WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS.

****Workbook assignments** should be prepared by students on a daily basis, as assigned, and reviewed weekly with the tutor, to check your understanding of the new concept. The exercises should be written on the workbook pages in black or blue ink; **corrections should be made in a different color**. Workbooks will be collected on exam days for grading.

****Other written assignments** (for example, grammar homework from the textbook or free writing assignments) should be written using **every other line in pencil or black or blue ink**. **The textbook page and exercise number should be shown clearly**. These assignments are due on the day after they are assigned and do not need to be reviewed by a tutor (but can be if you feel you need more time to practice the concept).

Incomplete or illegible homework, or homework that has not been corrected, will not receive credit. No late assignments will be accepted.

- ORAL ASSIGNMENTS (ORAL WORK, LISTENING COMPREHENSION). Regular oral work will help students practice new vocabulary and grammatical structures and acquire correct Russian pronunciation and intonation, as well as improve comprehension of the spoken language.

******A final note about homework: Students who fail to meet daily homework obligations will quickly fall behind, often irrevocably.** (In the event of a serious excuse, the student must inform the professor as soon as possible.) **PLEASE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN LEARNING AND KEEP UP WITH YOUR ASSIGNMENTS!!!**

Oral Examinations

There will be two scheduled oral examinations in the course. Each exam will include a phonetics component that tests proper pronunciation and intonation, as well as a communication component, consisting of a short dialogue or role-play with the professor. A sign-up sheet will be made available to set exam times.

Written Quizzes and Examinations

Quizzes will be administered on a frequent and sometimes daily basis in order to encourage you to keep up with work on a daily basis. Quizzes may cover grammar, vocabulary, translation, listening or reading exercises, or any combination of the above. At the end of the semester, the lowest three quiz grades will be dropped, and the remainder will be averaged to give the overall quiz grade for the semester.

In addition, there will be five chapter exams plus a final project. Chapter exams may contain listening and/or reading segments, grammatical and vocabulary exercises such as fill-in-the blanks and translations, and writing exercises.

Cultural Reports

Twice during the semester, students will prepare a 10-15 minute class presentation (in English) on a topic of their choosing (in consultation with the professor) relating to some aspect of Russian

culture. You will be graded according to how interesting you make the presentation. The inclusion of handouts, audio, visual, and/or audio-visual materials in your presentation is strongly encouraged. **Please be sure to limit your presentation to no more than 15 minutes!**

Web resources for Cultural Report:

The following web pages are a useful source for finding interesting information related to Russian language, history, and culture, as well as for some online Russian language and grammar tutorials:

- The Bucknell University Russian website at <<http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/>>, which includes, among other wonderful resources, an interactive online Russian grammar review and cultural materials on topics such as Russian cuisine, Russian law and politics, and Russian humor
- The Russian Mentor website at <<http://russianmentor.net>>, which includes Russian reading and listening comprehension exercises, a grammar review, Russian cultural literacy materials, crossword puzzles, the virtual Slavic club, lots of useful links, and much more, all in an entertaining, interactive format
- An enormous compendium of resources on Russian culture at <<http://www.websher.net>>
- The Russian equivalent of Yahoo at <<http://www.yandex.ru>>

There are many other Russian resources to discover on the web—have fun!!

Final Project

Details for the final project, which will reflect your accumulated knowledge for the semester, will be provided at a later date. It will be due at the end of the semester; a specific date will be provided later.

GRADING SYSTEM

Students' final grades for this course will be determined by the following formula:

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| • Classwork | 20% |
| • Workbooks and daily homework | 5% |
| • Quizzes | 10% |
| • Oral examinations (2 total) | 10% |
| • Written examinations (5 total) | 35% |
| • Culture reports | 10% |
| • Final project | 10% |

University Grading Scale (%)

A 100-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D 69-60; F 59 and below

Students with Disabilities (USU Statement)

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center 797.2444, preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of exams, etc. must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."

Plagiarism (USU Statement)

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Academic Integrity (USU statement)

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his/her academic career free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all USU students. To enhance the learning environment at USU and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the USU community
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded at USU
- Is a welcomed and valued member of USU.

OFFICE HOURS ARE FOR YOU...

Russian can be a challenge. If at times during the semester you find your study of it to be frustrating or overwhelming, please remember that I am available to meet with you individually or as a small group for extra help or moral support. You are welcome to stop by my office hours or to make an appointment that is mutually convenient to us both.

Chapter Exams

The chapter exams are tentatively scheduled for the following dates:

Chapter 1	18 September 2007 (Tuesday)
Chapter 2	2 October 2007 (Tuesday)
Chapter 3	17 October 2007 (Wednesday)
Oral exam I	18 October 2007 (Thursday)
Chapter 4	6 November 2007 (Tuesday)
Chapter 5	28 November 2007 (Wednesday)
Oral exam II	29 November 2007 (Thursday)

Syllabus Fall 2007

Below is an overview of the course syllabus. Detailed homework assignments will be provided on a chapter basis to allow for some flexibility in covering concepts as needed. The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus in the course of the semester as necessary. Additional assignments may be made in class.

In general, our course will be organized as follows:

27-30 August	Introduction and review
4-18 September	Chapter 1
19 September-2 October	Chapter 2
3-17 October	Chapter 3
22 October-6 November	Chapter 4
7-28 November	Chapter 5
3-6 December	Final Project

