

RUSS 101-01, Elementary Russian, Spring 2008

Item Type	Syllabus
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Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
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Download date	2024-10-11 11:48:36
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10267/1576

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Office hours: Mon 3:00-4:30, or by appointment

Course Meetings:

12:00-12:50 p.m. MWF; 11:00-11:50 Tue in 205 Buckman

You are to be congratulated for your interest in a foreign language, specifically Russian. The Russian language suffers from a lot of unfounded stereotypes, the most damaging of which is its legendary difficulty. The main objective of this class is to prove otherwise. Therefore, we hereby proclaim our motto: RUSSIAN IS EASY! YOU CAN LEAN IT!

Course Objectives

By the end of this semester you will

- familiarize yourself with the basic principles of Russian grammar;
- be able to speak and write about yourself, your family, university, interests;
- develop some reading strategies;
- understand basic conversations between native speakers.

Texts:

1. Nachalo... When in Russia, book 1 (**2nd edition**)
2. Nachalo... When in Russia – Workbook and Laboratory Manual, book 1
3. Students tape/CD (comes with the text)
4. Lab Manual tapes/CDs (available on the Language Lab server)

Other Resources:

www.russnet.org

Basis for Grading:

1. **enthusiastic** participation in all classroom activities and regular attendance.
2. completion of **all** written homework assignments (each Lesson exs. will be graded).
3. completion of **all** listening comprehension assignments (graded separately).
4. completion of all examinations and quizzes.
5. screening of two Russian films.
6. final written and speaking exams.

Grade Components:

4 exams – 20%
homework and class participation– 40%
quizzes - 10%
final written– 15%
final speaking– 15%

Homework Assignments:

Your responsibilities:

You can expect up to 1 1/2 hours of homework between classes. The best approach would be to pace yourself and do some work every day.

Written homework assignments are to be done on the due date. Assignments must be neat and written in dark pencil or blue or black ink. All assignments should be written out in full. I will collect your workbook assignments **every Wednesday**.

The materials in the text are richly supported in the recorded supplements and in the Workbook. It is important that you listen to the recordings frequently from the beginning of the course. The recordings will likely seem too fast at first but will become more comprehensible with practice. Doing your audio homework is just as important as doing your written homework.

I also encourage you to do your homework in study groups or with a partner. Do consult our Fulbright Teaching Assistant Tatiana Maslova.

My responsibility is to return your work promptly and correct and react to it in a way that clarifies the problem area. I suggest that you go over the corrections each time you have your homework back, and rewrite or comment on the sentences that you have made mistakes in.

Quizzes:

You should expect daily quizzes, both vocabulary and/or grammar. Each quiz is very basic and should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete – you won't be allowed more time. If you miss taking a quiz, you can have one class period to make it up. After that the grade will be dropped and a zero averaged in.

Tests:

Upon completion of each Lesson in the textbook, you will have a test that will count as 10% of your final grade. Learning a language is like building on a foundation, one block fits another, so you can expect that tests will be comprehensive. However, you will always know what will be expected from you on any given test. You will also have a chance of take a practice test first.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. More than 4 absences (excused or unexcused) will result in a lower grade. Please, plan ahead.

Movies:

You will also be asked to view two Russian films this semester. A sheet is attached for your observations. It must be turned in by mid semester and by the last class of the semester.

Extra Credit:

You can earn extra credit with short presentations on topics related to Russia and/or by attending

From time to time the Foreign Languages Department sponsors certain activities that you may find fun to attend. In some cases extra credit will be given to you if you go.

Syllabus:

01/09	Introduction.
02/04	экзамен № 1 (tentative)
02/27	экзамен № 2 (tentative)
02/29	first film sheet due
03/31	экзамен № 3 (tentative)
04/22	экзамен № 4 (tentative)
04/23	review for final
04/25	second movie sheet due no class – URCAS presentations, you are required to attend at least one presentation in any division (report sheet will be provided)

Итоговый экзамен: written: take-home due April 28, 11:00 am.
speaking: TBA