

Russian 101: The College of Wooster
Instructor: John Lyles
Office Hours: M: 1:00 – 2:00, W: 100 – 2:00, or by appointment

Beginning Russian 1
Dept. of German and Russian Studies
Office: Kauke Hall 230

Fall 2013 Syllabus
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Course Schedule: MWF: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m., T: 12:00 – 12:50 p.m. (with Prof. Lyles),
TH: 12:00 – 12:50 p.m. (with Vitaly Bychkovoy)

Course Location: Kauke Hall, 037

Required Texts:

1. *Golosa: A Basic Course in Russian: Book One, Fifth Edition*
2. *Student Activities Manual for Golosa A Basic Course in Russian: Book One*
3. *Oxford Russian Mini Dictionary* (purchase online or in the bookstore)

Recommended Materials:

1. *Blank Cards – 1000 count*, which can be found here: http://www.vis-ed.com/products/productdetails.asp?s_UPC=781556370816

Course Description and Goals

Over the course of the first semester, students will be introduced to the Russian language and culture through the use of *Golosa* and a variety of outside materials. By the end of the semester, students should reach the ACTFL Novice-Mid speaking proficiency level by mastering the Cyrillic alphabet, learning some basics of Russian grammar, and building a foundation of necessary vocabulary and conversational expressions. At the Novice-Mid proficiency level, students are able to understand and respond to direct questions and communicate on simple, everyday topics.

This course meets 5 days per week, 4 days with Professor Lyles and 1 mandatory conversation day per week with Vitaly Bychkovoy, which will supplement what is covered during the rest of the week, as well as introduce students to many particulars of Russian culture. Regular and punctual attendance is required of all students to all classes. Students should come prepared to participate actively in all classes. The instructor reserves the right to introduce minor changes into the general syllabus by adjusting it to the class progress.

Course Grade

The final grade for the course will be calculated by the following formula:

Class participation + attendance	20%
Homework assignments	10%
Dialogues (written and oral)	10%
Quizzes	10%

Unit Tests	25%
Russian Tea	5%
Final Examination	20%

Grading follows the College Scoring Guide:

A	= 93 - 100	B-	= 80 - 82	D+	= 68 - 69
A-	= 90 - 92	C+	= 77 - 79	D	= 66 - 67
B+	= 87 - 89	C	= 73 - 76	D-	= 65
B	= 83 - 86	C-	= 70 - 72	F	= 64 and below

Course Policies

Syllabi

For each unit, I will upload to Moodle a syllabus with all assigned homework for that unit, including test and quiz dates. It is your responsibility to consult each unit's syllabus on a regular basis (daily) to keep up with all assignments. Please note that some homework is assigned one day, but not due the very next day.

This is because the workbook pages have both a front and a back. The syllabus will tell you when this is the case, so please pay special attention. However, I strongly encourage you to complete the homework the day it is assigned so as to be fully prepared for class the following day.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time (this goes for conversation class, as well). Regular class attendance is essential for your progress. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Should you arrive late, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor *after* class is over. Excused absences (illness, religious holiday, etc.) must be documented and you must notify the instructor in advance (email) if at all possible. Late written work will only count towards your final grade if your absence is excused. Missed tests and quizzes will count as zeroes except in cases of illness. Requests for such arrangements should be made to the instructor. For more than five hours of unexcused absence, your course grade will be lowered by one-third of a letter grade for each additional unexcused absence (e.g., from A to A- or B- to C+). Five tardies will result in one unexcused absence.

Homework

You are expected to spend about 1 to 1.5 hours a day on your homework. Written homework exercises will be graded for accuracy, effort, completion, and

timeliness. Your homework will receive either a $\checkmark+$, \checkmark , $\checkmark-$, or a 0. A $\checkmark+$ is equivalent to a 5 (based on the Russian scale) and will be given to homework that is completed with very few errors. A \checkmark is equivalent to a 4 and will be given to homework that is completed but with many errors. A $\checkmark-$ is equivalent to a 3 and will be given to homework that is not complete (any one section left undone, for example) or to homework that does not demonstrate genuine effort (the majority of the work is incorrect, or it is clear the student did not try). A 0 will be given to all late homework. When doing your homework, it is important to give your best effort to all sections. Should you do this and still make a lot of mistakes, the lowest grade you will get is a \checkmark .

Your performance on oral assignments (short presentations, dialogues, poem reciting, etc.) will also be evaluated for effort and counted toward your class participation grade. Thorough completion of all assignments is expected, including video viewing and listening comprehension exercises. Note that some reading and writing assignments are longer than others and might require extra time.

Late homework will be accepted, but will receive an automatic 0, unless the absence was excused. **NB:** You may NOT turn in up to 5 homework assignments without penalty (i.e. 5 0's will become 5's). This averages out to be one per unit. Should you turn in all of your homework on time, your 5 lowest grades on homework will become 5's.

Each Unit contains a section introducing and explaining the grammatical concepts for that unit. Please read the relevant material for the day *before* you come to class (in most cases, the necessary reading is assigned as homework for the night before we cover the material in class). In class, we will go over difficult points and focus on practicing/using the grammar in communication. Occasionally, when a grammatical item is particularly complicated, these sections will also be assigned as homework to be read *after* we have discussed them in class. Please consult these sections as needed during the completion of homework assignments and when studying for tests and quizzes. It is your responsibility to have read and understood all the material found in these sections.

Each unit also has a list of vocabulary at the end. At the beginning of each unit, you should make flashcards of all new vocabulary and review them daily. Occasionally, making flashcards will appear in your homework to remind you, but you should not rely on these prompts only. The sooner you make the flashcards, the sooner you will increase your vocabulary, and the better you will

perform in class and on tests and quizzes. If you would prefer to make audio files of new vocabulary for your phone or ipod, please consult with the instructor.

NB: At the end of the book are several appendixes for quick consultation on grammar and spelling. There is also a dictionary at the back of the book.

Writing Assignments (Essays and Dialogues)

All essays, dialogues, and presentations should be computer-typed and double-spaced. Essay topics, due dates, and the length of each essay will be listed in weekly syllabi. Essay drafts (for longer essays) will be returned by the instructor with the errors marked but not corrected (by looking up the correct answer yourself, you will reinforce your knowledge and understanding). Students are expected to correct the errors and re-submit the essays for the grade on the dates specified in the weekly syllabi. Keep in mind that the assigned length for papers is indicated with a **typed** essay in mind. Your paragraph-long essay should be about 100 words. A one-page essay should be about 200-250 words.

You need to type your essays in Russian on your computer. If you do not have a Russian keyboard you will need to install it. To install the Russian keyboard follow the link: <http://www.wooster.edu/academics/areas/russian-studies/resources> and click on the appropriate keyboard.

The use of translation software to complete any assignment is prohibited. Any use of such software will result in a zero for that assignment, as well as its rewriting and resubmission.

Dialogues

Beginning with Unit 3, students will work in pairs and/or small groups to write and perform dialogues. You will be given a topic/prompt to follow, but creativity is strongly encouraged. You will turn in a rough draft of the dialogue before the unit exam. Drafts will be returned to you on or before the test day with the mistakes marked. You and your partner will be expected to correct the mistakes for the final draft and then memorize and rehearse the dialogue together. The day after the unit test, students will perform their dialogues at a predetermined time and place, and I will videotape them. These dialogues will then be posted online for your classmates to view. Students will be required to watch all of their fellow classmates' work and write a half-page summary in English of ONE of the dialogues. This summary will be turned in a few days after the new unit has begun (see each unit's syllabus for the specific date).

You will be graded on a variety of points, including proper grammar, pronunciation, and intonation; use of that unit's vocabulary and grammar; and rate of speech, among other things. The presentation grade will be made up of a

variety of different parts: a first written draft of the dialogue, a corrected written draft of the dialogue, and the actual oral performance. A full explanation of what your grade will be based on will be made available to you prior to the first unit's dialogue, and due dates for each part will be included in each unit's syllabus.

Oral Presentations

Over the course of the semester, you will participate in a variety of oral presentations, drills, and exercises. Some will be performed in front of the class individually and in groups, and others will be performed in small groups at your desks. You will be expected to be ready to participate in all oral exercises. These will be graded on successful completion, enthusiasm, and effort, and will factor into your participation grade.

Participation

The emphasis of this course is on proper communication. You are expected to come to class fully prepared (having written, read, listened to, memorized the assigned material, etc.) and ready to use this material for analysis and discussion. You cannot learn a language without putting it into use. Everyone will be expected to participate fully and equally over the course of the semester. Your overall participation grade will depend equally on your performance in Professor Lyles's class and in Vitaly Bychkovoy's class.

Learning a foreign language requires a certain amount of courage, as students must be willing to make mistakes in front of others. Please relax and try to enjoy the learning process, rather than stress out about forgetting words or incorrectly conjugating verbs. Everyone is in the same boat on this and everyone will make mistakes in front of each other. This is perfectly normal and expected, as it is the only way to learn. If you are particularly shy about speaking in front of others, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

NB: Do not miss class because you did not do your homework: you are graded both on attendance and homework. Missing homework *and* class will double the problem.

Quizzes, Tests, and Exams

The course includes regular quizzes (vocabulary and grammar), and written tests (unit tests) after every unit. Written unit tests will consist of listening and reading comprehension tasks, oral exercises, fill-in-the-blanks, translation passages, and/or short essays. A final written examination will cover all of the material presented in the course. The format of the final exam will be like that of the unit test, but the final will be comprehensive. Students will be expected to produce

grammatically correct Russian (proper spelling, declension, conjugation, etc.) and the quizzes and tests will be graded accordingly. The goal of this course is to teach you how to communicate in **correct, educated** Russian.

Cultural Component

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the **Russian Club** (Russian cultural activities and philanthropic campus projects) and to attend the weekly **Russian Table** (Русский стол) conversation hour and **Russian Tea**.

Furthermore, throughout the semester, there will be a variety of events and opportunities related to Russian class. Students are encouraged to participate in all of these. And if you are aware of an opportunity related to Russian language or culture, please let Professor Lyles or Vitaly Viktorovich know!

NB: Please note that your participation in the Russian Tea (at least five times during this semester) counts as 5% of your final grade. If you are unable to attend tea, it is your responsibility to make other arrangements AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Both Vitaly and I are flexible in the ways we can help students fulfill this requirement, but **ONLY IF** you talk to us early in the semester.

Technology in the Classroom

Cell phones and laptops are prohibited in class, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Please turn off all cell phones before class starts. The instructor will have his cell phone turned on in case of an emergency so as to receive any text alerts.

Extra Credit

You should take advantage of the cultural events scheduled during the semester, such as film screenings and lectures. Dates and times are TBA. For every one of these events you attend, one homework grade will be changed to a 5 (canceling a late HW, or changing a 3 to a 5).

NB: Should you turn in all of your homework on time AND should you attend all the film screenings and all of the guest lectures, your lowest test grade will be raised by a letter grade (from C to B, B- to A-, etc.).

Special Needs

Students with special learning needs are asked to discuss them with the instructors as soon as possible. We are committed to providing instruction to all learners regardless of any disability.

Course Schedule (dates are tentative)

Aug. 26th – Sept. 3rd

Introductory Unit
Alphabet, spelling, pronunciation

Sept. 4th – Sept. 13th

Unit 1
Greetings, introductions, asking for information

Sept. 16th – Sept. 27th

Unit 2
Naming common objects, clothing, colors; travel

Sept. 30th – Oct. 16th

Unit 3
Languages, ethnicities, and nationalities

Oct. 7th – Oct. 8th

Fall Break

Oct. 17th – Nov. 1st

Unit 4
College: classes, schedules, majors

Nov. 4th – Nov. 19th

Unit 5
Daily life, telling time, phone conversations

Nov. 20th – Dec. 6th

Unit 6
Home, apartments, dorms

Nov. 27th – Dec. 1st

Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 10th

Final Exam