

COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2011 Second-Year Russian II

RUS 412L (45530)

Class meetings: MTWTh 11-12, MEZ, 1.210

Instructor: Keith Livers, CAL 5 (basement), email:
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Textbook: Irina Dolgova and Cynthia Martin. *Russian Stage Two: Welcome Back!* Third edition (Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 2010). ISBN: 9780-7575-6343-0. This is the same packaged set used for the previous (fall) semester of second-year Russian. It consists of one textbook (with a DVD containing video lessons) and two workbooks (each with an audio CD).

The textbook is associated with an on-line site:
<http://www.livefromrussia.org>. The login information is as follows: login=s2student; password=stage2.

Recommended reference sources (not required): Katzner, Kenneth. *English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. (John Wiley & Sons, 1994). ISBN: 978-0-471-01707-3. Wade, Terence. *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. 2nd ed. (John Wiley & Sons, 2000). ISBN: 978-0-631-20757-3. Gerhart, Geneva. *The Russian's World*. 3rd ed. (Slavica Publishers, 2001). ISBN: 978-0-893-57293-8

I. GENERAL

Course Content: This course is the fourth semester of Russian language instruction developing functional proficiency in the four basic skills of **listening, speaking, reading, and writing**. This semester we will cover Units 6 through 10 of the textbook, devoting ten class days to instruction for each unit. **The goal** is to achieve an active vocabulary of 1600-2000 words and an oral proficiency level of what is called '**Intermediate Mid**' or '**Intermediate High**', as defined by the *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages*.

Course Requirements: You are expected to attend classes regularly, participate actively in class, do all assigned coursework (written, oral, and preparatory), and take all exams. An outline of each unit, listing video episodes (found on the DVD), communicative goals, lexical fields, and grammatical topics, is found on pp. vii-xvii of your textbook. An overview of our schedule this semester is given (with dates of exams) is given on p. 5 of this syllabus. The homework assignments are found in the workbook and, for aural work, on the CDs (as well as on the website <http://www.livefromrussia.org>). We are going to work in group on the Black Board. Every week your group will be assigned a new task. Guidelines will be posted on BB on week before the assignment is due.

If you miss a class, it is **your** responsibility to contact your instructor or another student, find out what was covered, and make up the missed work.

In order to do well in this (or any) language class, you must:

Read this syllabus!

Attend class regularly, participate actively, and take notes.

Prepare for each class in advance so that you are familiar with what will be covered that day.
Learn all of the words and expressions which appear in the vocabulary list at the end of each unit covered; these words are utilized in the chapter material.
Review material specified in the homework assignments and submit written homework on time.
Spend about **two hours** of preparation for each hour in the classroom.
Take all exams as scheduled.

Accommodations for disabilities: Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact **the Services for Students with Disabilities** area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible **to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.**

Electronic devices. Please ensure that your cell phone and any other electronic devices are off and out-of-sight throughout the class period. Laptop computers may be utilized during class **ONLY** for class-related purposes and **ONLY** with the permission of the instructor. Failure to observe these courtesies will be reflected in your class participation grade.

Testing: There will be five in-class written fifty-minute unit tests, a fifteen-minute oral proficiency exam administered individually at the end of the course, and a three-hour written final examination during the final examination period. The exams are scheduled as follows:

Unit 6: February 7 (Monday)
Unit 7: February 24 (Thursday)
Unit 8: March 23 (Wednesday)
Unit 9: April 12 (Tuesday)
Unit 10: May 2 (Monday)
Oral proficiency exam: to be scheduled individually during the final week of classes.
Comprehensive written final examination: Monday, May 11, 9:00–12:00 noon

II. GRADING

There are three components of your final course grade. These components and their relative weights are:

1. Testing: 50%

In-class tests: 30% Final exam: 15%. Oral proficiency exam: 5%
There are no make-ups on in-class tests or on the final. If you must miss an exam, contact your instructor as soon as you can. Any accommodations will require documentation of the reason for your absence; otherwise a zero will be recorded.

2. Homework: 25%+10%

Written homework or in-class quizzes (e.g., vocabulary, grammar checks, etc.) will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. **An assignment for which you are not awarded credit may be resubmitted for credit on the following class day.** Your homework grade will be the percentage of assignments for which you receive credit.

On Monday in class your group will receive an assignment for the BB work. First posting is due on Friday, 6 p.m. Second posting is due on Sunday that week 10 p.m.

3. Participation: 15%

This grade is determined by your instructor as a reflection of your overall **preparedness** and **performance** in class.

You are expected to a) attend class daily, b) prepare assigned material **in advance** for each class, and c) respond in class with reasonable accuracy, relevance, and enthusiasm.

Attendance will be recorded by your instructor. While there is no direct, automatic penalty for absences (however, if there is more than 5 unexcused absences, instructor is required to fill out "absence report and submit it to the dean's office), your attendance record will be reflected in your participation grade: **if you aren't present, you can't participate.**

The result of these calculations will be on a number on a scale of 0-100. Plus/minus grading will apply. This numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

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|------------------|
| 98 – 100 = A+ |
| 78 – 79 = C+ |
| 94 – 97 = A |
| 74 – 77 = C |
| 90 – 93 = A- |
| 70 – 73 = C- |
| 88 – 89 = B+ |
| 68 – 69 = D+ |
| 84 – 87 = B |
| 64 – 67 = D |
| 80 – 83 = B- |
| 60 – 63 = D- |
| 59 and below = F |

An Incomplete will be granted only under the direst of circumstances (e.g., an unexpected family or health crisis preventing you from continuing your academic work) and you will be asked to substantiate any such circumstances.

These rules will be strictly observed by your instructor.

III. RESOURCES

Your *Textbook* comes with two CDs and a DVD that accompany the exercises in each unit, indicated by a "cassette" and "camera" symbol, respectively. You will greatly enhance your listening comprehension of Russian by using these resources as often as indicated in the book and as possible. The Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and Audio-Visual Library of the General Libraries have extensive collections of recordings that may be checked out for home viewing. There are vast resources on the Web as well. For example, you can take a look at my blog <http://teach12memo.blogspot.com/>, where I collect resources for learners of Russian of different levels. If you have any good finds, let your instructor know.

Remember to come at least once to the Russian Table, which is held on Fridays and provides you with more opportunities to carry out activities in Russian not associated

with your class.

IV. OUTLINE OF THE SEMESTER'S WORK

Introduction: Tuesday, January 18

- Outline structure, expectations and goals of the course.
- *Давайте познакомимся и вспомним русский язык! А что вы делали на каникулах?*

Unit Six: Wednesday, January 19 – Thursday, February 3

Unit Six Exam: Monday, February 7

Unit Seven: Tuesday, February 8 – Wednesday, February 23

Unit Seven Exam: Thursday, February 24

Unit Eight: Monday, February 28 – Tuesday, March 22

Semester break: 14-19 March

Unit Eight Exam: Wednesday, March 23

Unit Nine: Thursday, March 24 – Monday, April 11

Unit Nine Exam: Tuesday, April 12

Unit Ten: Wednesday, April 13 – Thursday, April 28

Unit Ten Exam: Monday, May 2

Course review: Tuesday, May 3 - Thursday, May 5

Oral proficiency exam: Individually scheduled during the final week of classes.

Final exam: 11 May (Wednesday), 9 am – 12 noon

The room is to be determined later in the semester by the University.