

The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic>

**INTENSIVE RUSSIAN I
RUS 601c
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Русский язык и русская культура

Instructor: Nadya Clayton
Class Time: MWF 10:00 – 11:00 AM, TTh 10:00-11:30 AM
Place: PAR 302
Offices: Calhoun 7
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Office hours: Mon. 11:00 – 12:00 PM, Thurs. 1:00 – 2:00 PM, or by appointment

Textbook: • Davidson, Gor, and Lekic. *Russian: Stage One: Live from Russia! 2nd ed., vols. 1 and 2*, (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co. 2008 and 2009). These packaged sets comprise two basic textbooks, two workbooks, two audio CDs, and two DVDs. Available at the University Co-op.

Recommended: • Russian/English Dictionary, such as Katzner, or Oxford.
• Gerhart, G., *The Russian's World*, Orlando: Houghton Mifflin, 1994.
• Garza, T., *Fundamentals of Russian Verbal Conjugation for Teachers and Students*, Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt and ACTR Publications, 1993.

Добро пожаловать! Welcome to the Russian 601c – an intensive and unique adventure in language acquisition! This course is designed to bring you quickly to functional proficiency in the language and culture of one of the most influential and important regions of the world. More than 200 million people in the former Soviet Union, and an additional 150 million throughout the world, speak Russian. It is the language of some of the world's greatest literature: Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Pasternak, Bulgakov, Nabokov, Gorky, and Solzhenitsyn, among others. It is the culture of some of the greatest scientists and innovators in the West: Lomonosov, Mendeleev, Pavlov, and Gagarin. And it is the country of some of most influential politicians of the Twentieth Century: Lenin, Stalin, Gorbachev, and Putin. As the most recent addition to the G8 summit meetings, Russia is fast becoming a major player of the global economy. The major cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg attract thousands of tourists, businesspeople, and students each year, including a sizeable number of summer students from UT on our program "Moscow Plus." We hope you'll be among them next summer 2012!

I. GENERAL

Course Content: This course is the first semester of intensive Russian language instruction developing functional proficiency in listening, speaking, and reading. Writing will be developed primarily through workbook and computer-based home assignments. We will cover all of Volumes One and Two of the textbooks, Units One through Unit Fourteen, spending about one week on each unit. In addition, this course aims to develop computer literacy skills – in Russian – for you to be truly functional and competitive in the language.

Course Requirements: •**Attendance Policy**• •**Посещаемость**• Because of the intensive nature of this course, you are expected to attend daily classes regularly, participate actively in class, do all assigned coursework, and take all exams. You will be allowed a maximum of five (5) unexcused absences during the semester. More than 5 (five) unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final course grade by a diacritical (a B+ goes to a B, a B to a B-, etc.); more than 8 (eight) absences will result in a grade lowered by a letter. Absences for the observance of religious holidays will be considered excused.

•**Homework**• •**Домашние задания**• A Course Syllabus for the entire semester, briefly describing goals and in-class activities, is found on pp. xiii - xx in your *Textbook*. Corresponding homework assignments for each daily class meeting are found in the *Workbook*. **PREPARING AND HANDING IN DAILY HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS IS ESSENTIAL TO PASS THE COURSE!** This means that you should go over and be familiar with this material (or prepare relevant questions) in advance of class. You are also responsible for learning all of the words and expressions contained in the texts and exercises covered in the Course Syllabus that appear in **non-italic** type in the vocabulary lists at the end of each unit. **You should plan to spend about two to three hours of preparation for each hour spent in the classroom.** If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor or another student and find out what was covered and make up the missed work.

•**Accommodations**• If you have extenuating physical circumstances, all instructors in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies will make themselves available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Before course accommodations will be made, students may be required to provide documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students -- Services for Students with Disabilities.

•**Testing**• •**Контроль**• There will be six in-class one-hour tests and a final scheduled examination for this course. The in-class tests, each covering two units, will be given on **September 17, October 1, October 15, October 29, November 12, and November 28**. The comprehensive final exam will be given during the University's exam period **between December 7 and 13, 2012**.

II. GRADING ОТМЕТКИ

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

1. Testing: 30%

Unit tests: 15%
Final exam: 15%

Because of the time constraints and pace of this course, make-ups on any of the tests will be given only in unusual cases with extenuating circumstances.

2. Homework: 15%

Written homework or in-class quizzes (e.g., vocabulary, grammar checks, etc.) will be graded on a credit (✓) / no credit (✗) basis. All assignments from the Workbook *must* be turned in on the class day after being assigned; a "no credit" assignment may be resubmitted for credit on the following day after being returned to the student. Your homework grade will be the percentage of "credit" assignments you submit during the term. **ONE DAY GRACE PERIOD ONLY!!**

3. Participation: 15%

Your instructor determines this component as a reflection of your overall preparedness and performance in class; it is NOT merely an attendance grade. 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 and, of course, *enthusiasm*.

4. Portfolio: 20%

The Portfolio is a key part of your assessment in this course. It consists of materials that you produce during the course of the semester – both through assigned tasks, and through your own independent work on Russian. Much of the work for the portfolio will be offered on-line. You should maintain the portfolio – physically – in a binder or folder that will be checked periodically throughout the semester. At the end of the course, you will submit the entire portfolio for assessment.

5. Oral Presentation: 20%

Each student, in tandem with another member of the class, will present an oral performance of his/her choosing at the end of the course. Materials to choose from will be provided to the students well in advance of the presentations. Final oral presentations must take between 8 and 10 minutes to perform. The result of these calculations will be a number on a scale of 0-100. This numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

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

III. SUPPLEMENTARY AND ONLINE RESOURCES

Your *Textbooks* and *Workbooks* come with CDs and DVDs that accompany the exercises for each unit, indicated by a "headphones" and "camera" symbol, respectively. You will greatly enhance your own listening comprehension of Russian by using to these discs in your player or

laptop as often as possible. There is also an on-line supplement to your *Textbooks* at www.livefromrussi.org. Login information to this essential site is on the fly page of your book. Throughout the semester, a number of relevant music, film, and audio files will be made available to you on the class' Blackboard site, "RUS 601c." The more you expose yourself to these materials, the faster you will begin to acquire a native-like "ear" for Russian sounds and significantly improve your aural comprehension and pronunciation of the language. The Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies (Calhoun 415) also has collections of DVD movies, music, speeches and documentaries from and about Russia and the former Soviet states. These films are interesting from both a cultural and purely entertainment point of view. They may be checked out for home viewing; see your instructor for suggestions. Watch Russian-language films with the Russian captions/subtitles turned on. You will be surprised how quickly your listening comprehension will catch up to your reading comprehension, not to mention the improvement you will see in your knowledge of grammatical constructions! There are also now excellent online resources for Russian aural and visual input for your enjoyment and the enhancement of your learning. Russian music and movies are readily available for a reasonable price at www.russiandvd.com. There are also countless video clips of Russian classic and current movies, music, and documentaries available on YouTube. Indeed, many entire Russian films are available for free download on Russian web browsers and sites such as RuTube. Try searching through www.google.ru in either Latin or Cyrillic letters, and you will find a wealth of easy to download materials to enrich your study of Russian language and culture.

RUS 601c COURSE OUTLINE

FIRST DAY

Wednesday, August 29

- Introduction to the course RUS 601c and how to use the materials from *Russian: Stage One: Live from Russia!*
- "Learn the Cyrillic Alphabet in 20 Minutes!"

INTRODUCTION: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Thursday, August 30 - Friday, August 31

UNITS ONE and TWO: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Tuesday, September 4 - Friday, September 14

[Monday, September 3 is the Labor Day Holiday]

Unit One/Two Exam: Monday, September 17

UNITS THREE and FOUR: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Tuesday, September 18 - Friday, September 28

Unit Three/Four Exam: Monday, October 1

UNITS FIVE and SIX: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Tuesday, October 2 - Friday, October 12

Unit Five/Six Exam: Monday, October 15

BEGIN SECOND VOLUME OF TEXTBOOK *Russian Stage One: Live from Russia!*

UNITS SEVEN and EIGHT: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Tuesday, October 16 - Friday, October 26

Unit Seven/Eight Exam: Monday, October 29

UNITS NINE and TEN: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Tuesday, October 30 - Friday, November 9

Unit Nine/Ten Exam: Monday, November 12

UNITS ELEVEN and TWELVE: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Tuesday, November 13 - Tuesday, November 27

Unit Eleven/Twelve Exam: Wednesday, November 28

UNITS THIRTEEN and FOURTEEN: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Thursday, November 29 - Friday, December 7

[Thanksgiving holidays: Thursday, November 22 - Sunday, November 25]

Final Exam will be given during the University's exam period between December 7 and 13, 2012.

«С праздником! С Новым 2013 годом!»

