The University of Texas at Austin Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic/ Spring Semester 2013

SECOND-YEAR RUSSIAN II

RUS 412L (45140)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Time: MTWTh 10-10:50 a.m.

Place: PAR 310

Instructor: Karen Chilstrom
Office: Calhoun 429C

Phone: 471-3607 (Slavic Department) E-mail: Chilstrom@utexas.edu



Required Textbook: Irina Dolgova and Cynthia Martin. *Russian: Stage Two: Welcome Back!*, (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co. 2010). 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).

Recommended: All available at the University Co-op:

- Gerhart, Genevra. *The Russian's World*. (Bloomington: Slavica Publishers, 2000).
- Katzner, Kenneth. *English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. (John Wiley & Sons, 1994).
- Wade, Terence. A Comprehensive Russian Grammar. 2nd ed. (John Wiley & Sons, 2000).

Welcome to Russian 412! You are continuing the intermediate level of language and culture instruction in one of the world's most spoken and influential languages. Russian is spoken by 150 million in the former Soviet Union and by another 50 million Russians living all over the world – including New York, Los Angeles, and Houston. This is the year of Russian study that will best prepare you to read the brilliant works of Russian literature, to undertake a longer term of study abroad, to watch Russian films and television in the original, and of course to major in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies here at UT! Russian is not only one of the official languages of diplomacy at the U.N., and a member language of the G-8, it is a language for which your prospects in business, engineering, teaching, law, and medicine are greatly enhanced with a reasonable functional proficiency. So whatever your goal, we hope that your second year of study of Russian will bring you many rewards.

I. GENERAL

Course Content: This course is the fourth semester of Russian language instruction developing functional proficiency in 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. A description of each unit's work, listing video episodes (found on the DVD), communicative goals, lexical fields, and grammatical topics, is found on pp. vii - xvii in your *Textbook*. An overview of our schedule this semester (with dates of exams) is given on page 4 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).

You will be allowed a maximum of five (5) unexcused absences during the semester. More than 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.). Since preparing and handing in daily homework assignments is essential to pass the course, you should go over and be familiar with this material (or prepare relevant questions) in advance of class.

You are also responsible for learning actively 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 in the *Textbook*. **You should plan to spend about two hours of preparation for each hour 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. Excused absences shall be for illness and family emergency only. Your instructor will need to see documentation.

All cell-phones and pagers must be turned off during class. No laptops or hand-held devices are to be used in class, please.

Special 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. You can contact them at 471-6259.

Testing: There will be five (5) in-class 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.

Unit Six: Monday, February 4
Unit Seven: Thursday, February 21

Unit Eight: Wednesday, March 20

Unit Nine: **Tuesday, April 9** Unit Ten: **Monday, April 29**

Oral proficiency exam: to be scheduled individually during the final week of classes.

Comprehensive written final examination during final exam period.

II. GRADING

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

1. Testing: 60%

In-class tests: 40% Final exam: 15%

Oral Proficiency Interview: 5%

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. 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%

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.

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, relevance, and, of course, *enthusiasm*.

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:

94 - 100	=	Α
90 - 93	=	A-
88 - 89	=	B+
84 - 87	=	В
80 - 83	=	В-
78 - 79	=	C+

74-77 = C 70-73 = C- 68-69 = D+ 64-67 = D 60-63 = D- 59 and below = F

III. MEDIA RESOURCES

Your *Textbook* comes with two audio CDs and a DVD that correspond to many of the exercises in each unit, indicated by a "disk" and "camera" symbol, respectively. You will *greatly* enhance your own listening comprehension of Russian by downloading and using these media in your iPod or home/car stereo as often as possible. If you prefer to use the media on campus, there are facilities available in several locations, such as the Perry Castañeda Library and Flawn Academic Center. In addition, the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies also has in Calhoun 422 a collection of both classic and very recent DVDs with movies, music, speeches and documentaries from and about Russia and the former Soviet states. These DVDs are interesting from both a cultural and purely entertainment point of view. Many of the DVDs have English subtitles, which can help you build your confidence and facility in hearing spoken Russian and deriving meaning. Some also have Russian subtitles, which are a real benefit to building listening comprehension as you gain a larger vocabulary and fluency. These may be checked out for home viewing; see your instructor for suggestions.

RUS 412L COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction: Monday, January 14

• Outline structure, expectations and goals of the course.

• Давайте познакомимся и вспомним русский язык! А что вы делали на каникулах?

Unit Six: Tuesday, January 15 – Thursday, January 31

Unit Six Exam: Monday, February 4

Unit Seven: Tuesday, February 5 – Wednesday, February 20

Unit Seven Exam: Thursday, February 21

Unit Eight: Monday, February 25 – Tuesday, March 19

Semester break: 11-15 March

Unit Eight Exam: Wednesday, March 20

Unit Nine: Thursday, March 21 – Monday, April 8

Unit Nine Exam: Tuesday, April 9

Unit Ten: Wednesday, April 10 – Thursday, April 25

Unit Ten Exam: Monday, April 29

Course review: Tuesday, April 30 - Thursday, May 2

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

Final exam: Date and time to be determined later in the semester by the University.