Ru 101: Elementary Russian I  
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Fall 2010

MTWR  
Room

Instructor:  
Office:  
Office phone #:  
Email:  
Office hours:

Course objectives:

The goal of this course is to help students develop elementary reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills in the Russian language. The course will introduce some of the fundamental concepts of Russian grammar, such as cases and verb conjugations, and will begin to acquaint you with common features of Russian culture.

Course requirements and policies:

Required texts:


Optional materials:

2. CD program for Nachalo. You will need this program in order to complete the workbook lab exercises. You can also access this program online: Go to http://www.slavic.uiuc.edu/courses/webcontent/ and select audio files for RUSS 101. You need to have the Real Player software in order to listen to these audio files on your computer.
3. CD ROM for Nachalo.
4. Russian-English/English Russian Dictionary (Katzner, Oxford, or other)

This course is for beginners only. Heritage speakers or students with previous knowledge of Russian must take the placement test to be placed at the appropriate level. Please see Professor Valeria Sobol (vsobol@illinois.edu) if you have any questions regarding placement. Students who are not beginners and who ignore these policies will not receive any credit for this course.
Attendance. Regular attendance is crucial for mastering a foreign language. **Students with 8 or more absences (total) will receive an F in the course.** In the cases of illness, religious holidays, family emergencies, or university obligations please notify your instructor in advance and provide a written note when appropriate. Otherwise this absence, as any other unexcused absence, will lower your attendance/participation grade. You may be asked to obtain a letter from the Emergency Dean:

300 Turner Student Services Building  
610 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 333-0050

Consistently late arrival to class will be penalized by a reduction in the attendance/participation grade and may be counted as an absence. **Please be punctual.**

You are expected to behave properly in class and to comply with the University Student Code: [http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/](http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/)  
Improper conduct and language, as well as the use of cellular phones in class, will not be tolerated.

Class participation. You must come to class prepared even if you were absent at the previous class. Your detailed course plan (**расписание**) has all the information on the material covered on each particular day and the assigned homework. The instructor will keep track of those classes to which you came unprepared and, on the contrary, will mark the days when you take a particularly active participation in class. Your final attendance/participation grade will be greatly affected by the quality of your participation and the level and consistency of your preparedness. You must always have your textbook with you. You should also always have your course plan (**расписание**) in case the instructor announces any changes to the plan.

Oral presentation. Each of you will be required to give a brief (approximately 5-min. long) presentation on an aspect of Russian culture of your choice. Your presentation may be in English, however, you must provide a **vocabulary list** of 5-10 new Russian words, thematically appropriate to your topic. Be sure to check spelling, pronunciation, and stress before teaching the new vocabulary to the class. Please use visual materials.

Homework. Your detailed course plan (**расписание**) includes daily homework assignments. The underlined assignments must be completed in writing (when appropriate) and turned in to the instructor in the beginning of the next class. Your instructor will mark your mistakes on the homework but won’t correct it. **You have to self-correct your homework and submit corrected homework at the next class after you have received your graded homework from the instructor.** Late corrections will not be accepted!

Your homework will be graded on a 4-point basis according to the following criteria:
- timeliness;
- completeness;
- quality;
- self-corrections.
Failure to comply with one or more of these criteria will lower your grade and will result in you receiving 3, 2, 1, and 0 respectively. Before submitting your homework, make sure to date it and to write your name on each page.

**NB: Homework that is late more than one week since due date will not be accepted** (unless you missed a week of class due to illness and can provide a doctor’s note).

Tests. There will be a short vocabulary quiz at the end of each chapter and a comprehensive test after each chapter (except for Chapter 4, incorporated into the final exam). No make-up tests will be given. If a serious reason for missing a test can be proven, you may be allowed to make it up at the instructor’s discretion. You will also have an oral test towards the end of the semester. Details will be provided by your instructor. **Heritage speakers may be given a different assignment instead of the oral test.**

The final examination will be cumulative and will cover chapters 1-4. Your instructor will notify you of the exam’s time and location.

Grading. The course will be graded according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework (including self-corrections)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral test</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades (except for vocabulary quizzes) will be assigned as follows:

- **A+** 98-100%
- **A** 93-97%
- **A-** 90-92%
- **B+** 88-89%
- **B** 83-87%
- **B-** 80-82%
- **C+** 78-79%
- **C** 73-77%
- **C-** 70-72%
- **D+** 68-69%
- **D** 63-67%
- **D-** 60-62%
- **F** below 60%

Vocabulary quizzes will be graded as follows:

- **A+** 97-100
- **A** 91-96
- **A-** 87-90
- **B+** 83-86
- **B** 78-82
- **B-** 74-77
- **C+** 70-73
- **C** 65-69
- **C-** 61-64
- **D+** 58-60
- **D** 53-57
- **D-** 50-52

**Academic Integrity.** Cases of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to university policy. Please read the note on Academic Dishonesty very
carefully: [http://www.uiuc.edu/admin_manual/code/rule_33.html](http://www.uiuc.edu/admin_manual/code/rule_33.html)

For your homework assignments you should feel free to consult your textbooks, dictionaries, grammar books, or notes that might help you. **You may not seek outside assistance** (e.g., friends, family, native speakers, etc.) for completing graded assignments, including homework. You are also **not allowed to use computer-assisted translators or online translating programs.**

**Russia-related events and activities.** Each semester the Slavic department graduate students organize a Russian film series and a Russian conversation hour. You are encouraged to attend these events and will receive small extra participation credit for attending or participating. Schedule TBA.

**“Survival” workshop.** In late September, Professor Valeria Sobol, the departmental language coordinator will conduct a workshop “Surviving skills for learning Russian,” which is designed to help you overcome some difficulties the beginning students of Russian typically face. Date and time TBA.