

RUSS 3304 Topics in Russian Language Study
Intercontinental Russian Workshop

Fall 2012



The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Modern Languages

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Office hours: MWF 9-10am or by appointment
Section information: RUSS 3304-001

Time and place of class meetings: MWF 8:00-8:50am; Preston Hall 307

Description of Course Content

Topics in Russian Language Study provides an opportunity to practice oral speech, translation, and written communication in Russian, while building vocabulary and language structures. The use of multimedia technology for active language learning makes up a vital component of the course. One of the three class sessions per week is reserved for a virtual meeting via videoconference with students at Omsk Law Institute (OLI) in Omsk, Russia, to practice spoken Russian, as well as translation and interpreting from Russian to English and English to Russian. The other two classes per week are spent preparing for the virtual meeting by studying cultural topics, language structures, and vocabulary.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will gain active practice in spoken and written Russian, translation and interpretation from English to Russian and Russian to English, and broad exposure to cultural contexts in Russian print and digital media.

By the end of this course you should expect to:

- considerably expand your Russian vocabulary;
- significantly improve your listening comprehension of spoken Russian;
- increase your ability to express your ideas in spoken and written Russian;
- gain deeper and wider understanding of Russian parts of speech, the case system, and syntax;
- develop broader knowledge of social and historical contexts of Russian culture and media.

Grading

Attendance is mandatory and forms a significant part of the final grade. See the attendance policy below.

Grades are apportioned as follows:

Class participation (attendance, preparation, participation)	20%
Weekly assignments	40%
Final project	20%
Final exam	20%

Readings and Course Materials

Available for purchase in the UT Arlington Bookstore:

The Russian Context, by Genevra Gerhart et al.

Other materials to be announced will be accessible in print or digital format.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations

Weekly assignments will consist of learning and practicing vocabulary, language structures, and cultural contexts using a variety of print and digital tools. For some assignments, you will work with a partner at OLI and communicate with them outside of formal class sessions. You will also work with partners to develop and complete your final project. The final exam will be written during the scheduled exam period in December. Partners at OLI will not be part of the final exam at UT Arlington.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, communicating with partners, preparing for exams, etc.

Regulations and Guidelines

Attendance: Regular classroom attendance is expected of all students. All classes and exams are based upon that assumption. You are responsible for acquiring class notes if you have to miss. Ultimately you will find that regular attendance is essential for a satisfactory grade performance.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period.

After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services Available: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through

the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and lectures and presentations may be given.

Make-up Exam Policy: There will be NO make-up exams or quizzes. Extreme circumstances MAY be considered by Instructors discretion with valid proof provided, however is NOT guaranteed. A grade of zero will be recorded for a missed exam. Only ONE exam may be made up at the Instructors discretion.

Course Schedule

NB: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in the course. –L. Harrison

August 2010

Fri 8/24 first class meeting

- welcome & introductions
- review syllabus
- home tasks:
 - "About Me" questionnaire; *Anketa: O sebe*
 - create Wordpress blog
 - preview ***The Russian Context***

Mon 8/27 personalized language tools

- design personal Wordpress blog

- compile links to language tools and web resources, add to blog
- create short profile and interests on blog in Russian

Wed 8/29

- practice introductions and describing yourself
- colloquial phrases in Russian
- journaling: start a learning log of print and digital media

Fri 8/31

- create *Anketa* (questionnaire) for partners at OLI

September 2012

Mon 9/03 Labor Day holiday. No classes.

Wed 9/05 **topic: Advertising and media**

- compare advertising in USA and Russia

Fri 9/07

- compare university homepages of UTA and OLI
- compare college life in Arlington and Omsk

Mon 9/10

- prepare for first meeting with OLI

Wed 9/12 **first meeting with OLI**

- introductions and acquaintance
- compare universities and college life at UTA and OLI

Fri 9/14 **topic: Geography**

- geography of Russia (in Russian)
- prepare presentations in Russian on Arlington and your home town

Mon 9/17

- prepare for meeting with OLI
- practice describing Arlington and your home town

Wed 9/19 **meeting with OLI**

- conversation and photo-virtual tour of Arlington and Omsk
- compare significant features of the geography of Russia and USA
- pair with partners for asynchronous meetings

Fri 9/21 **topic: Children's literature**

Mon 9/24

- prepare for meeting with OLI: describe (in Russian) your favorite books as a child
- citations from Russian children's literature

Wed 9/26 **meeting with OLI**

- conversation about children's literature

Fri 9/28 **topic: TV and Film**

- describe your favorite films, serials, and TV shows

October 2012

Mon 10/01

- prepare for meeting with OLI: tell about your favorite films and TV shows

Wed 10/03 **meeting with OLI**

- conversation about American and Russian TV and film
- **assign partner projects**

Fri 10/05 **topic: History**

- building vocab and cultural contexts

Mon 10/08

- prepare for meeting with OLI: talk about important moments in Russian history
- read about the Watergate scandal to prepare for conversation

Wed 10/10 meeting with OLI

- conversation about Watergate and selected events in Russian history

Fri 10/12 topic: "Quotable" Russian and American prose

- excerpts from selected texts in Russian and American prose
- compile favorite quotes of classic literature to share and compare

Mon 10/15

- prepare for meeting with OLI: talk about favorite literary works and authors

Wed 10/17 meeting with OLI

- conversation about Russian and American literature

Fri 10/19 topic: Theatre, music, and dance

- Russian folk dances; Baryshnikov; Nuriev
- Method acting of Stanislavsky
- Russian classical music and contemporary rock/pop/rap
- American music, theatre, dance: describe your favorites

Mon 10/22

- prepare for meeting with OLI: talk about your favorite music, theatre, and dance

Wed 10/24 meeting with OLI

- conversation about music, theatre, and dance

Fri 10/26 topic: Art

- Russian masters; avant-garde; constructivism
- modern art in USA and Russia
- scandals in the art world

Mon 10/29

- prepare for meeting with OLI: talk about art and prepare for debate on legal issues in art

Wed 10/31 meeting with OLI

- conversation about art
- debate about legal issues surrounding art

November 2012

Fri 11/02 topic: Political language and power

- compare: elections and political systems in USA and Russia

Mon 11/05

- prepare for meeting with OLI: compare elections and political systems in USA and Russia

Wed 11/07 meeting with OLI

- talk about the differences in elections and political systems in USA and Russia

Fri 11/09 topic: Scientific words in non-scientific contexts

- futurism, Maiakovskii, Zamiatin, visual poetry
- Russian newspapers and popular magazines

Mon 11/12

- prepare for meeting with OLI: discussion about language styles in Russian

Wed 11/14 meeting with OLI

- conversation about language styles in Russian

Fri 11/16 **topic: TBA**

Mon 11/19

- prepare for meeting with OLI

Wed 11/21 **meeting with OLI**

- conversation topic TBA

11/22-25 Thanksgiving holiday

Mon 11/26 **topic: TBA**

Wed 11/28 **Final meeting with OLI**

- conversation topic TBA
- **partner projects DUE**

Fri 11/30 Review

December 2012

Mon 12/03 Review

Wed 12/05 Last class, Review

Final Exam: Friday, December 7th, 8:00-10:30am, in Preston Hall 307