

Spring 2014

## RUSS 3391-001

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### INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

The University of Texas at Arlington  
AND  
The University of Texas at San Antonio



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**RUSS 3391-001 is a fully online course.**

Start date: Monday, January 13, 2014

Prerequisites: RUSS 2314 or equivalent

NB: This is a preliminary syllabus, subject to change at the course instructor's discretion.

#### Course Description

Co-enrolled by students at UTA and UTSA, this course focuses on intercultural communication and collaboration through speaking practice and active learning tasks. A major component of the course will involve telecollaboration with native speakers of Russian at universities in Omsk, Russia.

### Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Students will gain active practice in listening comprehension, spoken and written Russian, and intercultural communication. Students should expect to gain:

- Broad exposure to cultural contexts in Russian print and digital media
- Considerable expansion of Russian vocabulary
- Significant improvement in listening comprehension of spoken Russian
- Increased ability to express ideas in spoken and written Russian
- Broad knowledge of social and historical contexts of Russian culture and media
- Cognitive and metacognitive strategies for gaining in language proficiency

### Topics

Major topics will include:

- Description of cities and towns in the USA and Russia
- Talking about your and others' day-to-day life and routine
- Comparing college life in the USA and Russia
- Description of varieties of fashion and appearance
- Comparing advertising and media in the USA and Russia

### Assignments and Activities

Students will use Blackboard to access course materials and complete quizzes, discussions and assignments. Approximately one synchronous meeting per week will be held in Blackboard Collaborate with the course instructor and classmates. Students will also connect with partners who are native speakers of Russian via videoconference using the virtual meeting space WebEx.com. In addition to discussion and conversation practice, language partner pairs will work on projects and presentations together. Projects will involve writing, translation, and creating audio/visual presentations. A forum at [www.webilang.com](http://www.webilang.com) (created by our faculty collaborator in Omsk, Russia) will be used for cross-cultural interactive space, as well as a venue for publishing the end-result of project work.

### Grading and Assessments

Preparation and participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Virtual meetings	20%
Assignments	40%

### Textbook

There is no formal textbook for this course. All course materials will be made available on Blackboard.

### Attendance

Although this course follows a fully online format, weekly virtual meetings with the class and course instructor will take place at which attendance is expected and required of all students. Meetings with language partners, moreover, must be scheduled and completed within the allotted time frame in each instance. More information about virtual meetings and partner meetings to come when the class begins.

### Regulations and Guidelines

**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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** 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.*

UT Arlington faculty members 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:** 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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online 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. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

### **Course Schedule**

We will follow a pace of approximately two weeks per unit. Graded work in each unit will include a quiz, discussion thread, virtual meetings, and an active learning task/assignment. A more detailed schedule and instructions will be available as the course begins. *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.* –LH

**Unit 1 – Introduction**

**Unit 2 – Daily Routine**

**Unit 3 – Intercultural Collaboration**

**Unit 4 – My Hometown**

**Unit 5 – College Life**

**Unit 6 – Fashion and Appearance**

**Unit 7 – Advertising and Media**