

Fall 2014

## RUSS 1441 & 1442

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# BEGINNING RUSSIAN I & II

Department of Modern Languages  
The University of Texas at Arlington

**Instructor: Dr. Lonny Harrison**

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Office hours: MWF 12:00-1:00pm

**RUSS 1441-022 & RUSS 1442-002**

**Time and place of class meetings:**

MWF 10:00-11:50am; Life Science Building 120

Start date: Friday, Aug. 22, 2014

Prerequisites: none



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

**Course Description**

An introduction to the Russian language and culture, intended for students with no previous knowledge of Russian. Using multimedia immersion in the culture and language of Russia and other Russian-speaking regions, the course is designed to enable students to understand and communicate effectively in Russian at a novice level. The course will consist of classroom activities, readings, quizzes, discussions, roleplay, and other active learning tasks. There are no prerequisites.

**Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

Students will gain basic knowledge of conversational Russian and cultural contexts. Students should expect to gain:

- Reading ability of the Russian Cyrillic Alphabet, and practice in basic writing, listening comprehension, and spoken and written Russian
- Cognitive and metacognitive strategies for gaining in cultural knowledge and language proficiency
- Broad exposure to Russian culture through print and digital media as well as oral conversation

### **Topics and Course Schedule**

We will follow a pace of approximately two weeks per chapter in the textbook. 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. –LH

The course will follow the chapters of the textbook in *Nachalo* in roughly chronological order:

Unit 1 – Introduction: “Welcome to Russia”

Unit 2 – “Our New Home”

Unit 3 – “Our Neighbors and Us”

Unit 4 – “Do You Speak Russian?”

Unit 5 – “Jim in Moscow”

Unit 6 – “New Neighbors, New Friends”

Unit 7 – “Life goes on”

### **Assignments and Activities**

Assignments will consist of daily homework assignments found in the textbook and lab manual. Other projects and activities will be assigned on a unit-by-unit basis.

### **Grading and Assessments**

Preparation and participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Assignments	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%

### **Textbook**

Please acquire the following textbook, available at the UTA Bookstore. Other course materials will be made available on Blackboard.

***Nachalo*, Book 1. Here is the publisher's website:**

[http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0072433922/information\\_center\\_view0/index.html](http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0072433922/information_center_view0/index.html)

You might find a less expensive new or used copy from online booksellers. If you do, be sure to acquire the Workbook/Lab manual that comes with the book too.

### **Attendance**

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I strongly encourage you to do your utmost to attend every class. In a language course such as this, which is cumulative in nature, full attendance is imperative to achieve success. In the event of unavoidable circumstances, please inform me *prior* to the class you have to miss. In case of illness or emergency, please provide a doctor's note or similar evidence of your mitigating circumstances. Inexcused repeated absences will result in a reduction of your course grade.

### **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://wweb.uta.edu/ao/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.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which located ***through the doors at the north end of the classroom (LS 121) and through the double doors to the left as soon as you leave the room.*** When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).