

RUSS 1441: **Beginning Russian I**
Spring 2018

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Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00PM or by appointment
Section Information: RUSS 1441-022
Time and Place of Class Meetings:
1/16/2018 - 5/4/2018
MWF 1:00PM-1:50PM; UH 14
Prerequisites: none



Description of Course Content: An introduction to the Russian language and culture course is 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. All five skills – reading, listening, grammar, writing, and speaking – are incorporated in the course. There are no prerequisites.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will gain basic knowledge of conversational Russian and of cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students should expect to:

- be able to read Russian Cyrillic Alphabet and practice basic writing, listening comprehension, and spoken/written Russian
- be able to read short texts from various sources (adapted and authentic), understand the main idea and supporting details;
- be able to write a short note, etc.;

- understand the main information (topic, purpose, place, and time, etc.) presented in dialogues and monologues;
- be able to carry on a dialogue in simple situations;
- use grammatical and lexical skills to present the statements of intentions in simple situations;
- have broad understanding of Russian culture through print, digital media, and oral conversations.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Nachalo, When in Russia... Book 1, by Lubensky et al. Text accompanied by *Workbook / Laboratory Manual* and *Listening Audio Program* CD (the CD is available online: http://mlrc.hss.cmu.edu/CMU_Only/Russian/nachalo1.html)

Main text: ISBN: 0072433922

Workbook/Laboratory Manual: ISBN 0072309512

Here is the publisher's website:

http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0072433922/information_center_view0/index.html

- Additional materials and on-line resources will be provided in class and through Blackboard and *Quizlet.com*. The instructor will send invitations to join the class at the beginning of the semester.
- You will be asked to have a smart device during class (such as a smart phone, laptop, or a tablet), so you can participate in classroom games.

Attendance: At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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 have established the following attendance policy:

Students are supposed to attend all the classes and participate in discussions. All classes and exams are based upon that assumption. You are responsible for acquiring class notes if you must miss. Ultimately, you will find that regular attendance is essential for a satisfactory grade performance. Absence and/or tardiness will affect your Course Engagement grade (see below).

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

Course Engagement: Course engagement refers to regular on-time attendance, preparation for class, participation in discussions, and physical as well as mental presence in the classroom. Course engagement grades cannot be made up.

Quizzes: There will be a number of unannounced quizzes to ensure that you are doing your assignments, and are staying on top of the vocabulary and grammatical concepts introduced. You must come prepared to each class meeting having done the assignments and having learned the vocabulary due by that day. Most quizzes will be given at the

beginning of class, so you want to make sure you are on time, so you don't miss the quiz. If you are absent or late on that day and did not participate in a quiz, you will receive a zero. These quizzes cannot be made up; however, *two* lowest grades will be dropped.

Homework: Aside from vocabulary lists, you will have homework assignments for each class. If you were absent or late and did not arrange to submit your homework when it was due, no late assignments will be graded; however, *one* homework lowest grade will be dropped.

Tests: There will be a test at the end of each Unit (Lesson). The tests will include a combination of listening, vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing based on the materials from that unit. Although graded, these tests are mainly for you and for the instructor to evaluate your progress and to see which part(s) you need to review. *One* lowest test grade will be dropped.

Final Project/ Portfolio: You will prepare and present an individual or a group (no more than 3 students) project based on the topic of your choice (subject to instructor's approval). The format can be a role-play in Russian (that can be played out or videotaped) or a portfolio presentation. If a student decides to create and present a portfolio, it cannot be done with a group, it must have at least 5 items, and must be related to Russian language and culture. Grading rubrics for the final project will be provided.

Journal: You will write 4 journal entries over the semester in the class journals. The themes of the journals are: Russian Music, Russian Movies/Cartoons, Russian Cuisine, Russian Poetry, Russian Novel, About Me, and Free Topic. Each entry must be in Russian, in cursive, in full sentences (except for the first one), 3-10 sentences long, and should be about you or related to Russia/Russian culture. The suggested questions to be answered and example entry will be provided. The first journal can include just Russian words and pictures. Creativity and illustrations will be also evaluated.

Final Exam: At the end of the semester, there will be a comprehensive final exam, which may include a listening test, a reading, short dialogue based on a situation (in pairs), a grammar test (oral and written), and a writing portion.

IMPORTANT! In this class, we will be following a "flipped classroom" model. This means that new vocabulary and grammar will not be introduced in class, but the necessary tools will be provided for the students to learn as much as possible BEFORE coming to class, where we will be actively working on the material together.

Grading Policy:

Your course grade will be determined as follows (A = 90% or above; B = 80-90%; C = 70-80%; D = 60-70%; F = below 60%):

Course Engagement: 20%

Quizzes: 10%

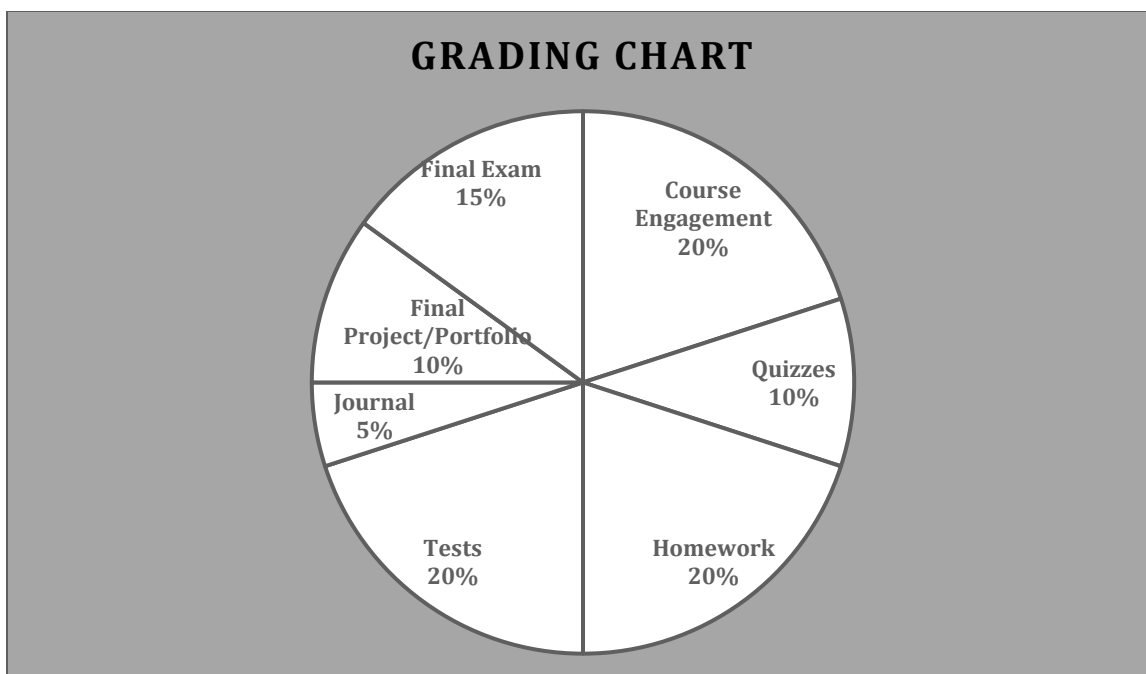
Homework: 20%

Tests: 20%

Final Project/Portfolio: 10%

Journals: 5%

Final Exam: 15%



Grading: Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. All grades and Course Grade (in progress) will be always available on Blackboard.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this intensive course should expect to spend at least additional 8 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including listening to/reading required materials, completing small projects, assignments, preparing for classes and exams, completing assignments, etc.

Make-up Policy: There will be NO make-up exams, homework, assignments, or quizzes. Extreme circumstances with valid proof provided may be considered by the instructor; however, there are no guarantees. If the late assignment is ever accepted, it can only receive maximum 50% of the earned grade. A grade of zero will be recorded for a missed test/assignment. Some low grades, however, will be dropped (see above).

Extra Credit:

Russian Culture Society

If you attend RCS meetings, you will get 10 points extra for each time you attend. To ensure receiving the points, you must sign in at each meeting on a designated sheet for our class. These points can be added only to Course Engagement grades.

Grade Grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog.

<http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/grades/#undergraduate>; For student complaints, see <http://www.uta.edu/deanofstudents/student-complaints/index.php>.

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/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: For semester-long courses, 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 is located down the hall. 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 individuals with disabilities.

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, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

Schedule (subject to change!!!)

Everything is due BEFORE class.

Week #	Date	Lesson # Part # You must read this part in the textbook and learn the vocabulary by that date	Homework – will be assigned each class and posted on BB, grammar quizzes will be announced as well	Assignments
1	Wed - 1/17	L1 P1		
1	Fri - 1/19	L1 P1/2	Vocab L1 P1 quiz	
2	Mon - 1/22	L1 P2	Workbook L1 P1 due	
2	Wed - 1/24	L1 P3	Vocab L1 P2 quiz / Workbook L1 P2 due	
2	Fri - 1/26	L1 P3/4	Vocab L1 P3 quiz	
3	Mon - 1/29	L1 P4	Workbook L1 P3 due	
3	Wed - 1/31	L1 Review	Vocab L1 P4 quiz / Workbook L1 P4 due	
3	Fri - 2/2	L1 Review	Review	Journal 1 due
4	Mon - 2/5	L1 Test – Speaking and Composition	Prepare for test	
4	Wed - 2/7	L1 Test - List/Read/Gramm/Writing	Prepare for test	
4	Fri - 2/9	L2 P1		
5	Mon - 2/12	L2 P1/2	Vocab L2 P1 quiz	
5	Wed - 2/14	L2 P2	Workbook L2 P1 due	
5	Fri - 2/16	L2 P3	Vocab L2 P2 quiz / Workbook L2 P2 due	
6	Mon - 2/19	L2 P3/4	Vocab L2 P3 quiz	
6	Wed - 2/21	L2 P4	Workbook L2 P3 due	
6	Fri - 2/23	L2 Review	Vocab L2 P4 quiz / Workbook L2 P4 due	
7	Mon - 2/26	L2 Review	Review	Journal 2 due
7	Wed - 2/28	L2 Test - Speaking and Composition	Prepare for test	
7	Fri - 3/2	L2 Test - List/Read/Gramm/Writing	Prepare for test	
8	Mon - 3/5	L3 P1		
8	Wed - 3/7	L3 P1/2	Vocab L3 P1 quiz	
8	Fri - 3/9	L3 P2	Workbook L3 P1 due	
Tell the instructor by e-mail or in person about your plans for the Final project				
	Mon - 3/12-3/16	Spring Break		
9	Mon - 3/19	L3 P3	Vocab L3 P2 quiz / Workbook L3 P2 due	
9	Wed - 3/21	L3 P3/4	Vocab L3 P3 quiz	
9	Fri - 3/23	L3 P4	Workbook L3 P3 due	
10	Mon - 3/26	L3 Review	Vocab L3 P4 quiz / Workbook L3 P4 due	
10	Wed - 3/28	L3 Review	Review	Journal 3 due
10	Fri - 3/30	L3 Test - Speaking and Composition	Prepare for test	
11	Mon - 4/2	L3 Test - List/Read/Gramm/Writing	Prepare for test	
11	Wed - 4/4	L4 P1		
11	Fri - 4/6	L4 P1/2	Vocab L4 P1 quiz	
12	Mon - 4/9	L4 P2	Workbook L4 P1 due	
12	Wed - 4/11	L4 P3	Vocab L4 P2 quiz / Workbook L4 P2 due	
12	Fri - 4/13	L4 P3/4	Vocab L4 P3 quiz	
13	Mon - 4/16	L4 P4	Workbook L4 P3 due	
13	Wed - 4/18	L4 Review	Vocab L4 P4 quiz / Workbook L4 P4 due	
13	Fri - 4/20	L4 Review	Review	Journal 4 due
14	Mon - 4/23	L4 Test - Speaking and Composition	Prepare for test	
14	Wed - 4/25	L4 Test - List/Read/Gramm/Writing	Prepare for test	
14	Fri - 4/27	Final Project Presentations		
15	Mon - 4/30	Final Project Presentations		
15	Wed - 5/2	Review for Exam		
15	Fri - 5/4	Review for Exam		
--	Mon - 5/07 11:00-1:30	Final Exam		

Last day to drop is March 30.