

**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures**

Russian 0040  
Intermediate Russian II  
Spring Semester 2008 (2084)  
MTWHF 9:00–9:50, CL 219

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Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 10:30–noon

Required Texts:

Robin, Richard et al. *Голоса: A Basic Course in Russian. Book 2*. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education / Prentice Hall, 2007.

Robin, Richard. Companion Website to *Голоса: A Basic Course in Russian. Book 2*.  
<http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/golosa/audio/audio2-4e.htm>

Any reasonably comprehensive Russian–English dictionary. Instructor can advise on choice of dictionary.

Note that *Голоса* consists of several components. The program consists of a textbook/workbook package available in the University Bookstore and an extensive audio component that is made available by the publishers via the Internet. Students without their own internet connection should immediately familiarize themselves with the computer and media facilities in the University’s language laboratory (CL G-17). The audio component of the textbook is not optional and will be required for the completion of many homework assignments.

Course Structure and Content

This course meets five days a week with a unitary structure. Despite what might appear on your university course schedule, there is no distinction between “lectures” and “recitations.”

The content of class sessions will vary from day to day, but will consist of a combination of the following activities: review, practice, and evaluation of the language structures and vocabulary assigned for that day; reading and listening comprehension activities using both print and non-print (mostly video) materials; communicative and conversational activities; explanation of complex language structures.

Course materials consist of the main textbook (*Голоса*) and other materials, both printed and audio/video. The additional materials are chosen solely for their usefulness in language instruction.

Class sessions will normally be conducted in **Russian only**. Use of Russian for communication will be strictly maintained not only for exercises *in* the language, but also for communication *about* the language. Occasionally, the instructor at his sole discretion will switch the language of communication to English for the last part of the class. Once the instructor has switched the language, students are permitted and encouraged to speak English as well. This switch to English will take place only when considered necessary by the instructor. Under no circumstances my students switch language during class.

### Requirements

1. Participation in all aspects of class is mandatory. This course is designed to develop all language skills and cannot accommodate students who wish to learn only the grammar or only the written language. Asking the instructor in this course not to require active spoken participation in recitation makes as much sense as asking a calculus instructor to teach only addition and subtraction.
2. Attendance is mandatory in all class sessions. The instructor will not review or re-teach lecture material to students who are absent from class. Students absent from recitation will receive a zero for that day (see below for grading system). *Students absent more than ten times over the course of the semester will automatically fail the course.*
3. Students should come fully prepared for class. Written homework will be assigned for practically every class meeting and must be turned in on the day it is due. Late homework will not be accepted. Homework will be returned promptly by the instructor.
4. A significant part of the homework will consist of directed compositions. These must be written double-spaced with a one-inch margin to accommodate instructor's comments. Students are encouraged to learn word-processing with the Cyrillic alphabet and to print their compositions.
5. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced and given at any time during class. No quiz may be made up for any reason.
6. Tests are announced in advance and must be taken at the scheduled time. Oral tests will be scheduled by appointment outside of regular class time. If a student misses a major test or exam due to his/her being seriously ill or due to a death in the family, the instructor must be informed no later than the day of the test and **the circumstances must be documented** in order to have the zero removed from the record.
7. Do not plan to leave campus for recess before the final examination for this class. No test or exam is ever rescheduled to accommodate travel plans.

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Since in-class practice is part of the learning process, it is not possible to "do the work" without physically being in class.

According to the policy commonly applied in the Slavic Department, absences are only excused due to personal ill health and deaths in the family. **All** such excused absences must be documented. Ten unexcused absences in the course of the semester will result in a grade of "F" for the course. Both of these policies will be applied in this course. **Do not miss class.**

### Oral Interviews

All students in the class will be asked to participate in an Oral Proficiency Interview during the last two weeks of the course. The purpose of this interview, done at the end of the course, is to evaluate the progress made by students in the two-year sequence. Participation in this interview is a requirement of the course and no credit will be given unless it is completed at the scheduled time. However, it is not designed to evaluate student work or performance and thus will not figure into the final grade.

Grading and Evaluation

The final course grade will be computed as follows:

- Daily recitation grade: 35%
- Tests (4 written and 2 oral) and quizzes: 30%
- Final Exam (including oral component): 15%
- Written homework: 20% (10% of which is based on compositions)

You will receive a daily grade for your performance in the recitation. This is not so much a class-participation grade as an evaluation of your preparation for the lesson and of your ability to use fully and accurately the Russian language vocabulary and structures assigned for that day. Written homework assignments will receive a grade or credit/no credit depending on the nature of the assignment.

There will be four written tests, two graded oral tests, and a final exam, which will include an oral component. The four written chapter tests and the two graded oral tests will carry equal weight in computation of the course grade (see above).

Students who miss no more than two classes during the course of the semester will have their lowest score on a chapter test dropped.

Tests and Examination Schedule

Friday, January 25	Written Test 1
Thursday–Friday, Feb 7–8	Oral Test 1
Friday, February 15	Written Test 2
Friday, March 7	Written Test 3
Thursday–Friday, March 20–21	Oral Test 2
Wednesday, April 2	Written Test 4
TBA	Final Examination

Academic Integrity

By remaining enrolled in the course, you not only agree to abide by the stipulations of this course overview, but also understand that we will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the *Handbook on Integrity* regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and observe them. Any infraction will be penalized accordingly.