

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
RUSS 0420 Russian Newspapers and Magazines
Fall 2009

<u>Class Meetings:</u>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 am 10:45 am
<u>Class Location:</u>	CL 1432 Slavic Department Library
<u>Course Instructor:</u>	Natasha Kabanova
<u>Instructor's E-mail address:</u>	nakst12@hotmail.com
<u>Instructor's Office:</u>	CL 1419 Main Slavic Dept. Office, one of the cubicles
<u>Office Hours:</u>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:45-11:30 am and by appointment
<u>Slavic Department contact person:</u>	Ms. Christine Metil, administrator
<u>Slavic Department main phone number:</u>	412-624-5906

I. REQUIRED TEXT:

- A. Political Russian. Natasha Simes and Richard M. Robin. 5th Edition. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. Dubuque, Iowa. 2006.

NOTE: The fifth edition of this textbook, for the first time, is not accompanied by a CD/cassette audio program. To make the textbook more up-to-date and less expensive, all recorded materials are now available on the web at <http://www.sais-jhu.edu/politicalrussian>.

- B. Any hard-cover, quality bilingual Russian-English/English Russian Dictionary (e.g., Oxford or Webster).

II. INTERNET RESOURCES:

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES IN RUSSIAN:

<http://www.izvestia.ru/index.html>

<http://www.pravda.ru>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/russian/news/default/stm>

<http://www.itar-tass.com>

<http://www.aif.ru>

<http://www.ng.ru>

<http://magazines.russ.ru/magazines.html>

III. RADIO STATIONS

<http://www.webtelek.com>

IV. OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language. Edited by Eloise Boyle and Genevra Gerhardt (ISBN 00-89357-287-X)

A Comprehensive Russian Grammar by Terrence Wade (ISBN 0-631-20757-0)

V. PREREQUISITES: A year (two semesters) or an equivalent of Russian studies.

VI. COURSE CONTENT

Russian Newspapers and Magazines has been specifically designed for language learners interested and/ or engaged in international affairs, foreign economics and trade, as well as people-to-people exchanges with Russia.

This INTERMEDIATE language course takes a proficiency-based approach in developing of three basic linguistic skills: **listening, speaking, and reading**. It is assumed that students in the course have acquired a solid “first-year” knowledge of Russian and therefore have been exposed to the main grammatical concepts and basic vocabulary. Language is presented throughout the course in communicative contexts illustrating cultural aspects of daily Russian life. Special emphasis is placed upon developing **oral skills** contributing to **cultural competence**. Any language, Russian included, can be studied only in reference to the culture in which it lives.

VII. PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

All readings, discussions, mini-lectures, oral presentations, quizzes, and examinations will be conducted **in Russian**. Students are encouraged to meet periodically with the instructor during office hours (or by appointment) to discuss the progress they are making in the course, including any difficulties and/or concerns related to the course.

Attendance is required at ALL class meetings. Successful completion of the course requires not only attendance of ALL classes but also **daily preparation of ALL oral and written homework assignments**. Students will receive daily grades for preparation to and participation in each class session. Daily grades will range from 0 to 20 points and will be based on each student's level of preparedness to class, contribution to group and class discussions, as well as grammatical/lexical performance.

Students are allowed **THREE** unexcused absences throughout the term. All unexcused absences will automatically receive the grade of "UE" for the missed session. Five such "UE" grades will result in an "F" grade for the course.

If you must miss a class, kindly inform the Instructor and/or Department of your inability to attend a class session by either e-mailing the instructor or calling the main Department numbers **PRIOR TO CLASS**. It is the responsibility of each individual who missed a class to find out what they missed and what homework was assigned by contacting either his/her classmates or the instructor.

VIII. QUIZZES

There will be a number of announced and announced quizzes throughout the term. They will be based on the material covered in or outside of class in the assigned homework. **THERE WILL BE NO QUIZ MAKE-UPS! Students who take an unexcused absence on the day of the quiz will receive an automatic "F" grade for that quiz.** Students who must miss a class due to extenuating circumstances and who notify the Department/Instructor of their absence ahead of time will not be penalized.

IX. EXAMINATIONS

There will be TWO session-long in-class examinations. Each exam will contain a verbal and written portions. The verbal part will contain of a brief individual interview between the student and the instructor, followed by a written portion of the

test. The written part will consist of three sections: (i) grammatical exercises; (ii) vocabulary; (iii) essay/translation.

All exams, both oral and written, will be administered in Russian only.

NOTE: Except for serious medically excused absences, discussed with the instructor in advance, there will be absolutely no make-ups of the midterm and final examinations. All absences must be documented. Medical excuses from Campus Health Services will not be accepted.

X. ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Each student will be required to make two ten-minute presentations on the topic of their particular interest. All topics must be within the scope of class discussions and be relevant to the content of the course. Students are encouraged to discuss their topics with the instructor. The first presentations will be completed during the week preceding the midterm examination and mid semester break. The second round will be administered during the fourteenth week of classes, before the final examination.

XI. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Class performance will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Daily preparation and participation in class discussions	30%
Homework and Quizzes	20%
Presentations	20%
Midterm and Final Exams	30%
TOTAL:	100%

XII. GRADES

The following grading standards will be employed in assigning final grades in this course:

99-100%	A+	78-79%	C+
94-98%	A	73-77%	C
90-93%	A-	70-72%	C-
88-89%	B+	68-69%	D+
83-87%	B	63-67%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-

Finally, never hesitate to ask for help. Never hesitate to ask questions. Make use of my office hours! If something is not clear to you, chances are it is not clear to other members of the class. Do not wait until the trouble will mount, ask for help as soon as you feel you are falling behind. If you need extra help, it is your responsibility to seek it out – it IS available.