

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 0020: Elementary Russian II
Spring 2009 (2094)

Instructors: Erin Alpert, Gerald McCausland
<http://www.pitt.edu/~gmmst11/0020/>

Class Schedule

Lecture	TTh 10:00–10:50	CL 242
Recitation	MWF 10:00–10:50	CL 318
	MWF 11:00–11:50	CL 358

Office Hours and E-mail Addresses

Erin Alpert	CL 1417	Mon 2:30–3:30 Tuesday 11:30–12:30	era17@pitt.edu
Gerald McCausland	CL 1401-C	Tues 11:00–12:00 Wed 10:00–12:00	gmmst11@pitt.edu

Required Materials

Robin, Richard et al. *Голоса: A Basic Course in Russian. Book I*. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education / Prentice Hall, 2007. Textbook, Student Activity Manual, CD audio program.

Note that *Голоса* consists of three components. All three components, textbook, workbook, and audio program, are required. All three will be needed for *daily* completion of homework assignments.

Recommended Materials

Cruise, Edwina. *English Grammar for Students of Russian*. Second edition. Ann Arbor: Olivia and Hill Press, 1993.

Introduction

This course is the second half of a year-long introduction to the Russian language. The course has two main goals. The first goal is to give you, in the course of one year, a solid and thorough introduction to the structure of the Russian language. This knowledge will be the foundation for intermediate and advanced study. The second goal, no less important than the first, is to help you gain as high a level of proficiency in spoken and written Russian as is possible in the course of one year. At the end of the academic year you should be able to engage in simple conversations on everyday topics, talk about yourself in some detail, perform many of the everyday tasks that a student might need to perform in Russia. You will gain a basic familiarity with the cultural context that structures a Russian person's daily life and his/her language use.

This course is **not designed for heritage learners of Russian**, i.e., those who born in Russia or who were born outside of Russia but grew up in a Russian-speaking household. As of Fall 2008, the University of Pittsburgh has initiated a dedicated program for heritage learners of Russian, anchored by a yearlong

course sequence. Consequently, **heritage learners are no longer admitted to Russian 0010–0040**. Such students should register for Russian 0014 or 0015.

Course Structure

This course will be structured in a lecture/recitation format. There will be two lectures (Tuesday and Thursday) and three recitations (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) per week.

The purpose of the lecture is to introduce linguistic concepts, give students introductory speaking practice, troubleshoot problem areas, and answer student questions regarding the material of the course. The languages of instruction will be Russian and English. The lectures are the place where “instruction” takes place.

The purpose of the recitation is to give the students practice speaking Russian. **Russian is the only language to be used by both student and instructor during the recitation.** The recitation is the place where “language acquisition” takes place. It is where you actively practice and use the language that you have been taught in lecture and practiced at home. It is your responsibility to thoroughly learn the material taught in the lectures, as it will not be reviewed or retaught in recitation. It is your responsibility to prepare your homework for each and every recitation as you will not be able to participate without full and complete preparation. The no-English rule will be strictly enforced. You will only learn Russian by speaking it and your full active participation in every recitation session is required.

Requirements

1. Participation in all aspects of the recitations is mandatory. This course is designed to develop all language skills and cannot accommodate students who wish to learn only the written language. Asking the instructor in this course not to require active spoken participation in recitation no less ridiculous than asking a calculus instructor to teach only addition and subtraction.
2. Attendance is mandatory at all lecture and recitation sessions. Recitation instructors will not review or re-teach lecture material to students who were absent from the lecture. Students absent from recitation will receive a zero for that day (see below for grading system). Students absent more than ten times from any combination of lectures and/or recitations will automatically fail the course.
3. Students should come to recitation 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. Instructors will return homework promptly.
4. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced and given at any time in lecture or recitation. No quiz may be made up for any reason.
5. Chapter 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.
6. Do not plan to leave campus for recess before 4:00 pm on April 25. No test or exam is ever rescheduled to accommodate travel plans.

Grading and Evaluation

The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Daily recitation grade: 30%
 Tests (4 written and 2 oral) and quizzes: 40%
 Final Exam (including oral component): 15%
 Written homework: 15%

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 Russian. Written homework assignments will receive a grade or credit/no credit depending on the nature of the assignment.

There will be four written chapter 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/oral test dropped.

Test and Examination Schedule

Friday, 23 January	Test 1
Week of 2–6 February	Oral Test 1 (by individual appointment)
Thursday, 12 February	Test 2
Tuesday, 3 March	Test 3
Week of 16–20 March	Oral Test 2 (by individual appointment)
Tuesday, 31 March	Test 4
Saturday, 25 April	Final Examination (2:00 pm)

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.

Miscellaneous notes

A solid knowledge of English grammar will help you in this course. If you do not know English grammar well, you are likely to encounter problems at some point in the course. Please seek out your instructor after class or during office hours if this is a problem.

Do not hesitate to seek out any of the course instructors should you find yourself in need of extra help.

Students who wish to engage the help of a private tutor are advised to consult with Christine Metil in the Slavic Department main office. She maintains a list of Russian majors and native speakers who offer this service. Payment is negotiated directly between the tutor and the student.