

Summer A 2018

RUS 1130 (0272)

Introduction to Russian Language and Culture 1

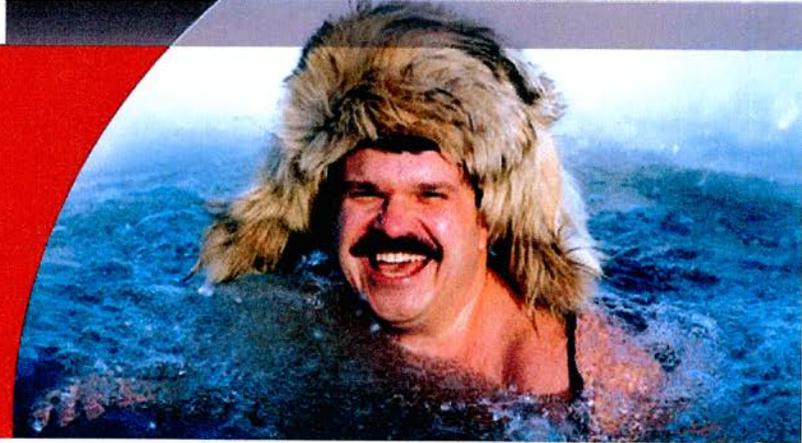
MTWR: periods 4-5 (12:30-3:15); R: period 4 (12:30-1:45) - Matherly Hall 051

Office hours: F – 1:45-2:35 or by appointment: Dauer Hall 254

Instructor: Dr. Alexander Burak

E-mail: alburak@ufl.edu

Russians



Course Description

The first of a two-semester Russian-language sequence, this course is designed to introduce learners to the basics of the language and culture through a variety of interactive methods. It takes a four-skills approach, devoting equal attention to developing skills and strategies for speaking, listening to, reading and writing Russian. **Join a small group of students and get all the attention that you deserve.**

Why study Russian?

The Russian language has been defined by the State Department as a critical need language, which means that there are not enough specialists who can understand, translate, and interpret spoken and written Russian. The best Russian expert in the USA today is Dr. Henry Kissinger (b. 1923). You can fill in this gap or simply learn the language of 200 million people.

UF Russian Majors and Minors in Moscow



Syllabus

Primary Textbook (you should always have your own book in class): Dan E. Davidson, Kira S. Gor and Maria D. Lekic, *Live from Russia: Russian Stage One*, Vol. 1, second edition (ACTR, 2010). **The course pack is available for purchase at local university bookstores and includes 1 textbook, 1 workbook, 1 audio CD, and 1 DVD.** The "Volume 2" textbook pack **will not be required until RUS 1131**. If the UF bookstore does not have copies of this textbook, please, order it immediately from amazon.com!

Additionally, you will need a specially prepared *Course Pack* (required!) titled **RUS 1130 Summer A**. It can be purchased at Target Copy, 1412 W University Ave # D. Ask for the course pack for RUS 1130, Instructor: Dr. Alexander Burak.

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Participation, attendance, homework: 40%

Day-to-day preparation and performance are critical in any language course, but especially in an intensive course like this where each missed class equals 150 minutes. Given their highly interactive nature, our classes cannot be "made up" if missed. Two or three classes missed, and you will irrevocably fall behind; it is next to impossible to catch up with a course like this. Poor in-class performance, unexcused absences, tardiness, and late or ignored homework assignments will be noted and calculated into the final grade. If you have to miss class or an

assignment, please contact me ahead of time to make accommodation arrangements. Those who miss class are responsible for obtaining the relevant daily homework assignments from the other students in the class and completing them on their own.

Class time is your opportunity to practice speaking Russian. That means that I expect you to be prepared in class to ask and answer questions as well as to think creatively about the language you are learning. I will call on you and I will expect you to act out dialogues and situations in pairs or in small groups in front of the class. I do not, however, expect you to speak perfect Russian...yet!

Homework assignments are included in the workbook and should be completed daily. I will specify each home assignment at the end of each class. Please use the homework key included in the *Course Pack RUS 1130 Summer A* (Available at the Target Copy Center on W. University Ave) to check your work. As you check your original work (**prior to handing it in**), make corrections with a different colored writing utensil. Homework is to be turned in as precisely on the days indicated by the instructor.

Vocabulary quizzes: 10 %

1-2 vocabulary quizzes will accompany each chapter. I will give you advance warning before each quiz. Regular quizzes will encourage you to build your confidence by learning key words, phrases and expressions.

Tests (5): 30%

These tests are designed to measure the degree to which you have mastered the material worked on in the units indicated. All will include speaking and listening components.

Final exam: 20%

A cumulative measurement of your comfort with and knowledge of the material covered over the course of the semester. The final will also include speaking and listening components.

The following scale will be used in grading your assignments and in calculating the overall grade for the course:

A = 95 – 100% (4 points)	B - = 75-79% (2.67 points)	D + = 55-59% (1.33 points)
A - = 90 – 94% (3.67 points)	C+ = 70 – 74% (2.33 points)	D = 50 – 54% (1.0 point)
B+ = 85 – 89% (3.33 points)	C = 65 – 69% (2.0 points)	D - = 45 – 49% (0.67 points)
B = 80 – 84% (3.0 points)	C - = 60-64% (1.67 points)	E = 40 – 44% (0 – Failure)

If you have any questions about the grading scale, please, consult <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Schedule of Classes

Please note that this schedule of classes is not set in stone and may undergo some modifications to better fit the profile of the class as the semester progresses.

Week One

Introductory Unit
Unit 1 (Textbook – TB and Workbook – WB)
Film episode 1
Test 1

Week Two

Unit 2 TB & WB
Film episode 2
Test 2

Week Three

Unit 3 TB & WB
Film episode 3
Test 3

Week Four

Unit 4 TB & WB
Film episode 4
Test 4

Week Five

Unit 5 TB & WB
Film episode 5
Test 5

Week Six

Unit 6 TB & WB
Film episode 6
Your final exam will consist of two parts.

Final oral exam (as part of the final exam).

The written part of your final exam will be a take-home exam to be submitted to me by email as a Microsoft Word file no later than 11:59 pm, June 22, 2018.

Expected Class Demeanor

Cell phones and gadgets: Please turn off your cell phone during class as a courtesy to us all. If your cell phone does happen to disturb the class, you will be required to treat the class to cookies as reparation for the interruption. Please keep all other gadgets out of sight and sound as well: they are a distraction! Since you will be doing a lot of talking in this class, I would also appreciate it if you would refrain from eating or chewing gum while the class is in progress. Please do not hesitate to contact me during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be addressed.

Make-Up Quizzes or Tests

A student will only be allowed to make up a missed quiz or test if s/he has a doctor's sickness note or other official documentation specifying valid reasons for missing the class. If any serious personal reasons preventing you from writing a test/quiz should arise, please, let me know about them before you miss the test/quiz so that we can work out an accommodation.

Classroom Accommodation

Students requesting classroom and/or test/exam accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.