

Fall 2018

RUS 1130 (0882)

Introduction to Russian Language and Culture 1

MTWRF 7th period, MAT 0014

Instructor: Professor Galina Rylkova

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office hours: T: 3.15-4.30 p.m.; R: 4.15-5.30 p.m., room 256 Dauer Hall

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.

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 UF bookstore does not have copies of this textbook, please, order it immediately from amazon.com!

The Course Pack/Reader (required!) can be purchased at Target Copy, 1412 W University Ave # D. Ask for course pack for RUS 1130, Instructor: Dr. Rylkova (color – dark red, price about \$17.00).

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. Students who attend class regularly, participate actively and perform competently on written and oral quizzes, tests and exams can expect to be able to produce and comprehend both spoken and written Russian in a variety of basic communicative spheres. Grades will be determined based on the following components:

Participation, attendance, homework: 40%

Day-to-day preparation and performance is critical in any language course. Given their highly interactive nature, language classes cannot be "made up" if missed. 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 arrangements; those who miss class are responsible for obtaining and completing daily homework assignments.

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 perform brief skits and situations 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. Please use the homework key included in the *Course Reader* 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 on the day of every test (unless otherwise indicated by the instructor) with little-to-no errors. Additional weekly assignments should be turned in on specified dates.

Vocabulary quizzes: 10 %

1-2 vocabulary quizzes will accompany each chapter.

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 = 94 – 100% (4 points)	B - = 75-79% (2.67 points)	D + = 55-59% (1.33 points)
A - = 90 – 93% (3.67 points)	C+ = 70 – 74%	D = 50 – 54%

	(2.33 points)	(1.0 point)
B+ = 85 – 89%	C = 65 – 69%	D - = 45 – 49% (0.67 points)
(3.33 points)	(2.0 points)	
B = 80 – 84%	C - = 60-64%	E = 40 – 44%
(3.0 points)	(1.67 points)	(0 – Failure)

If you have questions, please, consult:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Expected Class Demeanor

Cell phones and gadgets: Please turn off your cell phone off during class as a courtesy to us all. If your cell phone does happen to disturb the class, you are 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 discussed.

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.