

***RUS 1130: Introduction to Russian Language and Culture 1
(Section 14B9, 5 credits)
Prof. Michael Gorham***



“He who is illiterate is blind: Misfortune and misery await him everywhere.”
– From an early Soviet propaganda poster)

***UF Russian Studies
Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Fall 2017***

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Office Hours: Wed. 10:30–12:30 PM (or by appointment)

Course Description and Goals

When combined with its second-semester continuation, RUS 1130 offers an intensive and comprehensive introduction to the Russian language focusing on developing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. If successfully completed, students will be able to function in a variety of everyday settings in Russian and speak in short paragraphs about themselves, their backgrounds, families, studies, interests and plans for the future. The course will also expose students to a variety of aspects of Russian culture, current events, and everyday life.

Credit and Prerequisites

This course carries five credits in the UF Honors Program, counts toward the UF language requirement, and serves as a prerequisite for the Russian major and minor. There are no prerequisites and no knowledge of Russian language is required.

Course Requirements and Grading

You will be required to:

- Attend class meetings;
- Participate actively and intelligently in class exercises;
- Complete the assignments scheduled for each class meeting and be prepared to work with them in class;
- Take 5-6 unit tests and occasional short quizzes.
- Complete summary proficiency activities, designed to assess your overall mastery, during the final days of the semester.

Your course grade will be determined by the quality and consistence of your daily performance and periodic quizzes, tests and other assessment activities as follows:

- Daily Grind (attendance/participation/homework): 40%
- 6 Unit Tests: 40%
- Summary Proficiency Activities: 10%
- Quizzes: 10% (short periodic checks of students' mastery of new vocabulary, grammatical points, conversational skills, or cultural knowledge).

Tests

Test grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

A = 93 – 100%	C- = 70 – 72%
A- = 90 – 92%	D+ = 67 – 69%
B+ = 87 – 89%	D = 63 – 66%
B = 83 – 86%	D- = 60 – 62%
B- = 80 – 82%	E = less than 60%
C+ = 77 – 79%	
C = 73 – 76%	

Make-up test policy: Make-up tests will be offered only in the case of legitimate conflicts well-documented in advance.

Attendance, Homework and Class Participation

- The weight of credit given to attendance, participation and homework reflects the special nature of foreign-language learning, which, like mastering a sport or musical instrument, depends first and foremost on consistency, persistence, and daily training. Class meetings will be highly interactive and demand active and meaningful use of new language models; for this reason, unlike many other courses, missed contact hours will be difficult if not impossible to make up.
- Class will begin promptly at 9:35 AM and end promptly at 10:25. Please be on time and make sure cell phones remain turned off for the entire class.

Course Etiquette, Communication and Technology

- Please be on time and refrain from gathering up materials until I indicate that class is over.
- Outside of class and office hours, feel free to reach me by email (mgorham@ufl.edu) with inquiries or issues that are not clarified in class meetings, the course syllabus, the online “Weekly Assignments” page, or posted handouts. If you do send email, practice your informal, but official, communication skills by including a proper form of address. “Dear Professor Gorham” or even “Hi Dr. Gorham” are fine, but “Hey” or omitting a greeting altogether are not. Also be sure to clearly identify yourself somewhere in the message with first-name + last-name – at least in the opening message of a communication string. If you abide by these simple rules of email etiquette, you can expect an answer within 1 working day.
- All phones must be turned off and left off during class meetings. Laptops may be used during class for course-related activities only. Students found in violation of this policy may be asked to leave class and/or have their participation grade reduced.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom 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 me when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty

All students must be familiar with and will be held accountable to the University's "Academic Honesty Guidelines." Please review these guidelines at: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>, and contact me with any questions or concerns.

Course Materials

Required texts

- *Russian Stage One: Live from Russia!* Second edition, Volume 1 (Kendall Hunt, 2008). ISBN: 978-0-7575-5201-4. (available through local textbook vendors) **Please note: The text includes textbook, workbook, DVD and CD. If you are buying used copies, make sure you have all components.**
- Online Learning Platform: All assignments and grades will be posted at the Canvas site for this course, available at <https://ufl.instructure.com/>.

Overview of Course Schedule

Introduction: 5-6 days

Unit 1: 9-11 days (Preliminary test date: Sept. 12)

Unit 2: 9-11 days (Preliminary test date: Sept. 28)

Unit 3: 9-11 days (Preliminary test date: Oct. 13)

Unit 4: 9-11 days (Preliminary test date: Oct. 27)

Unit 5: 9-11 days (Preliminary test date: Nov. 14)

Unit 6: 9-11 days (Preliminary test date: Nov. 30)

Summary Proficiency Activities: Dec. 4–6

There will be no final exam in this course.