

**Fall 2021**

**RUS 1130 (Section: 14B9 / Class Number: 18466)**

**Introduction to Russian Language and Culture 1**

**M, T, W, R, F: Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM) MAT 0105**

**Office hours: T – 1:55-2:45; W – 3:00-3:50 (Dauer Hall 254) or by appointment**

**Instructor: Dr. Alexander Burak**

E-mail: [alburak@ufl.edu](mailto:alburak@ufl.edu)

Circumstances beyond our control may force us to hold some classes via Zoom (synchronously)  
Final oral exam in class on December 3, 6 & 7; final written take-home exam paper to be submitted  
by 2:30 p.m. on December 16, 2021



### **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. **Join a small group of students and get all the attention that you deserve.**

## UF Russian Majors and Minors in Moscow



## Syllabus

### ***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 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.

### **Tests (5): 40%**

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>

**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.

## 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.**

### **Weeks One & Two**

Introductory Unit  
(Textbook – TB and Workbook – WB)

### **Weeks Three & Four**

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

### **Weeks Five & Six**

Unit 2 TB & WB  
Film episode 2  
Test 2

### **Weeks Seven & Eight**

Unit 3 TB & WB  
Film episode 3  
Test 3

### **Weeks Nine & Ten**

Unit 4 TB & WB  
Film episode 4  
Test 4

### **Weeks Eleven & Twelve**

Unit 5 TB & WB  
Film episode 5  
Test 5

### **Weeks Thirteen & Fourteen**

Unit 6 TB & WB  
Film episode 6

### **Week Fifteen**

General review. Final exam briefing.

Your final exam will consist of two parts.

**The final oral exam** (as part of the final exam) will be held during our regular class meetings on December 3, 6 & 7, 2021).

**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 2:30 pm, December 16, 2021.** Earlier submissions will be appreciated.

**Expected Class Demeanor**

Cell phones and gadgets: Please turn off your cell phone during class as a courtesy to us all. 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.