

Russian 151: Intensive First-Year Russian I

Fall 2010 Semester

Course Description: This is an intensive introduction to spoken and written contemporary standard Russian, emphasizing communicative practice in authentic cultural contexts. Cultural audio-visual materials and use of Russian websites help to reinforce the link between language and culture. This class meets Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12:30 pm to 1:50 pm. All students are required to participate in one of two conversation hours. The two conversation hours are both on Wednesday: Rus151-C2 is at 10:00 to 10:50 am in 323 SB; Rus151-C1 is at 11:00 to 11:50 am in 321 SB. ***This course is worth 2 units (8 credits).***

Detailed schedules of class activities, learning tasks, graded exercises, and daily homework assignments will be distributed in class for two to three weeks at a time.

Course Purpose and Learning Goals: Students completing Rus 152 (the spring semester conclusion to Rus 151) will achieve novice high or intermediate low proficiency in Russian in all modalities: they will be able to hold conversations in Russian in a range of contexts with native speakers of Russian accustomed to speaking with foreigners, will be able to read advertisements and other short texts, will be able to understand announcements in broadcast media and public places (e.g., train station or airport). Students will acquire a basic understanding of some aspects of Russian culture (e.g., greeting and hospitality rituals, geography of Russia, broad outline of Russian history, some familiarity with some of the great works of Russian writers, composers, artists). Students completing Rus 152 will be prepared to take Intensive 2nd-Year Russian I at TCNJ (Rus 251) in the fall 2011 semester (or elsewhere in summer 2011).

Course Expectations: All participants in this course will show mutual respect for one another and for course instructors and guest speakers at all times. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, prepared and to participate actively in class activities. Students should expect 1.5-2 hours of homework per night for this course because it is an intensive class.

Russian in the Classroom: Through the course of the semester we will gradually be using more and more Russian in the classroom. By the middle of the semester, most of our class will be conducted exclusively in Russian. You will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions in English at the beginning and end of every class session, even near the end of the semester. Moreover, grammar explanations will *always* be given in English. However, we will be focusing our class experience on *using Russian* and to do that, we have to speak in Russian. After all, you can't learn to swim without getting wet! We will have a lot of pair and group activities when you will be assigned to complete a task in Russian; you are expected to use Russian in these situations, even if you have to work your way around a word or concept you don't know. (When you go to Russia, you will have plenty of opportunities to work your way around words you don't know!)

Succeeding in This Class (Getting a good grade in this class): Grammar is an interesting part of any language and it is certainly a fascinating aspect of the Russian language. But the study of Russian is *not only* the study of Russian grammar. We will certainly practice grammar as part of our work together in class, but the focus of our work will be on developing communicative skills

in Russian. This encompasses not only grammar, but also vocabulary, culture, pronunciation and intonation, and the understanding of texts that you will read and listen to. Students who come to class prepared every day, who try their hardest on their homework assignments, who ask questions, review returned assignments, and study for quizzes and tests will earn good grades in this class. The assignments are carefully measured so that there is not too much work for any one evening; if you keep up, you will stay on top of things and earn a good grade in the course. If you fall behind, it will be difficult to catch up because we will be going forward at a rapid pace. Class participation and homework, together, are worth 40% of your course grade. If you put in a solid effort, even if you do poorly on grammar quizzes, you are still likely to get a grade of B in the course. But if you don't come to class regularly, your grades will sink fast and deep.

Required Course Materials: available at the Book Store in the Brower Student Center

START: An Introduction to the Sound and Writing Systems of Russian, Rifkin, 2nd edition (no need to buy CD-ROM)

Golosa, 4th edition, Robin, Evans-Romaine, Shatalina, and Robin: Textbook and student activity manual (no need to buy CD-ROM)

Course Websites:

For *START*: see SOCS

For *Golosa*: <http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/golosa/>

(on right side of screen, note links for Audio for 4th edition Book 1, Video all editions, Vocabulary Cards, Supplements)

Neither of these websites will work well by modem connection. If you do not have DSL or a cable internet connection in your home, you may need to do your internet homework in a campus computer lab.

Use of SOCS for Our Course:

We will be using SOCS for a variety of purposes this semester. This course policy document and all course schedules (for two to three weeks at a time) will be distributed in class and posted to SOCS, so if you lose a copy, you can always download a new one. All handouts distributed in class as well as all PowerPoint presentations shown in class will also be posted to SOCS. Other activities will be set up for SOCS as well.

Suggested Materials:

These are not required, but highly recommended:

- Index cards (in different colors) to cut up into flashcards
- Hole punch (to punch a single hole in the flashcards)
- Three-hole punch to collate returned homework from the *Golosa* student activity manual

- Binder rings (single rings) on which to collect and keep your flashcards
- Looseleaf binder with index tabs to mark separate sections for notes on grammar, vocabulary, culture and in which to keep returned homework (from your Golosa student activity manual)
- Small pad or notebook for questions so that you can access the questions efficiently
- Folder on your computer or browser for links to Russian sites that you will enjoy surfing (we will mention them in class)

Bring to Class Every Day:

START (for first two weeks of class as noted)

Golosa textbook and student activity manual (starting the second week of class)

Your homework, ready to turn in upon arrival in our classroom every day at the beginning of class

Course Grades: Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

95% and higher = A	80% - 82% = B-	67% – 69% = D+
90% - 94% = A-	77% - 79% = C+	65% – 66% = D
87% - 89% = B+	72% - 76% = C	64% and lower = F
83% - 86% = B	70% - 72% = C-	

Course grades will be based on the following components, each of which is explained below:

Preparation and class participation (in both M/T/Th/F sessions and Conversation hour sessions):	20%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	15%
Unit Tests	15%
Oral Exams (based on Conversation hour work)	15%
Final exam	15%

Preparation and Class Participation: Attendance in this course is *expected* and will be recorded. Homework is due at the beginning of every class session. Late homework will *not* be accepted.

Attendance is *not* graded, but *class participation is graded* for each M/T/Th/F class hour as follows:

8 points	Present, on time, fully prepared, actively and thoughtfully participating in class discussions and activities (this doesn't mean you answer every question correctly, merely that you are ready to <i>try</i> to answer every question), staying <i>in Russian</i> in pair and group activities when this assigned
7 points	Present, on time, partially prepared, minimally participating in class discussions and activities and/or using English when Russian is required

6 points	Present, on time, partially prepared, not participating in class discussions and activities and/or using English when Russian is required
5 points	Present, on time, unprepared, minimally participating in class discussions and activities
4 points	Absent, but homework submitted by the time of the start of the given class session (either by e-mail attachment or sent in with a classmate)
0 points	Absent

A one-point penalty will be imposed on the class participation grade for each 10 minutes you are late for each class hour.

Class participation for the conversation hours will be graded in accordance to the following scale:

5 points	Present, on time, fully prepared, actively and thoughtfully participating in class discussions and activities (this doesn't mean you answer every question correctly, merely that you are ready to <i>try</i> to answer every question), staying <i>in Russian</i> in pair and group activities when this assigned
4 points	Present, on time, partially prepared, minimally participating in class discussions and activities and/or using English when Russian is required
3 points	Present, on time, partially prepared, not participating in class discussions and activities and/or using English when Russian is required
2 points	Present, on time, unprepared, minimally participating in class discussions and activities
0 points	Absent

Preparation (homework) for the Conversation Hour meetings will consist of preparing for the recitation of dialogues and communicative (role-play) tasks and activities.

A one-point penalty will be imposed on the class participation grade for each 10 minutes you are late for each class hour.

The class participation grade for the semester consists of the percentage of class participation grade points earned against the total number of such available points (e.g., 56 class sessions on M/T/Th/F at 8 points each = 448 points; 12 class sessions on W at 5 points each = 60 points; there is a total of 508 points for class participation in the course). The three lowest participation grades will be dropped before calculating the percentage; these lowest grades may be absences.

If you know you will be absent for a particular class session but submit your homework electronically (by pdf) or with a classmate, you will earn 2 points for class participation for each class hour missed and may earn full homework points based on the quality of the work (see below).

Attendance Policy: As you can see from the class participation rubric and course grading formula, attendance is very important to your success in this class. You will be excused your 3 lowest class hour participation grades (which could be absences) in the course grading process,

but no more. For every five class hour absences beyond the first three class hour absences, your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade (e.g., from B- to C+). This course is a performance class: even if you are ill, when you are absent, you are not participating in class activities and using Russian in communicative interaction is the focus of our class experience

Homework: Written homework (for M/T/Th/F sessions) will be graded on a daily basis as follows:

5 points	Submitted on time, complete thoughtfully prepared, at least 80% correct
4 points	Submitted on time, complete and at least 50% correct or incomplete with at least 80% correct for a substantial portion of the assignment completed
3 points	Submitted on time, poorly done and/or incomplete
0 points	Not submitted

The homework grade for the semester consists of the percentage of class participation grade points earned against the total number of such available points (e.g., 56 homework assignments at 5 points each = 280 points).

Quizzes: You will have periodic quizzes including vocabulary quizzes, dictations, and grammar quizzes. Dictations and vocabulary quizzes will be announced and scheduled. Grammar quizzes will be given unannounced, but will be administered *open note*: You may use your own handwritten notes. Notes may not be computer printed or photocopied. They must be your OWN notes unless you have a disability accommodation for note taking. Grammar quizzes will often feature problems from the homework that has been returned on previous days, so you should make a habit of reviewing your homework when you get it back from us to be sure that you have understood all corrections.

Unit Tests: We will have a test on each chapter of Golosa. Each test will include listening and reading comprehension activities (approximately 15% each), grammar exercises (approximately 50%), a communicative writing task (approximately 15%), and a culture analysis task (approximately 5%). Students will be given a study guide for each unit test so as to know how best to prepare for each test.

Optional Culture Paper: Students may write, in English, a 5-page paper analyzing some aspect of Russian culture (e.g., comparing a Russian and American film on a similar topic or theme). If you wish to do the optional culture paper, you must get approval of your topic by October 15, 2010. Papers will be due November 15, 2010. A culture paper will be counted as a unit test in the calculation of your grade. The culture papers will be graded with this rubric:

Content (length, focus, logic, organization)	25%
Writing Style	25%
Originality	25%
Mechanics of writing (grammar, spelling, etc)	25%

Oral Exams: There will be two oral exams (not including an oral component for the first unit test). These will be administered individually and will consist of two tasks:

- a) reading task in which students read through a dialogue from the textbook that they have prepared in advance; this performance will be assessed on the basis of pronunciation and intonation (no need to memorize the text)
- b) communicative task in which students will be asked to negotiate a situation similar to those practiced in the textbook in conversation hours; this performance will be assessed on the basis of communicative success

Final Exam: The final exam for this course will be structured along the same lines as the unit tests and will cover all the material in chapters 1-5 of our textbook with an emphasis on the second half of the semester. You will be given a study guide to help you prepare for the exam.

About Quizzes, Tests, Oral Exams and the Final Exam: Note carefully the dates for scheduled quizzes, tests, oral exams and the final exam. If you miss a quiz, test or exam without a valid excuse (illness, family emergency), you will receive a zero for the given test. If you miss an oral exam (which are scheduled individually), you cannot make it up unless you have a valid excuse. If you know you will have to miss a scheduled quiz, test, or exam due to planned travel, holiday celebration, etc., it is your responsibility to inform your instructor before the scheduled test.

Policy on Religious Holidays: If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester which will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with your fulfilling any course requirement, inform your instructor of the dates of your religious holiday(s) within two weeks of the beginning of the semester or immediately if your holiday is near the beginning of the semester so that we may make appropriate alternative plans.

Policy on Cell Phones and Pagers: *Cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class* except with special permission from your instructor.

RELEVANT COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES APPLICABLE TO OUR COURSE

Academic Integrity:

Please consult the college-wide policy on Academic Integrity. Information on the policy is at: <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Estudlife/judaff/academic.html>. Any and all violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Academic Integrity Officer for Culture and Society.

Final Exam Policy

Final Evaluations are an important component of the high-quality and rigorous educational experience at The College of New Jersey. All courses are to have a final evaluation that takes place during final exam period. The time designated as the “final exam period” contains both reading days and final exam days. For more information please go to:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~academic/policy/finalevaluations.htm>.

Attendance Policy

Every student is expected to participate in each of his/her courses; the attendance and class participation policies for this course are spelled out in detail above. For more information, please view the College's attendance policy at:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~academic/policy/attendance.html>.

Differing Abilities

The College of New Jersey is committed to ensuring equal opportunity and access to all members of the campus community in accordance with Section 503/504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The College prohibits discrimination against any student, employee, or applicant on the basis of physical or mental disability, or perceived disability. The College will provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to enable employees and students to participate in the life of the campus community. Individuals with disabilities are responsible for reporting and supplying documentation verifying their disability. Requests for accommodations must be initiated through the Office of Differing Abilities Services. For more information on differing abilities please see the Differing Abilities website:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~affirm/ada.html>.

Testing Dates for RUS 151 in Fall 2010

Friday, September 17: Dictation Chapter 1 (Golosa)

Tuesday, September 21: Vocabulary Quiz Chapter 1 (Golosa)

Thursday, September 23: Unit 1 Test (Golosa Chapter 1 + START Lessons 1-11)

Friday, October 1: Dictation Chapter 2

Tuesday, October 5: Vocabulary Quiz 2

Monday, October 11: Unit 2 Test

Wed., October 13: Conversation Hour cancelled: students will sign up for individual oral exams (10 minutes each) based on material in Chapters 1-2 of Golosa

Friday, October 15: Dictation Chapter 3

(Fall Break: October 18-19)

Monday, October 25: Vocabulary Quiz Chapter 3

Thursday, October 28: Unit 3 Test

Tuesday, November 9: Dictation Chapter 4

Friday, November 12: Vocabulary Quiz Chapter 4

Tuesday, November 16: Unit 4 Test

Thursday, December 2: Dictation Chapter 5

Friday, December 3: Vocabulary Quiz Chapter 5

Tuesday, December 7: Unit 5 Test

Final Exam: Date, time and location to be determined