

Department of Russian and East European Studies
University of Pennsylvania
745 Williams Hall, (215) 898-8704
<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/slavic>

RUSS 0100 980: Elementary Russian I

Course Syllabus

Summer I, 2022

Time: MTWR 5:15—7:15 PM

Location: Online

Instructor: Lada Vassilieva

Office: Williams, 713

Office hours: By *appointment*

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Welcome to Russian 0100! This course is the first semester in a series of elementary level courses offered in the Russian program at Penn and is intended for students who have never studied Russian.

If you are new to Penn Russian Language program and have studied or been exposed to Russian elsewhere, you must take departmental placement test before registering for this course. Please contact Russian program coordinator, Dr. Maria Alley (malley@sas.upenn.edu), as soon as possible. Placement recommendations made by the Program coordinator are binding.

This course develops language competence in speaking, reading, writing and understanding contemporary Russian. By the end of the course, you will be able to carry on conversations in Russian on many topics in informal and some formal contexts concerning your daily life. You will also be able to write short personalized messages in Russian. During the course you will develop your listening and reading competency with the help of range of authentic materials, including internet, music, videos, short stories relating to various aspects of Russian culture.

COURSE MATERIALS

Elementary Russian I and II use materials developed at Penn. All course materials will be available on our course page on Canvas. Check our Canvas site for a list of additional recommended materials and resources.

A required reference book is **Terence Wade and David Gillespie's *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar* (3rd edition, 2010)**. You may purchase this book online on amazon.com or elsewhere and use a print or an electronic edition. A copy (both paper and e-book) is available in Van Pelt library. This is the Russian language program's reference book that will serve as a good reference for you as long as you study Russian language, at Penn and beyond!

GRADING

Attendance and participation	35%
Homework (written and oral)	15%
Final Project/Interview	30%
5 one-on-one conferences with instructor	20%

At the end of the semester, your final percentage will determine your final course grade as follows:

99-100	A+	83 - 86	B	70 - 72	C-
93 - 97	A	80 - 82	B- C+	60 - 69	D
90 - 92	A-	77 - 79	C	59 & below	F
87 - 89	B+	73 - 76			

Final course grades are rounded up from .5 and down from .4.

AUDITING THE COURSE

Registered course audits are only allowed for graduate students with permission from their home departments. Undergraduate students are not allowed to audit courses. Auditing students have the same requirements as registered students. Silent auditors are not allowed.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular class attendance and active participation in all class activities is absolutely essential for your progress. Each day that you are absent will not only seriously affect your attendance and participation grade, but will also affect your performance on homework and assessments. By missing class or coming to class unprepared or late, you are less likely to learn the material, will be unable to achieve your own language learning goals, and will deprive your classmates of opportunities to learn as well. At the end of the semester, your attendance and participation grade will be calculated based on the average of daily attendance and participation grades assigned using the following scale:

0	absent
1	present, but not prepared for class; does not participate; does not stay on task and/or in Russian, does not listen to others.
2	present, but <i>minimally</i> prepared; <i>rarely</i> able to answer when called on; rarely uses Russian when required; rarely stays on task during partner/group work, rarely volunteers or contributes to group activities, rarely listens to others.
3	present, but <i>inconsistently</i> prepared; <i>sometimes</i> able to answer when called on; sometimes uses Russian when required; sometimes stays on task during partner/group work, sometimes volunteers or productively contributes to group activities, sometimes listens to others.
4	present and prepared for <i>most</i> activities; answers when called on <i>most of the time</i> , willingly and productively contributes to class activities; makes a conscious effort to use Russian as much as

possible and stays on task during partner/group work; volunteers answers to open questions (not directed at anyone) with constructive comments; listens and respects contributions of others.

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- 5 present; demonstrates high level of preparation; always answers when called on; willingly and productively participates in all class activities; uses Russian almost exclusively; stays on task during partner/group work; volunteers constructive comments; shares pertinent information; listens and respects the ideas and comments of others.

You are *not* expected to answer all questions correctly without any mistakes. In fact, mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. However, we expect that you will come to every class committed and prepared to *attempt* to answer every question, to take every opportunity to practice your Russian, and to help other students in class to do the same. If you arrive late, points will be deducted from your daily attendance and participation grade.

At the end of the semester, your two lowest daily attendance and participation scores will be dropped. These may include absences. After two absences, your final course grade will be dropped by 1/3 letter grade for each additional absence (i.e. on the third absence, your course grade will be reduced from a B+ to a B, after the fourth absence, from a B to a B-, etc.). Three late arrivals of more than 5 minutes count as an absence. Ten absences result in a failing grade for the course. Following Penn policy, if a student misses or anticipates missing 2 or more consecutive days of classes, she or he should contact her/his school's advising office as soon as possible.

There are no "excused absences" – if you miss class, you are responsible for making up any work and knowing the material covered. All absences must be reported using "Course Absence Report" in Penn-in-Touch.

In this course we use Course Absence Report (CAR) system to manage information about course absences. Students are required to submit a Course Absence Report before the planned absence or by noon of the following day. If the instructor does not receive a CAR by this time, s/he will send the student a Course Problem Notice (CPN) and cc their advisor on it. Students are responsible for the material covered during the missed class session and are expected to actively contribute during the next class session and should submit all homework following the posted schedule. Students are encouraged to keep close communication with the instructors throughout the semester, especially if they need to miss class. E-mail and, if necessary, CPNs will be used to alert students of any course-related problems.

HOMEWORK

Frequent, sustained engagement with the language is crucial to your success in Russian. To that end, you should spend at least an hour completing assigned activities every day, but you should frequently spend up to two hours per day going over the material covered in class and in earlier lessons, learning and applying new vocabulary and grammar structures, and exploring other ways to practice Russian (listening to music, surfing the internet, etc.).

Homework assignments range in point value from 5 to approximately 15 points. We try to scale the point values of the homework assignments in terms of how much time and effort they should take you to complete. However, all homework assignments are important and you should not interpret the point-values of the assignments too strictly. Your final homework grade is the percentage of the cumulative tally of homework points earned divided by the total possible homework points. At the end of the semester, your two lowest daily homework scores will be dropped.

Course packet and hand-written responses

Many explanations and exercises to be done at home will come from the course packet (**курсовой пакет**). Every time you are prompted to complete an activity in writing, you should do so in the notebooks distributed in class.

The goal of these assignments is to give you an opportunity to meaningfully apply the topics we are discussing in class using the vocabulary and grammar structures that have been practiced in class and in homework. Your answers should show thought and attention.

Canvas quizzes

The goals of Canvas quizzes vary depending on what is being discussed or done in class. Some quizzes will be used to review and practice the information and constructions we used in class that day in a more structured way, others will introduce the information, the structures or vocabulary we will be using in class the following day, as a way to make you feel more comfortable in class. Other quizzes will focus on developing reading or listening competency. The quizzes focus on meanings of individual words and how these words are used in context and include a variety of question types. Most quizzes allow two attempts to take the quiz in order to give you an opportunity to receive immediate feedback and make corrections to your answers. However, it is not necessary to correct the responses.

PROJECTS

At the end of this course, you will complete a written project, in which you will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and competencies you acquired in the course.

ONE-ON-ONE CONFERENCES WITH INSTRUCTOR/Tutor

During the semester there will be weekly one-on-one conferences with your instructor outside of class. These meetings are meant to provide you with additional personalized practice with the material covered in class and in homework, to assess how comfortable you feel with this material, and to give you an opportunity to ask questions or discuss any concerns. You will also meet with a native speaker weekly to practice the topics covered in the units.

CLASSROOM RULES FOR RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

The following is a list of classroom rules that was devised so that all students may experience a comfortable and productive learning environment. Many of these rules are self-evident and already observed by most students. However, it is helpful for everyone in the group to understand explicitly what type of behavior is expected in Russian language classrooms. All students are expected to abide by these rules, and students will be held accountable for any infraction of these rules. Thank you for your cooperation, and please see your instructors if you have any questions or concerns.

1. All students are expected to abide by the rules of *the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity*, which can be found at http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic_integrity_code_of and *Code of Student Conduct* located at http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/conduct_code_of_student.

Any violations of the Code, including plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own) or dishonest practices during examinations will be reported to the university officials.

Please note that the use of any translation program and/or website with phrasal input or help of native and fluent speakers of Russian is also considered plagiarism. Any work you submit for grading must be your own and must represent vocabulary and structures covered in this course.

2. University of Pennsylvania provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of [Student Disabilities Services](#) (SDS). Please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible in order to discuss your accommodations and your needs. If you have not yet contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215.573.9235. The office is located in the [Weingarten Learning Resources Center](#) at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. All services are confidential.
3. In this course, you will be asked to express personal opinions and to talk and write about yourself, your family, and friends. If you prefer, you do not need to discuss or reveal any personal information; instead you may provide fictitious information. When you are being creative, you are expected to keep in mind the general purpose of the activity by using relevant vocabulary and expressions.
4. The use of profanity in the classroom (in any language) will not be tolerated.
5. The use of any electronic devices is not permitted during class, except with permission of the instructor.
6. Your instructor may ask that you change your seat in order to work in pairs or small groups. You should be prepared to change your seat at your instructor's request.
7. Chewing gum or eating is not acceptable in the language classroom. Soft drinks are allowed, as long they do not interfere with your ability to speak Russian. Note, however, that many classrooms do not allow food or drink. Please observe signs where posted.

Should you have any questions regarding Russian at Penn please feel free to talk to your instructors, and, of course, at any time you are welcome to drop in on the Russian Language Program Coordinator, Dr. Maria Alley (Williams 739, (215) 746-5977, malley@sas.upenn.edu).