



First-Year Russian I

RUSS 10103

Autumn 2018



Course Sections:	Section 01	Dr. Erik Houle	MWF 9:30 – 10:20, Cobb Hall 104
	Section 02	Dr. Mark Baugher	MWF 10:30 – 11:20, Cobb Hall 110
	Section 03	Maria Yakubovich	MWF 12:30 – 1:20, Cobb Hall 101

Conversation Sections:	TTh 9:30 – 10:20	Cobb Hall 201C
	TTh 10:30 – 11:20	Cobb Hall 201C
	TTh 11:30 – 12:20	Cobb Hall 201C
	TTh 12:30 – 1:20	Cobb Hall 201C
	TTh 1:30 – 2:20	Cobb Hall 201C
	TTh 2:30 – 3:20	Cobb Hall 201C

Instructors:

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Maria Yakubovich
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Office Hours:

Dr. Mark Baugher
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Conversation/ Drill section instructors:

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Course Description: Russian 10103 is the first quarter (of a three quarter sequence) of first-year Russian, which introduces students to the spoken and written modern language. This course emphasizes communicative practices in authentic cultural contexts, for those who would like to speak Russian or use the language for reading and research. Cultural audio-visual materials and use of Russian websites help to reinforce the link between language and culture. It also includes review and amplification of grammar, practice in reading, elementary composition, and speaking and comprehension. Systematic study of word formation and other strategies are taught to help free students from excessive dependence on the dictionary and develop confidence in reading rather than translating. Readings are selected to help provide historical and cultural background. Mandatory conversation/ drill sessions are held twice a week.

The schedule of class activities, learning tasks, graded exercises, and homework assignments will be posted on the course Canvas site. Any changes will be announced in class, and posted online, with advance notice.

Course Purpose and Learning Goals: Students completing RUSS 10303 (the spring quarter class of this sequence) 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 this sequence will be prepared to take 2nd Year Russian (RUSS 20103) at the University of Chicago in the following fall quarter, or RUSS 20003 over the summer here or at another institution, and/or to participate in a study abroad program in Russia.

Course Expectations: Students are expected to arrive to class on time, prepared and to participate actively in class activities. Students should expect around 1-2 hours of homework per night for this course.

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 not only encompasses grammar, but also vocabulary, culture, pronunciation and intonation, and the understanding of texts that you will read and listen to and videos that you will watch. 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 50% 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.

Required Course Materials: available at the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore (5751 S. Woodlawn)

Russian Stage One: Live From Russia! Volume 1, 2nd edition. ACTR. Kendall Hunt. (Textbook & DVD, Workbook & CD)

*If you choose to purchase or rent these materials from other locations, please carefully note the edition.

Recommended Materials:

English Grammar for Students of Russian, 2nd ed. Cruise. Olivia Hill Press.

Use of Canvas for our course: We will be using Canvas for a variety of purposes this quarter. This course policy document and all course schedules (subject to change with advance notice) will be distributed in class and posted to Canvas, 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 Canvas. Other activities will be set up for Canvas as well.

Bring to Class Every Day:

Live from Russia! Textbook

Any supplemental texts/activities assigned

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	
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:	25%
Homework	25%
Quizzes (5)	15%
Unit Tests (3)	15%
Oral interviews (2)	10%
Final exam	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Preparation and Class Participation: Attendance in both the MWF lectures and in TTh conversation/ drill sections is required for all students and will be recorded. Participation will be graded on a five-point scale. Arrival to class on time is a critical component of attendance. Tardiness is unacceptable and is disruptive to the class. Persistent tardiness and unexcused absences will not be tolerated. A one-point penalty will be imposed on the class participation grade for each 10 minutes you are late for each class. Unpreparedness, lack of participation, and using English when Russian is required will result in a reduction of the daily participation grade.

At the end of the quarter, the three lowest daily participation grades (which could be absences) will be dropped. An unexcused absence will result in the loss of both attendance and participation grades for the day.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is crucial for mastering a foreign language. For **every five absences** a student incurs (including conversation section) over the course of the quarter, that student's overall grade will be lowered by one letter grade (e.g. from an A- to a B+). In the cases of illness, religious holidays, family emergencies, or university obligations, please notify your instructor in advance and provide a written note when appropriate. Otherwise this absence, as any other unexcused absence, will lower your attendance/participation grade.

Conversation/ Drill Section (Практика): Twice a week, you will meet to practice speaking beyond the topics of the textbook. We will also read supplemental texts, and watch authentic video materials over the course of the quarter to improve your reading and listening comprehension, introduce aspects of Russian culture, as well as provide topics for conversation.

Homework: Homework is due at the beginning of each MWF class. Each homework assignment is worth a total of 5 points. In order to receive full credit homework must be complete, at least 80% correct, and turned in on time at the beginning of each class. Incomplete and/or poorly done work will not receive full credit. Assignments are intended to give students the opportunity to practice the vocabulary and grammatical concepts discussed in class and therefore homework should be done in a timely manner. For every day an assignment is late, one point will be deducted. No homework will be accepted after 3 school days. In addition to homework from the workbook, you will also have 8 **Culture Hunt** assignments. These assignments will be posted to Canvas on Monday of each week to be completed by the following Sunday. You will submit your written answers (in English) via Canvas as well.

Quizzes: There will be regular dictations and vocabulary quizzes given during every unit. These will be administered at the beginning of class, so be sure to arrive on time. There may also be occasional grammar quizzes throughout the quarter. At the end of the quarter, your lowest vocabulary quiz grade will be dropped.

Unit Tests: There will be a test after units 1, 2 and 3 of Live from Russia! during the quarter. 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 each test.

Oral interviews: There will be two oral interviews. These will be administered individually during the second unit test and the final exam, 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 - 4 of our textbook with an emphasis on the 4th unit. You will be given a study guide to help you prepare for the exam.

About Quizzes, Tests, Interviews and the Final Exam: Note carefully the dates for scheduled quizzes, tests, interviews 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 interview (which are conducted individually), you cannot make it up unless you have a valid excuse, and your grade will be reduced by 10%. 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 Electronic Devices: *Cell phones must be turned off during class* except with special permission from your instructor. Computers, tablets, phones, etc., can be helpful tools for learning language, especially for accessing media, reducing paper usage, interactive learning tools, internet reference material and immediate feedback through on-line exercises. However, there is a time and place for such tools. A computer is not a replacement for your required textbook and it is not helpful to bring only your phone-sized screen to class to access scanned or internet materials.

Policy on machine translation: Internet-based translation or machine-translation of any kind is NOT PERMITTED for any homework assignment or composition in this class. If internet-based translation or machine-translation is detected in a student's homework or composition, the grade for that homework or composition will be **ZERO**.

RELEVANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES APPLICABLE TO OUR COURSE

Academic Integrity and Student Honesty

Please consult the university policy on academic integrity. Information is available at: <https://college.uchicago.edu/policies-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct>

Disability Accommodation Protocol: <http://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/disability>

We highly encourage students to avail themselves of the services provided by Student Disability Services at the University of Chicago.