



# First-Year Russian II

## RUSS 10203

Winter 2019



### Course Sections:

Section 01	Houle	MWF 9:30-10:20, Harper Memorial Library 150
Section 02	Baughner	MWF 10:30-11:20, Cobb Hall 104
Section 03	Yakubovich	MWF 12:30-1:20, Cobb Hall 203

### 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:

Dr. Erik Houle  
Office: Foster Hall 413

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Office Hours: MWF 1:00 – 2:00 & by appointment

Dr. Mark Baughner  
Office: Foster Hall 417

Email: [mbaughner@uchicago.edu](mailto:mbaughner@uchicago.edu)  
Office Hours: MF 3:00 – 4:00 & by appointment

Maria Yakubovich  
Office: Foster Hall 402

Email: [puduhepa@uchicago.edu](mailto:puduhepa@uchicago.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment

### Conversation section instructor(s):

Evgenia Olimpieva  
Grigory Gorbun  
Anna Segal  
Dr. Mark Baughner  
Dr. Erik Houle

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**Course Description:** This is a first-year Russian course, introducing students to spoken and written modern Russian. 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 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 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 this sequence will be prepared to take 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Russian (RUSS 20103) at the University of Chicago in the following fall quarter, or a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Russian course over the summer 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.

**Russian in the Classroom:** Through the course of the quarter we will continue to gradually use more and more Russian in the classroom. 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 quarter. However, we will be focusing our class experience on *using Russian* and to do that, we have to speak in Russian. 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.

**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 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 University bookstore or at the Seminary Co-Op  
Russian Stage One: Live From Russia! Volume 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. ACTR. Kendall Hunt. (Textbook & DVD, Workbook & CD)  
Russian Stage One: Live From Russia! Volume 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. ACTR. Kendall Hunt. (Textbook & DVD, Workbook & CD) **New this quarter!**

**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 any 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	83% - 86% = B	72% - 76% = C	65% – 66% = D
90% - 94% = A-	80% - 82% = B-	70% - 72% = C-	
87% - 89% = B+	77% - 79% = C+	67% – 69% = D+	

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

Attendance/ Preparedness (both MWF and TTh section):	25%
Homework	20%
Vocabulary Quizzes (x4)/ Dictations (x4)	15%
Unit Tests (x3)	15%
Composition	5%
Oral interviews (x2)	10%
Final exam	<u>10%</u>
	100%

**Preparation and Class Participation:** Attendance in both the MWF section and in conversation 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.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is crucial for mastering a foreign language. For **every four 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 Sections (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 5 calendar days, including weekends. In addition to homework assigned from the workbook, you will have a weekly Culture Hunt (due one week after its posting on Canvas). Questions from the Culture Hunts will appear on the Unit 6 Test and on the Final Exam.

**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 quiz grade will be dropped.

**Unit Tests:** There will be a test after units 5, 6 and 7 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 20%), and a culture analysis task (the Culture Hunts) which will give you opportunities for extra credit. 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

**Composition:** There will be one 200-word composition, and you may write either fact or fiction. Your composition must be typed (**double spaced**). You must write a rough draft, without using your textbook or any other reference materials, edit the draft (providing evidence) by looking up vocabulary and grammar constructions, using a provided guide. If you look up any words in a dictionary, you must give the definition (and this is discouraged, as you may not find the correct grammar usage, or may be using the word incorrectly). Submit both your edited rough draft, and a clean, first draft. You will receive instructor feedback, and will produce a final draft, due approximately one week later. The first draft is due on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, with the final version due on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The topic is *Как живёт студент*.

	First draft (30 points)	Final draft (70 points)
Fulfillment of all assignment parameters (content, length, editing):	4	10
Grammar and Syntax:	6	15
Vocabulary:	6	15
Spelling:	4	10
Organization, Coherence, Logic:	5	10
Originality/Creativity of language:	5	10

**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 5-8 of our textbook with an emphasis on the 8<sup>th</sup> unit. You will be given a study guide to help you prepare for the exam. Culture Hunts will provide you an opportunity for extra credit.

**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 Religious Holidays:** If you will be observing any religious holidays this quarter 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 quarter or immediately if your holiday is near the beginning of the quarter so that we may make appropriate alternative plans.

**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. The inappropriate use of electronic devices (i.e. for anything but the immediate task at hand) will be reflected negatively in your participation grade. Your misuse of these devices is distracting to you, your instructor, and your classmates.

**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**.

\*How do we know that a student has used internet-based translation or machine-translation? We can tell by the words used that they represent a direct (and utterly incorrect) word-for-word translation of a phrase that winds up using Russian words you have not yet been taught.

You may certainly use a dictionary, including an internet-based dictionary (we've suggested links for that), but only to be reminded of words that are already in your vocabulary.

Why are we doing this? To make sure you use the words and phrases we are trying to teach you. The internet-based dictionaries are *not* appropriate for you to be using at this stage in your study of Russian. (Indeed, they are useful only at a much, much higher stage.)

## **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>