

The University of Texas at Austin  
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies  
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic>

## RUSSIAN THROUGH WRITING

Instructor: Evgenia Wilkins, Ph.D.  
Class Meetings: MTWTHF 11:30 -1 pm  
Email: [evimikha@utexas.edu](mailto:evimikha@utexas.edu)  
Office hours: T, Thu 1 pm to 2 pm and/or by appointment

### TEXTBOOK

*Живём и учимся в России. Учебное пособие по русскому языку для иностранных учащихся (Iуровень)*

*Живём и учимся в России. Рабочая тетрадь по грамматике*

*Audio Supplement (will be available in the next few days)*

WHERE TO FIND: CANVAS -> FILES -> Учебники

### OPTIONAL MATERIALS

- Russian/English Dictionary, such as Katzner, or Oxford
- Gerhart, G., *The Russian's World*(1994)
- Garza, T., *Fundamentals of Russian Verbal Conjugation for Teachers and Students*(1993)

Some recommended online sources to be used in the course are

- [Yandex Translate](#) – Russian Analogue of Google Translate
- [Academica](#) - Translations with examples
- [Multitran - An online Dictionary](#) - An online dictionary
- [Phonetic Keyboard](#) - You MUST be able to type in Russian for this class. A phonetic keyboard is recommended.
  - [Phonetic Keyboard for Mac](#)
  - [Phonetic Keyboard for Windows](#)
- [Викисловарь](#) - A great reference site for grammatical and prosodic (sound) information about Russian words.

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Добро пожаловать! В этом семестре мы будем много читать, писать, слушать и говорить по-русски и изучать русскую культуру! Welcome to third-year on-line Russian! This course is designed to take students from the intermediate to the advanced level of proficiency in Russian language with focus on writing. While developing all four skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking), the students will tackle real-life tasks and significantly increase their cultural expertise. Students will work with authentic, current textual, video, and audio materials to develop their ability to understand and produce complex written discourse on a variety of topics, including education, family, health, and many others. Significant amount of time will be spent refining and deepening understanding of relevant grammar topics and expanding the vocabulary.

**In order to achieve our proficiency goals**, you are expected to work with the material on a daily basis. Because language study is cumulative, you have to practice every day, taking care to complete all daily assignments and activities and to learn the accompanying vocabulary.

In this course we will cover 5 topics. We will spend one weeks per topic marking the completion of each with an essay. There will not be a final exam in the course.

### **The course will cover the following material**

Week 1 Foreigners in Russia -Иностранцы в России

Week 2 City Living - Город и горожане

Week 3 Environment - Человек и природа

Week 4 Social Life - Общество

Week 5 Leisure - Отдых и увлечения

You will receive daily schedule for the week on Friday for the following week.

### **Types of activities**

This class follows blended learning model which implies that students complete all ‘passive’ components at home preparing to practice learned material in class. It is critical for you to come prepared as many class sessions will build on homework for the day.

### **In class we will**

Discuss, debate, state opinions about the readings, video materials and listening

Practice new vocabulary and grammar

Discuss grammar rules and examples of their functioning

Work in small groups

Complete short writing assignments

### **At home you will**

Contribute to the discussion board

Read and watch authentic materials  
Complete grammar exercises  
Learn vocabulary (quizlet)

## ONLINE DELIVERY

Classes will be recorded, and if you need to miss a class session due to an emergency you could access it through Canvas.

5 absences will result in automatic grade reduction by one letter (A to B, B to C)

When you complete your homework, I am asking you to complete it on paper, take picture of it, convert to pdf and submit it on canvas.

## Tips on Zoom Sessions

- Come to 'lab' dressed as you would for a traditional face-to-face class. If your web-cam is on, and it should be, we can see you. Dress appropriately.
- USE HEADPHONES if you are going to be in a noisy / shared environment. Be respectful of your classmates and instructor. You will be asked to leave or be removed from the meeting if your end is noisy / distracting.
- Use Gallery View (recommended) to see everyone in your group at once.
- Use the Chat function as needed.
- Send a private message to your instructors when needed.
- Ask for help when needed.
- Help your classmates when needed.
- Work together!
- Speak Russian as much as you possibly can! **DON'T EVER WORRY ABOUT MAKING MISTAKES. *IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN!***
- In breakout rooms initiate if you see that your partners are hesitant
- Maximize your use of Russian (pronounce new vocabulary along with the instructor with your mic muted; recycle the new vocabulary as much as possible)
- Refrain from chatting on unrelated subjects
- Engage as much as possible with what others are saying and provide comment

## GRADING

Regular class attendance (attendance +1 pts; participation +2 pts) and extensive preparation at home (discussion board post +10 pts; homework + 20 pts; essay + 50 pts; weekly quizlet +20 pts) are crucial to your success in this class. Language acquisition is a skill you must practice daily, like playing a musical instrument. Failure to keep up with the daily assignments will result in your falling behind very quickly. It is your responsibility to learn the vocabulary for each chapter right away. Please plan to spend two hours of preparation at home for each hour in class. Bring your textbook to class every day.

1. **5 essays (50 pts each):** At the end of each unit you produce an essay and submit it at the end of the day on Friday – **due 10 pm** on June 12, June 19, June 26, July, July 9 (Thursday). Late essays will have 20pts subtracted from the grade for each class day they are late, unless you have been absent due to verified illness, religious holy day, or university-connected activity. In that case, the missing assignment must be turned immediately upon your return to class.
2. **Participation (attendance +1 each ; participation + 4 each):** Your instructor determines this component as a reflection of your overall preparedness and performance in class; it is NOT merely an attendance grade. You are expected to a) attend class daily, b) prepare assigned material in advance for each class, and c) respond in class with reasonable accuracy and, of course, *enthusiasm* 😊
3. **Homework (20 pts each):** You are responsible for completing all homework assignments listed on Canvas. Your instructor may assign other homework in addition to that listed on the schedule. Due to the intensive nature of the summer class, NO LATE HOMEWORK assignments will be accepted, unless you have an emergency.
4. **Quizlet Completion (20 pts each):** Students have to complete 5 activities (1 each day of the week) associated with vocabulary learning on Quizlet.
5. **Discussion Board (10+10 pts each):** Students will post and respond on discussion board on each topic from the course. Russian peer tutors are going to be posting and responding to your posts. Notice, on the first week you will post three times.

Discussion board is located on Piazza. Link should be in your email. Enrollment link

[piazza.com/utexas/summer2020/rus322w/home](https://piazza.com/utexas/summer2020/rus322w/home)

First post – **O ce6e** is due on Monday, **June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Posts are due on **Wednesdays , at 9 am** // answers are due on **Thursdays, 9 pm**

**Conversation Hour (30 pts):** 9 am on Fridays. You have to attend at least 3 meetings throughout the course.

SRAS will be offering conversations “Poboltaem” with native speakers who have experience teaching Russian and English which will be tailored to the topics we cover in class.

The result of these calculations will be on a number on a scale of 0-100. This numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

			78 – 79	=	C+
98 – 100	=	A+	74 – 77	=	C
94 – 97	=	A	70 – 73	=	C-
90 – 93	=	A-	68 – 69	=	D+
88 – 89	=	B+	64 – 67	=	D
84 – 87	=	B	60 – 63	=	D-
80 – 83	=	B-	59 and below	=	F

### OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EXTRA CREDIT

Please take advantage of all the Friday Russia Conversation Hour where Slavic Club hosts speakers from all over Russia.

### HONOR CODE

The University of Texas Honor Codes reads:

“The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness and respect toward peers and community.”

Students are expected to adhere to these principles throughout the course, in dealing with the instructors, fellow students, and in completing all assignments for the course. Your instructors will do the same.

Please, make sure that you use on-line translation tools in a meaningful way. Google translate could easily hijack your learning by supplying you with too much. You are developing proficiency which means you should be able to produce language on the spot. Also, using google translate for essays breaks UT Honor Code.

Удачи!

Please, not that the syllabus is the subject to change. As the course progresses, instructor might add or remove some components.

## **APPENDIX I Level Description**

Reviewing speaker's profile description will help you set your own goals and keep track of your progress:

### **At the IH Speakers can**

- create with the language when talking about familiar topics related to their daily life
- recombine learned material in order to express personal meaning
- ask simple questions
- handle a straightforward survival situation
- produce sentence-level language, ranging from discrete sentences to strings of sentences, typically in present time
- converse with ease and confidence when dealing with the routine tasks and social situations of the Intermediate level
- handle uncomplicated tasks and social situations requiring an exchange of basic information related to their work, school, recreation, particular interests, and areas of competence.
- can narrate and describe in all major time frames using connected discourse of paragraph length, but not all the time
- be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, although

### **At the AL Speakers can**

- participate in most informal and some formal conversations on topics related to school, home, and leisure activities. –discuss employment, current events, and matters of public and community interest
- narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future in paragraph-length discourse with some control of aspect.
- combine and link sentences into connected discourse of paragraph length
- handle a complication or an unexpected turn of events linguistically
- produce a paragraph
- speech at times contains noticeable self-correction.
- use communicative strategies such as rephrasing and circumlocution
- contribute to the conversation with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey their intended message without misrepresentation or confusion
- be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may require some repetition or restatement

**APPENDIX II: FOR FLAS Recipients only**

- 1) **2 h** a week peer tutoring with SRAS (**10 hours total** = 22.5 remaining)  
Schedule with the tutor

Record your session and upload it/share the link with your instructor

- 2) Weekly SRAS conversation hour (**5 h total** = 17.5 remaining) – **Fri, 9 am** (TBA)
- 3) Bilingual Discussion Board with Russian peers (**2 h a week** = 7.5 remaining)

Each week students produce a post on a discussion board where participants ask each other questions, express opinions and share experiences in writing

- 4) Independent Reading Assignment For Class Presentations (**1.5 h a week**)

Instructor assigns students authentic texts from contemporary media for reading and subsequent **class presentation**