

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 0010: Elementary Russian I
Fall 2017 (2181)

Course Description

This course is the first half of a year-long course of study designed as a practical and thorough introduction to the Russian language. The course is designed to emphasize the development of proficiency in interpersonal communication, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive listening and reading. This will be achieved through in-class practice, daily homework assignments, vocabulary quizzes, and chapter tests focused on establishing a basic vocabulary and acquiring the ability to use the foundational grammatical structures of Russian through instructional and authentic cultural materials relevant to student interests and goals. This course will serve as the foundation for more advanced study of the language. There is no prerequisite for this course.

At the end of the academic year you should reach Novice High proficiency according to the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) guidelines. You will be able to engage in simple conversations on everyday topics, talk about yourself in some detail, and perform many of the everyday tasks that a student might need to perform in a Russian-speaking country. You will gain a basic familiarity with the cultural context that structures a Russian speaker's daily life and their language use.

Proficiency-oriented outcomes for the course include:

- **Interpersonal Communication:** I can communicate and exchange information about familiar topics using phrases and simple sentences. I can handle short social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering simple questions.
- **Presentational Speaking:** I can present basic information on familiar topics using phrases and simple sentences.
- **Presentational Writing:** I can write short messages and notes on familiar topics related to everyday life.
- **Interpretive Listening:** I can understand words, phrases, and simple sentences related to everyday life. I can recognize pieces of information and understand the main topic of what is being said.
- **Interpretive Reading:** I can understand familiar words, phrases, and sentences within short and simple texts related to everyday life. I can understand the main idea of what I have read.

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 2014

Class Section, Meeting Days and Times, Classrooms, and Instructors

17686	MTWThF	9:00–9:50 a.m.	CL 339	Chip Crane (rfc3@pitt.edu)
10821	MTWThF	10:00–10:50 a.m.	CL 135	Edie Furniss (furniss@pitt.edu)
7687	MTWThF	12:00–12:50 p.m.	CL 119	Tony Lin (tony.lin@pitt.edu)

Instructor Office Hours

Crane	CL 1234A	Mondays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. & Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Furniss	CL 1227B	Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lin	CL 1229B	Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Course Site

The course is supported by a Blackboard site, which you can access via CourseWeb (<https://courseweb.pitt.edu/>). Consult this site daily in order to access assignment descriptions and materials used during class.

Required Materials

Oliver, D., & Furniss, E. (2013). *Russian Full Circle: A First-Year Russian Textbook*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Russian Full Circle can be purchased at the University Store on Fifth or through an online vendor before classes begin. The textbook is accompanied by a freely accessible website, located at <http://russianfirstcircle.com/> which contains audio recordings of textbook vocabulary and dialogues, links to Quizlet flashcard sets for each lesson, and additional cultural material.

Recommended Materials

Katzner, K. (1994). *English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Wiley.

This dictionary is the premier bilingual dictionary of Russian based on American English. It can be purchased at the University Store on Fifth or through an online vendor.

Course Format and Methodology

This is an intensive course and requires students to come to class prepared, having completed all homework assignments listed on the course Blackboard site, and ready to engage during the class period. Class meetings will be dedicated to reviewing difficulties encountered in the homework, practicing conversation, and working with written and spoken texts. While your instructor and classmates can support your learning process, the hard and time-consuming work of memorizing new vocabulary words, mastering grammatical topics, and developing your speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills is your responsibility. **You should expect to spend two hours preparing (completing homework assignments, learning vocabulary, reviewing the textbook, studying for tests) for every one hour of class time, for a total of ten hours outside of class per week.**

Class Etiquette

While in the language class, students are expected to pay attention and not distract other students with disruptive activities. This includes newspaper reading, engaging in conversation unrelated to class, eating, using a cell phone, and other disruptive behaviors. Persistently disruptive students will be dealt with through the university disciplinary system.

In this course, you will be asked to express personal opinions and to talk/write about yourself, your family, and friends. If you prefer, you need not discuss or reveal actual 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.

When other students are speaking, be respectful and listen to them. It is not only polite, but also helpful to your language learning. If another student is speaking and they make a mistake, do not correct them. Mistakes are essential to the learning process for everyone.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Instructors will not review or re-teach material to students who were absent from class. Students absent from class will receive a zero for that day (see below for grading system). **Students who miss more than ten classes over the course of the semester will fail the course.**

Homework

Homework will consist of various combinations of reading assignments, preparation of activities and exercises, and the completion of written homework assignments, many of which include a listening component. Students are responsible for keeping track of the homework assignments, which will be listed on the course Blackboard site. Homework will be checked for completion, not accuracy, so students should plan to either discuss problematic exercises with their classmates or with their instructor during class. **Late homework will not be accepted**, and incomplete homework or homework clearly done haphazardly will receive a grade of zero.

Vocabulary Quizzes

One of the most challenging aspects of learning a language is acquiring the vast amount of vocabulary needed to function conversationally and to comprehend even simple texts. Research shows that consistent, daily vocabulary practice is the best method for learning new words. **You should plan to devote 15-30 minutes each day to work with vocabulary flashcards or another method of your choice.** During the first few days of class, time will be devoted to discussing the most effective methods for learning vocabulary. In order to ensure that students are actively learning new words, weekly vocabulary quizzes will be given. **Students who are absent on days when vocabulary quizzes are given cannot make them up at another time.**

Chapter Tests

At the end of each lesson, students will complete a test that assesses their knowledge of the vocabulary and grammatical structures contained in that lesson, as well as their ability to interpret meaning in written texts and audio clips, to have a conversation in Russian, and to write and present on lesson topics. Students will receive detailed instructions that describe the expectations for each section of the test as well as a rubric stating how each component will be assessed.

The vocabulary, grammar, and interpretive listening and reading portions of the test will be administered during the 50-minute class period as indicated on the test and examination schedule below. The other sections – conversation, presentation, and writing – will be recorded/produced digitally and submitted to the instructor via CourseWeb by 11:59 p.m. the evening of the test. **Chapter tests must be taken at the**

scheduled time, and exceptions will be made only in the case of a medical or family emergency. In those cases, written documentation of the circumstances must be submitted promptly to the instructor.

Final Exam

The format of the final exam will be identical to the chapter tests, except that all portions – vocabulary, grammar, interpretive listening and reading, conversation, presentation, and writing – will be administered during the final exam period, listed below on the test and examination schedule.

Grading and Evaluation

Students will be assigned a single grade at the end of the course, consisting of the following elements:

Participation	25%
Homework	25%
Quizzes	20%
Chapter Tests (5)	30%

Participation is based on your preparation for class and your effort during in-class activities. Homework will receive a grade or credit/no credit depending on the nature of the assignment.

Test and Examination Schedule

Friday, September 15, 2017	Lesson 1 Test
Friday, October 6, 2017	Lesson 2 Test
Friday, October 27, 2017	Lesson 3 Test
Monday, November 20, 2017	Lesson 4 Test
Thursday, December 14, 2017	Final Exam 10:00 a.m.–11:50 a.m. (Lesson 5 Test)

Academic Integrity Statement

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, from the February 1974 Senate Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom reported to the Senate Council, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz or exam will be imposed.

Disability Resource Statement

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-624-3346 (Fax), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, visit www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drsabout.

Email Communication Statement

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished.