

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
RUSS 0040-1030: Intermediate Russian

The following course overview serves as a **contract** between the student and the instructor teaching this course. Please read the entire text carefully and let the instructor know if you have any questions about it **as soon as possible**.

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| <p>Spring 2018 Instructor: Dr. Olga Klimova Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am-12:00pm and Sunday 1-2 pm through Skype/GoToMeeting or by appointment e-mail: vok1@pitt.edu Skype: olgaklim5</p> | <p>Class meetings: MTWThF Room: 349 Cathedral of Learning Time: 12-12:50am Office telephone: ext. 49958 Office: 1235 Cathedral of Learning GoToMeeting: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/804833037</p> |
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This proficiency-based and project-based course is designed to further broaden the students' knowledge of Russian language and culture. It is for intermediate level students who want to improve their ability to communicate in Russian in a variety of real-life situations and to understand and appreciate Russian culture with the focus on vocabulary, pronunciation, and language fluency as well as on the grammatical accuracy of Russian. The aim of the course is to present students with opportunities to perform in a range of authentic contexts by integrating all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in a variety of modes (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) while encouraging more precise, fluent, and coherent language use.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will:

1. Acquire productive language skills of writing and speaking in Russian at Intermediate Mid--Intermediate High level, according to the ACTFL guidelines.
2. Gain the ability to hold conversations in Russian on such topics as student life, health, travel, city, food, hobbies, nature and weather, etc.
3. Develop comprehension of spoken Russian presented with native speaker speed.
4. Expand comprehension skill necessary to understand authentic written materials of intermediate and advanced level.
5. Enhance vocabulary and a knowledge of grammar and syntax, lexis, register and style, as well as language awareness.
6. Advanced skills of individual research and work with authentic Russian sources and materials.
7. Acquire skills of constructive participation in group discussions, debates, and projects.
8. Proficiency in using computer-assisted and Web-based tools to create digital language and culture projects.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All textbooks and workbooks can be bought at the university bookstore. If you decide to buy your course materials from other vendors, it is YOUR responsibility to get access to the first pages from the textbook and workbook before your materials arrive in the mail.

Kagan, Olga, Frank Miller and Ganna Kudyma. *V Puti: Russian Grammar in Context*. Second Edition. NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.

Kagan, Olga, Frank Miller and Ganna Kudyma. *Student Activities Manual. V Puti: Russian Grammar in Context*. Second Edition. NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.

Video and interactive exercises: <http://www.russian.ucla.edu/vputi/>

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Gasperetti, David. *A Reference Grammar for V puti: Russian Grammar in Context*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2005.

Cruise, Edwina. *English Grammar for Students of Russian*. Ann Arbor: Olivia and Hill, 1987.

Any good quality Russian-English/English-Russian Dictionary (e.g., Katzner, Larousse, Harper Collins, Oxford, Webster).

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

Flash-cards for the textbook: *V puti* <http://quizlet.com/subject/v-puti/>

The Pushkin Institute's apps for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/dev?id=8199829179519428228>

The Pushkin Institute's apps for iPhone/iPad:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/developer/psrli/id921487542>

Russian films on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/mosfilm>,

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LenfilmVideo>

Russian TV and radio channels: <http://www.webtelek.com/>

Online dictionaries: <http://slovari.yandex.ru/>, <http://multitran.ru>

COURSE METHODOLOGY:

This course will be structured in a lecture/recitation format and will meet 5 days a week for 50 minutes. All instructions in the course will be conducted predominantly in Russian (90%) and students must express their questions/responses in Russian as well. I might spend not more than 10% of our class time explaining some challenging grammar points in English if necessary.

In this class, you will be drilled on what you have learned from Russian grammar, create dialogues with fellow students, will listen to audio recordings, will watch video clips, and will comment on reading, writing, and grammar assignments you will have completed at home. You will also create a number of digital projects that you will include in your digital portfolio. You will also be regularly recording and posting your own podcasts with monologues and dialogues as a part of your digital portfolio. I will be listening to them and leaving written or audio comments on your grammar, vocabulary use, pronunciation, and intonations.

Students are required 1) to complete all assignments scheduled for each class meeting, 2) to be prepared to practice new lexical and grammatical points in class; 3) to participate actively on a regular basis; 4) to take all tests; 5) to post audio podcasts; 6) to prepare individual and group projects and organize them into a digital portfolio with self-reflections; 7) to take quizzes; 8) to take exams. By the end of the semester, you should post links and/or projects to all your audio podcasts and digital projects to your digital portfolio (as a webpage or a website).

Students experiencing problems in the course are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with me. I will be more than happy to discuss any aspect of the class with you including language learning strategies, study habits, where to seek additional opportunities to practice your Russian or Russian culture in general.

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH:

This class is a communicative language class. We will spend much of our time talking in Russian, either in small groups/pairs or as an entire class. Because the majority of our in-class activities and discussions will be conducted in Russian, it is imperative that students read the assigned pages from the textbook, study the assigned grammar sections, do the corresponding grammar exercises in the textbook/workbook, and prepare for oral discussions on previously assigned topics **before coming to class**. Class sessions are reserved for communicative language use. In other words, we will discuss and practice in Russian the material that you **have studied at home**.

If there is something you do not understand, please let me know immediately. Also, please do not be afraid of making mistakes in class—we all learn during the process, and fluency and accuracy come from a regular practice.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

If you have any questions or feel that you are falling behind in this course, please, contact me as soon as possible, so I can provide you with some guidance and help. I will be able to respond to you email within 24-48 hours, and 48-72 hours over the weekend.

I am also available during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am-12:00pm at Cathedral of Learning. I also have an “online office” through GoToMeeting on Sunday at 1-2 pm. The online office hour can be especially helpful while you are preparing for our tests on Mondays. You need to follow this link in order to get into the online room: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/804833037>. You might need to download the launcher, when you use this program for the first time. If you cannot attend my scheduled online office hour, please, email me in advance and we can schedule a meeting through GoToMeeting on a different day.

We have a Courseweb page, on which I will be posting important announcements, grading rubrics, and instructions for projects and podcasts, additional resources, links to video tutorials and grammar exercises and explanations, and other instructional and administrative materials. Your detailed gradebook is also located on Courseweb. Make sure to check it regularly.

EVALUATION AND GRADES:

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| Daily Classroom Participation: | 140 |
| 6 Written Tests (15 each): | 90 |
| 6 Oral Tests (15 each): | 90 |
| Homework: | 100 |
| Quizzes: | 20 |
| 6 Podcasts (5 each): | 30 |
| 6 Projects (10 each): | 60 |
| Digital portfolio: | 70 (60—portfolio, 10—peer-review/self-review) |
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| TOTAL: | 600 =100% |

The following grading standards will be used in assigning grades in this course:

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| 93-100 | A | 80-82 | B- | 68-69 | D+ |
| 90-92 | A- | 78-79 | C+ | 65-67 | D |
| 88-89 | B+ | 73-77 | C | 64-54 | E |
| 83-87 | B | 70-72 | C- | 53 and below | F |

EXPLANATION OF EVALUATION CRITERIA

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

This component of class performance takes into account a number of variables including, but not limited to:

- your preparation to class on a **daily basis**;
- your alertness and involvement in all activities throughout the entire class session;
- your use of Russian in the classroom;
- your willingness to participate in discussions and share your ideas and thoughts with others, when asked to do so;
- your cooperation in individual, pair, and group activities;
- your willingness to ask for clarification, whenever you are confused or in doubt;
- your respect and attitude towards the class and your peers;
- your attendance and arriving at class on time.

The idea of the course is to focus on developing communicative skills. Speaking activities will include various types of communicative competence exercises: self directed, group and guided interviews, questioning and guessing games, “opinion polls,” discussions and disputes, role plays, and many more.

Class participation will be evaluated each class on the scale from 0 to 5. Classroom participation grade reflect attendance, participation, and creativity.

“5” is given if you are well prepared, have completed all assignments, and constantly participate, often, on your own initiative;

“4” is given if you are prepared for the class, have completed the majority of assignments, and regularly participate, but only sometimes on your own initiative;

“3” is given if you are not well prepared and participate randomly, only when the instructor calls on you.

“2” is given for a partial preparation, but for failure to participate.

“1” is given for a complete failure to prepare and participate, but simply for sitting in the class.

“0” is given for missing a class.

Students will receive daily grades for each meeting of the course that will be combined into a weekly attendance and participation grade and recorded in Blackboard. At some point of the semester, I might offer some make-up activities/projects to complete if you need to get points for missed classes. At the end of the semester, I will drop **TWO lowest participation/attendance grades** (including the missed classes during an add-drop period).

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES:

This class meets 5 times a week for 50 minutes. Students are expected to attend all classes and be on time. Students will receive daily grades for each meeting of the course. Attendance will be recorded each class.

Failure to come to class will result in a **ZERO** for that day. Missing class jeopardizes your participation records and puts you in danger of missing tests and important language explanation and practice. Any student who misses more than 10 classes (2 weeks of classes) will have his/her final grade lowered by one letter grade (e.g., from A to B+). Any student who misses more than 15 classes (3 weeks of classes) will have his/her final grade lowered to a full letter grade (e.g., A to B).

Please, be aware that 20 missed classes (four weeks of classes, excused and/or unexcused) automatically translate into an F for the course, regardless of the student's prior standing. Please, note: repetitive lateness for class or using electronic devices in class unless is required by the assignment will result in lowered grade.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates what important information was announced or passed out during the session you missed (this includes audio or visual material presented in class). Therefore, you should exchange e-mail addresses or phone numbers with another student in the class or contact me through e-mail or arrange a meeting at their offices to review material.

Student athletes must provide a schedule of sporting events that will necessitate absence from class from their coach as early in the term as possible and definitely before these events take place if they are to be excused.

HOMEWORK:

All homework assignments should be completed as indicated in weekly class schedules. Be prepare to spend at least 1.5-3 hours on your homework. Complete all the assignments **by the next class day**. Each assignment has been designed to prepare you for the vocabulary and grammar activities planned for the next class. Class time will be spent clarifying grammar points and providing language reinforcement through class activities and exercises.

Students must prepare at home thoroughly for every class. The students will cover most of the new vocabulary and grammar structures at home. It is absolutely crucial that students understand that homework is not so much designed to practice what has been learned in class that day, but to teach students what they must know in order to participate in class the following day.

Any written homework must be submitted **at the beginning of the class** and will be evaluated for one daily homework grade. There will be some homework assignments, which will have to be submitted by students on-line, on the web site, or e-mailed to the instructor. Some of the assignments will be through specific websites and social media. Students should complete and submit homework assignments **by 10 am of the workday** for podcasts and digital projects and **by the beginning of the class** for written homework. If you encounter any technological problems with these websites, immediately send me an email or a message over Skype. Please, revise the grammar and all the previous material before doing written exercises. If you submit less than one half of the home assignments, your final grade in the course will be lowered by one full letter grade (from B to C).

Before submitting your homework, staple the pages together. Write your name and the date submitted in the upper right-hand corner. Unstapled work will not be accepted. No late homework will be accepted unless prior arrangements due to extenuating, and documented circumstances have been made. Some of the homework assignment will be submitted online, on social media websites, through emails, or other digital platforms. Make sure to follow the directions in your weekly syllabi for this kind of assignments.

Your homework will be graded in the following manner:

“5” (excellent) – well done, even if you have several mistakes but it is obvious for me that you have studied the language material before writing and were fully prepared for class activities.

“4” good, you have a significant number of mistakes, but it is clear that you have studied the material and have some problems with it. If you have 4 or 4- and do not understand the material after we have studied in the class, please, get an appointment with me and revise this material together with me.

“3” there are a lot of mistakes and corrections and it is clear that you have studied enough at home or paid enough attention in class. If you have 3 and below, you have to

- 1) study all the material again, then
- 2) ask other students from your group to help you with it
- 3) and then revise the material together with me during a scheduled meeting.

“0” the homework is not completed or not submitted on time.

PROJECTS (AS A PART OF THE DIGITAL PORTFOLIO):

Throughout the semester, all students will have to prepare individual and group projects. You will be using PowerPoint, Prezi, iMovie, website design tools, Pinterest, Twitter, and other Web-based tools. The language of all projects is Russian. You may have to submit the first draft of the text for my corrections before the final project is due. I will distribute more detailed instructions, dates, and grading rubrics for each project later in the semester.

PODCASTS (AS A PART OF THE DIGITAL PORTFOLIO):

You will be creating and posting podcasts at <http://www.podomatic.com>. You will be recording monologues or dialogues with your peers on the current topic and posting them on the website. Your podcasts will give me a chance to listen to your speech and provide you with a necessary feedback for improvements and prepare you for your oral examination. I will distribute the detailed instructions and grading rubrics in the first weeks of classes.

QUIZZES:

Short quizzes, both announced and unannounced, in-class or as a homework assignment, will be administered throughout the semester at the instructor’s discretion. There will be no quiz make-ups.

WRITTEN TESTS:

There will be six written tests, which will be administered approximately after we cover one unit. Each test will be about 50 minutes long. These tests will assess a variety of skills and factual material covered in each of the six units of the textbook that we are to cover. The format of all tests will be the same and be discussed in detail later in the course. There will be **no test make-ups** without written documentation of your absence and without notifying me in advance.

ORAL TESTS:

Six oral tests will be conducted during 15 weeks of instruction, and each will cover the materials from each unit. The nature of the test may be either a one-on-one interview with the instructor or in pair with another student. On some occasions, we might have to schedule the oral test outside the classroom. Each meeting will last between 3 and 7 minutes. The format of the test will be very similar to the format of communicative activities in which we will engage during the entire course of study and, therefore, will be familiar to students. Students’ active involvement in these activities is essential, as they will provide plenty of practice for both oral exams. I will post grading rubrics for the oral tests on our Courseweb page.

EXTRA-CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:

Throughout the semester, there will be various extra-curricular activities at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (Maslenitsa celebration, Olympiada of Spoken Russian, film screenings, etc.). If you need/would like to earn extra points on your participation in this class, you might be able to do it by attending these events. I will notify you about upcoming events in advance.

DISABILITY POLICY:

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she must notify the instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Service as early as possible in the semester. The student may be asked to provide documentation of the disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify, call to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 140 William Pitt Union, phone: Phone: 412-648-7890, video Phone: 412-228-5374.

PLAGIARISM:

As “Student Obligations and Adjudication” (University Policy 02-03-03) states, “students have an obligation to exhibit honesty, and to respect the ethical standard of his (their) chosen profession in carrying out (their) academic assignments”. According to the University of Pittsburgh’s policy, a student “violates this obligation” if he/she: “a) presents as one’s own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or works of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources; b) submits the work of another person in a manner which represents the work to be one’s own; c) knowingly permits one’s work to be submitted by another person without the instructor’s authorization”.

The penalties for academic misconduct like plagiarism can be very severe. The immediate consequence of plagiarism will be receiving a grade zero for the particular assignment and can lead to an F for the course. For the references, please, check and The Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Science’s Academic Integrity Code at <https://as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code> and the Guidelines on Academic Integrity at https://provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic_integrity_guidelines.pdf.

CELL PHONE AND LAPTOP POLICY

All cellular telephones must be switched off before coming to class. The use of all mobile devices during Russian class is prohibited, unless it is a requirement for our in-class learning activities. If you need to make or accept an urgent phone call, you should do it outside the classroom. There should be absolutely no text messaging during the class period.

The use of laptops is prohibited during our classes. You are allowed to use your laptops only if they are required for our in-class learning activities.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Every week you will be provided with a more detailed syllabus with in-class and homework assignments. I reserve rights to make changes in course schedule throughout the term.

| Date | Topic |
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| WEEK 1 | Введение. Требования курса. Программа курса. |
| Monday, January 8 | |
| Tuesday, January 9 | Глава 7: Русская культура. |
| Wednesday, January 10 | Глава 7: Русская культура. |
| Thursday, January 11 | Глава 7: Русская культура. Подкаст #1. |
| Friday, January 12 | Глава 7: Русская культура. |
| WEEK 2 | День рождения Мартина Лютера Кинга. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ! |
| Monday, January 15 | |
| Tuesday, January 16 | Глава 7: Русская культура. |
| Wednesday, January 17 | Глава 7: Русская культура. |
| Thursday, January 18 | Глава 7: Русская культура. |
| Friday, January 19 | Глава 7: Русская культура. |
| WEEK 3 | Глава 7: Русская культура. Проект #1. |
| Monday, January 22 | |
| Tuesday, January 23 | Глава 7: Русская культура. Подготовка к контрольной. Устный тест. |
| Wednesday, January 24 | Контрольная работа № 1. |
| Thursday, January 25 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| Friday, January 26 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| WEEK 4 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| Monday, January 29 | |
| Tuesday, January 30 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| Wednesday, January 31 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| Thursday, February 1 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. Подкаст #2. |
| Friday, February 2 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| WEEK 5 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. Проект #2. |
| Monday, February 5 | |
| Tuesday, February 6 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| Wednesday, February 7 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| Thursday, February 8 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| Friday, February 9 | Глава 8: Вокруг света. |
| WEEK 6 | Контрольная работа № 2. |
| Monday, February 12 | |
| Tuesday, February 13 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| Wednesday, February 14 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| Thursday, February 15 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. Подкаст #3. |
| Friday, February 16 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| WEEK 7 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| Monday, February 19 | |
| Tuesday, February 20 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| Wednesday, February 21 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |

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| Thursday, February 22 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| Friday, February 23 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| WEEK 8 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. Проект #3. |
| Monday, February 26 | |
| Tuesday, February 27 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| Wednesday, February 28 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. |
| Thursday, March 1 | Глава 9: Городская жизнь. Подготовка к контрольной. Устный тест. |
| Friday, March 2 | Контрольная работа № 3. |
| WEEK 9 | ВЕСЕННИЕ КАНИКУЛЫ. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ! |
| Monday, March 4 | |
| Tuesday, March 5 | ВЕСЕННИЕ КАНИКУЛЫ. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ! |
| Wednesday, March 6 | ВЕСЕННИЕ КАНИКУЛЫ. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ! |
| Thursday, March 7 | ВЕСЕННИЕ КАНИКУЛЫ. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ! |
| Friday, March 8 | ВЕСЕННИЕ КАНИКУЛЫ. НЕТ ЗАНЯТИЙ! |
| WEEK 10 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. |
| Monday, March 11 | |
| Tuesday, March 12 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. |
| Wednesday, March 13 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. |
| Thursday, March 14 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. Подкаст #4. |
| Friday, March 15 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. |
| WEEK 11 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. Проект #4. |
| Monday, March 18 | |
| Tuesday, March 19 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. |
| Wednesday, March 20 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. |
| Thursday, March 21 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. |
| Friday, March 22 | Глава 10: Природа и мы. Подготовка к контрольной. Устный тест. |
| WEEK 12 | Контрольная работа № 4. |
| Monday, March 25 | |
| Tuesday, March 26 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! |
| Wednesday, March 27 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! |
| Thursday, March 28 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! Подкаст #5. |
| Friday, March 29 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! |
| WEEK 13 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! Проект #5. |
| Monday, April 2 | |
| Tuesday, April 3 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! |
| Wednesday, April 4 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! |
| Thursday, April 5 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! |
| Friday, April 6 | Глава 11: Приятного аппетита! |
| WEEK 14 | Контрольная работа № 5. |
| Monday, April 9 | |
| Tuesday, April 10 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? |
| Wednesday, April 11 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? |
| Thursday, April 12 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? Подкаст #6. |
| Friday, April 13 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? |
| WEEK 15 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? Проект #6. |

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| Monday, April 15 | |
| Tuesday, April 16 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? |
| Wednesday, April 17 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? |
| Thursday, April 18 | Глава 12: Чем мы увлекаемся? Подготовка к контрольной. Устный тест. |
| Friday, April 19 | Контрольная работа № 5. |
| WEEK 16 | ЭЗАМЕНАЦИОННАЯ НЕДЕЛЯ. Цифровое портфолио! |
| Monday, April 22 – Friday, April 26 | |