

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 0010: Elementary Russian I
Fall 2013 (2141)

Introduction

This course is the first half of a year-long introduction to the Russian language. The course has two main goals. The first goal is to give you, in the course of one year, a solid and thorough introduction to the structure of the Russian language. This knowledge will be the foundation for intermediate and advanced study. The second goal, no less important than the first, is to help you gain as high a level of proficiency in spoken and written Russian as is possible in the course of one year. At the end of the academic year you should be able to engage in simple conversations on everyday topics, talk about yourself in some detail, perform many of the everyday tasks that a student might need to perform in Russia. You will gain a basic familiarity with the cultural context that structures a Russian person's daily life and his/her language use.

Class Schedule, Classrooms, and Instructors

MTWThF 10:00–10:50	CL 249	Gerald McCausland
MTWThF 11:00–11:50	CL 208A	Kathleen Manukyan
MTWThF 12:00–12:50	CL 249	Ellina Sattarova

Instructor Office Hours

Manukyan	CL 1417	
McCausland	CL 1401C	Mon 11:00–12:00; Wed 2:00–4:00
Sattarova	CL 1417	Tues 2:00–3:00; Thurs 1:00–2:00

Required Materials

Antonova, V., et al. *Road to Russia: Russian Language Textbook for Beginners North American Edition*. ed. Vassily Bessonoff. Kensington, MD: Russia Online, 2013.

Recommended Materials

Cruise, Edwina. *English Grammar for Students of Russian*. Second edition. Ann Arbor: Olivia and Hill Press, 1993.

Road to Russia is an American version of one of the most successful and respected textbooks of Russian in the Russian Federation. It is accompanied by an audio program, a written workbook, and a collection of conversation activities authored partly in Moscow and partly by Slavic Department staff in Pittsburgh. These accompanying materials will be made available through electronic downloads.

Course Format and Methodology

The course presumes active learning on the part of all students. It is not the instructor's job to teach the material to you. The instructor's role is to provide you with extensive opportunities to practice in class what you have learned during your homework preparation. While instructors are available both during class and in office hours to provide help with difficult material, instructors will not teach material in class that was expected to be learned at home.

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. Activities and exercises should be reviewed outside of class, all new vocabulary should be learned, and students should be prepared to engage in these activities in class *with the textbooks closed!*

The purpose of all classroom activities is to give the students practice speaking Russian. Therefore, *Russian is the only language to be used by both student and instructor during a normal class meeting.* A no-English rule will be strictly enforced. You will only learn Russian by speaking it and your full active participation in every recitation session is required. It is your responsibility to thoroughly learn the assigned material as you will not be able to ask for instructions or clarifications in English.

The instructor may from time to time, especially in the early weeks of the semester, switch to English and the end of class in order to explain that evening's homework assignment. In these cases, students may also ask for clarification in English. However, this will happen irregularly and, by the middle of the semester, very rarely. Students should never assume that they will be able to speak English before the end of class.

Requirements

1. Participation in all aspects of the course is mandatory. This course is designed to develop all language skills and cannot cater to students who wish to learn only the written language.
2. 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.**
3. Students should come to class fully prepared. Written homework will be assigned for practically every class meeting and must be turned in on the day it is due. Late homework will not be accepted. Instructors will return homework promptly.
4. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced and given at any time. No quiz may be made up for any reason.

5. Written tests administered during class are announced in advance and must be taken at the scheduled time. Oral tests may be scheduled during class or by appointment outside of regular class time. If a student misses a major test or exam due to his/her being seriously ill or due to a death in the family, the instructor must be informed no later than the day of the test and **the circumstances must be documented** in order to have the zero removed from the record.
6. Do not plan to leave campus for recess until after 12:00 noon on December 10. No exam is ever rescheduled to accommodate travel plans.

Grading and Evaluation

The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Daily class grade: 30%
 Tests (4 written and 2 oral) and quizzes: 40%
 Final Exam (including oral component): 15%
 Written homework: 15%

You will receive a daily grade for your performance in class. This will not be based on your fluency in Russian, which is a subjective thing, but rather on your preparation for the lesson and your active, best-effort participation in exercises and communicative activities. Written homework assignments will receive a grade or credit/no credit depending on the nature of the assignment.

There will be four written in-class tests, two graded oral tests, and a final exam, which will include an oral component. The four written tests and the two graded oral tests will carry equal weight in computation of the course grade (see above).

Students who miss no more than two classes during the course of the semester will have their lowest score on one of the six tests (oral or written) dropped.

Test and Examination Schedule

Friday, 13 September 2013	Written Test 1
Friday, 4 October 2013	Written Test 2
Wed–Fri, 9–11 October 2013	Oral Test 1 (details to be announced on 30 Sept)
Friday, 25 October 2013	Written Test 3
Friday, 15 November 2013	Written Test 4
Wed–Fri, 20–22 November 2013	Oral Test 2 (details to be announced on 11 Nov)
Tuesday, 10 December 2013	Final Examination (10:00am–11:50am)

Academic Integrity

By remaining enrolled in the course, you not only agree to abide by the stipulations of this course overview, but also understand that we will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the *Handbook on Integrity* regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and observe them. Any infraction will be penalized accordingly.

Disability

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Classroom Recording

Students may not use any electronic recording devices in the classroom without written verification from DRS that such recording is a necessary accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Miscellaneous notes

A solid knowledge of English grammar will help you in this course. If you do not know English grammar well, you are likely to encounter problems at some point in the course. Please seek out your instructor after class or during office hours if this is a problem.

Do not hesitate to seek out any of the course instructors should you find yourself in need of extra help.

Students who wish to engage the help of a private tutor are advised to consult with Christine Metil in the Slavic Department main office. She maintains a list of Russian majors and native speakers who offer this service. Payment is negotiated directly between the tutor and the student.