

Russian 02: First Year Russian – 2

Spring 2011

Course Policies

Section 01: MTWTHF 09-09:50, Life Sciences Building 428

Section 02: MTWTHF 10-10:50, Life Sciences Building 428

Lecturer Evgeny Dengub
208 Webster, 413-542-2350
edengub@amherst.edu

M 11:00 – 12:30

W 11:00:11:30 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant Elizaveta Reutova
lizareutova@gmail.com

Welcome back to Russian! This course is the continuation of your introduction to the language and culture of one of the most influential and important regions of the world. Russian is spoken by more than 200 million people in the former Soviet Union, and an additional 150 million throughout the world. This course is the second semester of Russian language instruction developing functional proficiency in listening, speaking, and reading. Writing will be developed primarily through workbook home assignments. We will cover Unit Seven through Unit Thirteen in the textbook (Vol. 2), spending about two weeks on each unit.

WHAT'S NEW THIS SEMESTER:

- Blogging assignments. You will practice your writing and reading in Russian AND typing in Cyrillic skills. Make sure to russify your computer and start learning how to type. If you need help with this read here <http://www.aatseel.org/resources/fonts/> or go the IT department. The first assignment will be due February 7.
- Our course site will be on www.amherst.edu. Click "log in" on the AC main webpage and find the course website then. We will NOT be using Blackboard at all.
- Weekly self-assessments. You will be doing regular online self-assessment evaluations. The goal is for you to reflect on your own performance and help you think what can you do to improve it.
- More reading and listening. We'll have more required and optional reading and listening assignments. My hope is that you will go and find texts that you will share with your classmates through our blog and website.
- Penalties for being late. In this semester each FOUR instances when you are 7 or more minutes late will count as one absence. This semester you are allowed four unexcused absences. Please be on time!
- Extra-credit assignments at the end of the semester may bring you maximum 6% to your final grade.

CLASS MEETINGS:

Bring your textbook to class every day. You may leave the workbook in your room, but remember to tear out your completed homework and bring it with you to hand in.

TEXTBOOK:

Live From Russia! Volume 2 is available from Heather Mabry in the department office, 204 Webster (hmabry@amherst.edu, 542-2350) Cost for the entire packet (text, workbook, audio CD-rom and video DVD) – \$90 – may be charged by Amherst students to their account. Five-College student may pay in cash or by check made out to Amherst College.

Other recommended texts and resources:

- Garza, Thomas. *Fundamentals of Russian Verbal Conjugation for Teachers and Students*, (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt and ACTR Publications), 1993.
- Katzner, Kenneth, ed. *English Russian/Russian English Dictionary*, (New York: Wiley Publishers, 1994).
- Lingvo Electronic Russian-English-Russian Dictionary <http://lingvo.abbyyonline.com/en>
- Russian National Corpus <http://ruscorpora.ru/search-murco.html> . You can enter basically any word or word combination and the Corpus will find several video clips in which this word was used. The transcript of the clip will appear on the left.

HOMEWORK:

First, carefully **read** in the Textbook the sections of grammar analysis indicated on the syllabus, which summarize the material introduced in class that day.

Then, in the Workbook, **write** the exercises for the day just covered (i.e. Day 1 homework the night after Day 1). **Check the schedule carefully, since occasional exercises will be omitted.** Hand in the completed homework the next day in class. If you had a problem with something on the homework, ask at the beginning of class; there's a very good chance other students will have encountered the same problem. Warmup exercises are to be done before Day 1 of each Unit. **NOTE:** Cut or tear out the workbook pages carefully. Some students find it easier to remove the workbook cover. **Please, staple the pages together.**

The **listening** assignments are found on your CD-rom. The listening questions appear at the beginning of the appropriate Day of your workbook. **These assignments are very important** in helping you get accustomed to hearing and pronouncing the sounds of Russian. Note that a few of the listening assignments have answer keys at the back of the workbook. If you lost your CD or it's broken you can find the recordings on-line at the textbook website (www.livefromrussia.org)

You can also watch the video episodes online if your DVD is not working. All the video is available under "[Course Media Resources](#)" on the AC Russian department website.

TESTS:

There will be short in-class **vocabulary quizzes**, and longer **grammar tests** at the end of each unit. There will be an in-class **final written and oral exams**.

GRADES:

The course grade will be determined according to the following formula:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Class Participation and attendance | 20% |
| Homework | 20% |
| Quizzes, special assignments etc. | 20% |
| Unit tests and oral examinations | 20% |
| Final examination | 20% |

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 97% and higher = A + | 80.0% - 82.99% = B- |
| 93% – 96.99% = A | 77.0% - 79.99% = C+ |
| 90.0 – 92.99% = A- | 73.0% - 76.99% = C |
| 87.0% - 89.99% = B+ | 70.0% - 72.99% = C- |
| 83.0% - 86.99% = B | 60.0% - 69.99% = D |
| | 59.9% and lower = F |

PARTICIPATION:

If you must miss class because of illness, family emergency, out-of-town job interview, or other unavoidable conflict, you are expected to contact your instructor by e-mail or phone **before** class. Things happen, so I **will eliminate the lowest 4 grades for class participation** (can be absences) in the grading process. However, I will not excuse any additional absences even if you were sick, had a job interview or a family emergency. Each absence beyond the first 4 will result in lowering your final grade for 1%. Absence due to illness still means that you are not participating in class. This course is a performance class; even if you are ill, when you are absent, you are not participating in class activities and will receive 0 for your class participation grade that day. (Use your four "free" absences for illness!) If you are sick, you can still get your homework points by turning in your homework.

Please, no food (beverages only) and no cell phone use during the class!

HOMEWORK:

We will grade **homework exercises** according to the following scale:

| | |
|----------|--|
| 5 points | Submitted on time and completed with good effort, at least 80% correct |
| 4 points | Submitted on time, less than 80% correct, more than 50% correct |
| 3 points | Submitted on time, but less than 50% correct |
| 0 points | Not submitted |

Homework is due at the beginning of each class. The lowest 3 grades for homework will be eliminated in the grading process.

LATE WORK:

Late work (homeworks, tests, quizzes) will be accepted with the following conditions:

- these works have to be done within 5 days of the day when the work was due;
- the grade for that work will be automatically 20% lower (that is, if you submitted your homework late and you got 5, your official grade will be 4).

If you have a question, comment or concern, never hesitate to contact us in person, by phone or by email.