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M, T, W, Th: 10:00 - 10:50AM DMC 208
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RUSS 120, BEGINNING RUSSIAN I
Fall 2023

Course Description

Добро пожаловать! This course is designed to teach students how to listen, read, write, and speak in Russian. Each student will begin the course with little to no knowledge of Russian and end with the ability to understand and engage in basic scenarios regarding familiar topics. In other words, each student will be able to communicate their likes and dislikes, discuss their job, studies, family, friends, and describe past, current, and future activities. In addition to learning the Russian language, Russian culture will also be integrated because one can help us understand the other.

Required Reading

*Each student should purchase the specific edition listed above so that everyone can be on the same page. Note that this textbook and workbook will be used next semester as well.

**Attendance**

Each student should actively participate in class – follow directions, speak when called upon and in paired or group work, and try to always speak Russian. In addition to actively participating in class, students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior – arrive on time, not work on other assignments for different classes, not browse the internet, and treat each other with respect and kindness. Learning a new language is difficult. Mistakes are bound to happen but fear of making mistakes should not hold students back. In this class, students will learn how to talk about themselves, their families, and their personal opinions. For many people, these can be sensitive topics. Patience, consideration, and understanding will define our class environment. Because it is challenging to speak clearly with something in one’s mouth, students are advised not to eat or chew gum in class (unless medically necessary). If a student meets these expectations, they will receive full participation for that day. If these expectations are not being met, the professor will reach out to the student individually. There are twenty-eight class periods this semester. Each student will be allowed two unexcused absences, but after that they will be docked a one-half letter grade (e.g., A to A-) for each unexcused absence. If a student misses class, they are responsible for finding out what they missed.

**Technology**

If a student is experiencing any issues with Blackboard, they should contact the professor or Information Technology Services immediately. Loaner laptops are available at Information Technology Services (https://itservices.usc.edu/spaces/laptoploaner/). Students should not use google translate as a crutch. If a student would like to use an online dictionary to look up single words, they may do so. However, they should not use online dictionaries to translate whole phrases because it impedes learning. Students should not be on their phone or computer during class, unless they are using a digital version of the textbook.

**Homework**

All assignments will be hand-written unless otherwise specified. Students should make every effort to write in Russian cursive. Students will be assigned pages from the workbook as well as other tasks created by the professor. There will be homework assignments after each class period. Students will receive feedback on all of their homework assignments. Each homework assignment is graded on a pass/fail basis. If a significant amount of mistakes have been made,
the student will receive a “fail” but will be given the opportunity to re-do the assignment (the professor will create a new one with similar exercises) in order to receive a “pass” and full credit. Ideally, students will complete that day’s assignment and turn it in to the professor at the beginning of the next class period. That way students will be better prepared for upcoming quizzes and exams. Nevertheless, each student will have until the Wednesday of the following week to turn in the two assignments (see the schedule for details).

Quizzes

There will be several quizzes on the vocabulary and or grammar principles that have recently been studied. These quizzes will typically be given at the beginning of class, will be hand-written, and should not take more than ten minutes to complete. If a student has actively participated in class and completed their homework assignments, these quizzes should not be confusing or deceiving. Nevertheless, each student will have the opportunity to make-up or re-take any quiz by scheduling an appointment with the professor within a week after its original date. If done before the deadline, made-up or re-taken quizzes will not be docked any points.

Exams

There will be a mid-term and a final exam at the end of the semester. They will be more comprehensive than the quizzes but, once again, if a student has been actively participating in class and completing their homework assignments, they should receive an excellent grade. Review materials will be provided before each exam.

*If a student needs accommodations, they should get in contact with the professor as soon as possible.

Grade Breakdown

- Participation 25%
- Homework 20%
- Quizzes 20%
- Exams 25%
- Mini presentation 10% (on topic of your choice: your family, pets, home, city, profession)
Class Schedule

**Week 1 – Introduction**

**Learning objectives:** Cyrillic alphabet, pronunciation basics, personal pronouns, introductions, omission of быть (to be).

Monday, August 21st  
Tuesday, August 22nd  
Wednesday, August 23rd  
Thursday, August 24th

**Week 2 – Глава 1: Как вас зовут?**

**Learning objectives:** formal and informal address, professions, gender of nouns and questions.

Monday, August 28th  
Tuesday, August 29th  
Wednesday, August 30th  
Thursday, August 31st  
Submit: Week 2 homework assignments

**Week 3 – Глава 2: Вы говорите по-русски?**

**Learning objectives:** talking about family and friends, difference between adjectives and adverbs.

Monday, September 4th – NO CLASS (Labor Day)  
Tuesday, September 5th Quiz 1  
Wednesday, September 6th  
Thursday, September 7th  
Submit: Week 3 homework assignments

**Week 4 – Глава 2: Вы говорите по-русски?**

**Learning objectives:** family and friends, verb conjugation, describing foreign language skills.

Monday, September 11th  
Tuesday, September 12th Quiz 2  
Wednesday, September 13th  
Thursday, September 14th  
Submit: Week 4 homework assignments
Week 5 – Глава 3: Что у вас есть?
Learning objectives: describing things and possessions, colors, verbs думать и знать, omission of есть.

Monday, September 18th
Tuesday, September 19th
Wednesday, September 20th
Thursday, September 21st
Submit: Week 5 homework assignments

Week 6 – Глава 3: Что у вас есть?
Learning objectives: Russian periodicals, dependent clauses, preview of the accusative case.

Monday, September 25th
Tuesday, September 26th Quiz 3
Wednesday, September 27th
Thursday, September 28th
Submit: Week 6 homework assignments

Week 7 – Глава 4: Где здесь почта?
Learning objectives: talking about your city, asking for directions, verbs находиться, называться и знать, demonstrative pronouns этот и тот.

Monday, October 2nd
Tuesday, October 3rd
Wednesday, October 4th
Thursday, October 5th
Submit: Week 7 homework assignments

Week 8 – Глава 4: Где здесь почта?
Learning objectives: talking about your city, asking for directions, inside an apartment, plurals.

Monday, October 9th
Tuesday, October 10th Quiz 4
Wednesday, October 11th
Submit: Week 8 homework assignments
Thursday, October 12th – NO CLASS (Fall Recess)
**Week 9 – Глава 5: Где вы живёте?**

**Learning objectives:** countries, adjectives в какой/в каком? post-Soviet/Russophone world, prepositions (в, на и о), comparative and superlative of adjectives.

- **Monday, October 16th**
- **Tuesday, October 17th**
- **Wednesday, October 18th**  Mid-term exam
- **Thursday, October 19th**

**Submit:** Week 9 homework assignments

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**Week 10 – Глава 5: Где вы живёте?**

**Learning objectives:** post-Soviet/Russophone world, time expressions and numbers, introduction to the past tense.

- **Monday, October 23rd**  Mini presentations
- **Tuesday, October 24th**  Mini presentations
- **Wednesday, October 25th**
- **Thursday, October 26th**

**Submit:** Week 10 homework assignments

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**Week 11 – Глава 6: Вы работаете или учитесь?**

**Learning objectives:** work and school, verbs работать и учиться, days of the week, prepositional case.

- **Monday, October 30th**
- **Tuesday, October 31st**  Quiz 5
- **Wednesday, November 1st**
- **Thursday, November 2nd**

**Submit:** Week 11 homework assignments

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**Week 12 – Глава 7: Что вы делаете каждый день?**

**Learning objectives:** telling time, daily activities, verbs завтракать, обедать и ужинать, time expressions, reflexive verbs, accusative case.

- **Monday, November 6th**
- **Tuesday, November 7th**  Quiz 6
- **Wednesday, November 8th**
- **Thursday, November 9th**
Submit: Week 12 homework assignments

**Week 13 – Глава 7: Что вы делаете каждый день?**
Learning objectives: directions, verbs of motion идти и ходить, activities and accusative case, frequency of action.

Monday, November 13th
**Tuesday, November 14th Quiz 7**

Wednesday, November 15th
Thursday, November 16th
Submit: Week 13 homework assignments

**Week 14 – Глава 8: Вы любите классическую музыку?**
Learning objectives: talking about music, literature and art, accusative case, the verb играть.

Monday, November 20th
**Tuesday, November 21st Quiz 8**
Submit: Week 14 homework assignments

Wednesday, November 22nd – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Thursday, November 23rd – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

**Week 15 – Review**
Learning objectives: reviewing the past chapters and catching up.

Monday, November 27th
Tuesday, November 28th
Wednesday, November 29th
Thursday, November 30th
Submit: Week 15 homework assignments

**Final Exam TBA**

*A more detailed schedule for each week of instruction (including the goals, vocabulary, grammar principles, homework assignments, and additional resources) will be posted on Blackboard. The class schedule is subject to change, but students will be informed of any changes.*
**Statements on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, [http://policy.usc.edu/scientificmisconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientificmisconduct).

**Disability and Accessibility**

I am committed to providing students with equal access to this course. Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. If you have a letter, please make sure it is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. You can find contact information for DSP here: [https://dsp.usc.edu/about-dsp/contact-location-hours/](https://dsp.usc.edu/about-dsp/contact-location-hours/). That said, if you are struggling because of a medical condition, please reach out to me, whether or not you have already contacted DSP or received approval from them. If you are struggling for other reasons, and/or reasons it is hard to put words to, please reach out as well.

**Support Systems**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling) *National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255*
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. [engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086*
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. 
quity.usc.edu Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support The Office of Disability Services and Programs
Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu
Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
Diversity at USC
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu Revised 8/20/20
USC Emergency Information
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu
USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu