

Assel Uvaliyeva (she/her)

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M, T, W, Th: 10:00 - 10:50AM DMC 208

Office hours: MW 11-11:50AM Taper Hall 255 and by appointment

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

Troika: A Communicative approach to Russian Language, Life, and Culture, second edition.

Marita Nummikoski. ISBN: 978-0-470-64632-8 (textbook)

Activities Manual: Troika: A Communicative approach to Russian Language, Life, and Culture, second edition. Marita Nummikoski. (workbook)

*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 3^d

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <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/> 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 *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

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

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

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-](https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

[response-support](https://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