

# RUSS 210-002 Elementary Russian Language 1

## General Information

Course #:	RUSS 210
Section #:	002
Term and year:	Fall 2021
Course pre-requisite(s):	None
Course co-requisite(s):	None
Course schedule:	MWF 8:35 am – 9:25am
Number of credits:	3 credits
Location	Sherbrooke 688 Room 223

## Instructor Information

Name and Title:	Kaylin Land, Ms. (she/her)
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:Kaylin.land@mcgill.ca">Kaylin.land@mcgill.ca</a>
Office hours:	Thursdays 2pm-3pm over Zoom
Communication plan:	I look forward to meeting with you during our in-person classes. Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. Student help hours (aka office hours) will be over Zoom first-come, first serve. You can also email me to set up a separate meeting time over Zoom.
Russian Program director:	Dr. Maria Ivanova, <a href="mailto:maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca">maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca</a>

## Course Overview

This is the first course in the Elementary Russian course sequence at McGill University. The sequence includes Russian 210 (this course) and Russian 211 (to be taught in winter 2022). There are no prerequisites for Russian 210. If you have had ANY previous exposure to Russian language

(for example, you have traveled in Russia, taken courses in high school, or have relatives who speak Russian) it is important for you to inform me about this experience by emailing me or emailing the program director Dr. Ivanova at [maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca](mailto:maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca) directly. We will work with you to ensure you are placed in the appropriate level of Russian so that you will get the most out of your learning experience. **Failure to disclose this information will be considered deceit in an academic evaluation proceeding and will be considered an Academic Integrity offence.** To ensure our class is made up of absolute beginners, I am asking each of you to complete the Absolute Beginners pledge in myCourses by the add/drop deadline (September 14, 2021). This pledge will be considered your word that do not have previous experience with Russian.

## Course Delivery

- Our class will meet in-person during regularly scheduled class times (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:35am to 9:25am.) This will be an adjustment for everyone after many months of online learning. We will work together to create a safe, welcoming and productive learning environment.
- COVID-19 information from McGill can be found at <https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/>
- Important note regarding COVID-19 symptoms: **If you have COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class!** Follow the COVID-19 reporting process worksheet at <https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/health-guidelines/covid-19-reporting-process>
- COVID-19 restrictions for our class: You are required to fill out a daily COVID-19 self-assessment form on Minerva. You are required to wear a procedural mask at all times while in the classroom (including while seated). The closest location to obtain a mask to our classroom is Sherbrooke 680 (attached to the building where our class is located). There is no distancing required for Fall 2021 classes.
- COVID-19 accommodations: If you contract COVID-19, I will be notified through McGill's Case Management team. **If you are in need of academic considerations, you are required to self-declare your specific COVID-19 related request using the online form on Minerva at <https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/academic-considerations>.** The Office of the Dean of Students will notify me about your academic considerations. Your health and safety (and that of your classmates and myself) is my top priority. Do not let fear of missing class keep you from taking care of your health.
- We have all learned new skills and practiced much resiliency in the past year. Please feel free to reach out to me if you are feeling overwhelmed about the return to in-person classes.

## Learning Outcomes

This course will introduce you to the exciting and challenging Russian language. We will begin with the Russian alphabet and basic grammar and vocabulary that will prepare you for Russian 211. The two courses are meant to be taken in sequence. The content is divided into six units, each correlating to an aspect of university life. Each unit also includes specific grammar topics and vocabulary centered around themes like “all about me,” “university,” and “daily schedule.” The course is also designed to give you the basic skills you might need if you travelled to Russia. The

content is focused on fostering communication that will allow you to better understand the Russian language and Russian culture.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to **speak** about yourself, your family, your interests, hobbies and daily routine; **ask and answer** simple questions on personal and familiar topics; **read** and **understand** simple texts and correspondence containing basic Russian vocabulary; and **write** (type) simple essays, lists and short correspondence using basic structures and vocabulary. By the end of the course, you will be able to read, listen, and write at a Novice Mid-Novice High (ACTFL Proficiency Scale) or A1/A2 (CEFR) level and demonstrate control over the basic aspects of Russian grammar such as case usage, verbal conjugation, tense, and aspect.

## **Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom**

Our course will follow the flipped classroom method. As the learner, it will be your responsibility to complete flexible learning activities (i.e. reading textbook pages, watching short instructional videos, and completing homework assignments) before weekly class sessions. These activities will be indicated on myCourses through checklists, making it easy to identify what you need to do to prepare for each class session. Classroom sessions will be your opportunity to practice the skills you have learned from the flexible learning activities. **In person attendance is vital to this course and will be the primary chance for you to practice spoken Russian!** Class sessions will also give you the chance to interact with your classmates through group and partner activities and ask questions about the course material. We will also have review sessions for the chapter tests.

Please note that plans are subject to change based on public health protocols. I have taught this course both in person and online and should we need to transition to online teaching, I will be prepared to make that transition as seamless as possible.

## **Expectations for Student Participation**

To participate fully in this class, you will need to attend class! Attendance in class sessions will count towards your participation grade. You will also need to complete the flexible activities available on myCourses on your own time. These exercises will be essential to your learning and will count towards your homework grade. Activities will be due before the class period as homework.

I will not be recording class sessions. The goal of class sessions is for you to practice the skills you are learning in the class and to interact with one another. The bulk of the instructional material for this class will be the short instructional videos I have created. You will be able to access these videos on myCourses at any time. If you need to miss a class session, I will post on myCourses the activities we completed during the class period.

Technology policy: Laptops and phones will not be permitted in this course unless specified by the instructor for use in classroom activities. You will need to access copies of the textbook either on a device or as a print-out. If you have special circumstances that require you to use an electronic device, please let me know.

## Copyright

Instructor-generated course materials (anything posted on myCourses including worksheets, quizzes, review materials) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. I remind everyone of their responsibility in ensuring that this video and associated material are not reproduced or placed in the public domain. This means that each of you can use it for your educational (and research) purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it by putting it up on the Internet or by giving it or selling it to others who may also copy it and make it available. Thank you for your cooperation Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by McGill University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

## Required Course Materials

We will use the textbook Golosa: A Basic Course in Russian, Book One by Richard M. Robin, Karen Evans Romaine, and Galina Shatalina (5th Edition). The full book is now freely available to download as a PDF at the link below. Textbook pages will also be available through myCourses.

Golosa: <https://gwu.app.box.com/s/aorr7lzx9ftvldwm4nr8mlkvu8nlqnw>

Homework assignments will be adapted from the workbook that accompanies the textbook, Golosa Student Activities Manual (SAM), Book One. These exercises will be integrated into myCourses, but not all exercises will be included. For additional practice, you can download the entire workbook for free from the same site listed above.

## Course Content

*In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.*

	Date/Дата (#classes)	Chapter/Урок	Grammar/Грамматика	Communicative Skills
W1	W1 Aug. 30-Sep. 3 (2)	Introductory Chapter	Introduction Alphabet Pronunciation	The Russian Alphabet Greetings, Russian typing
W2	W2 Sept. 6-10 (2) <b>Labor Day: Monday Sept. 6 - no class</b>	Introductory Chapter & Chapter 1	Formal and informal speech situation Grammatical case and gender	Introductions, asking for information about someone else
W3	Sept. 13-17 (3) <b>•Add/Drop deadline Tuesday, September 14</b>	Chapter 1	Nominative Case Prepositional Case	Naming objects Asking questions Что? Какой?

W4	Sept. 20-Sept. 24 (3)	<b>Test 1. Due Sept. 22 (Wed.)</b> Chapter 2	Personal and Possessive Pronouns	Saying what you have Describing objects
W5	Sept. 27- Oct 1 (3)	Chapter 2	У меня есть \ I have The spelling rules 1 and 2	Talking about languages
W6	Oct. 4-8(3)	Chapter 2 <b>Test 2 Due Oct. 8 (Fri.)</b>	Nom. case of adjectives Это – Этот, это, это, эти	Talking about nationalities
W7	Oct. 11-15 (1) <b>Fall Reading Break: – no class Mon. (Thanksgiving), Tues., Wed.</b>	Chapter 3	Verb conjugation – present tense Word order - adverbs	Talking about where and what people study
W8	Oct. 18-22 (3)	Chapter 3	Verb Conjugation – past tense Prepositional case of adj. and nouns	Asking and answering questions about university life
W9	Oct. 25-29(3)	Chapter 3 <b>Test 3. Due Oct. 29 (Fri.)</b>	Verbs for ‘Study’ Prepositions В and НА Accusative Case Accusative Case of modifiers	Talking about daily activities
W10	Nov. 1-5 (3)	Chapter 4	Prepositional Case of question words Почему? Потому что... Тоже \ Также Verb conjugations – Review	Talking about classes Asking and telling time Times of the day Days of the week
W11	Nov. 8-12 (3)	Chapter 4	Motion verbs – идти, ехать New verbs for describing daily routine Stress in Verbs	Telling about your daily routine in paragraphs;
W12	Nov. 15-19 (3)	Chapter 5 <b>Test 4. Due Nov. 15 (Mon.)</b>	Directionality – unidirectional and multidirectional verbs of motion Куда? - Destination	Talking about routine trips Talking about necessities and obligations

W13	Nov. 22-Nov. 26 (3)	Chapter 5	Practice – Motion verbs Expressing necessity or obligation Review verb conjugation and cases Review of the material	Interviews, role play situations, cultural activities if time permits
W14	Nov. 29-Dec. 3 (3)	<b>Test 5. Dec. 1 (Wed.)</b> <i>Project Presentations</i>		

## Evaluation

Participation	10%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	20%
Chapter Tests (5) including oral component	40%
Group Video/Presentation Project	10%
Total	100%

You will earn your grade in this course based on your participation, completion of homework assignments, your performance on quizzes and chapter tests and a final group project.

### Participation (10%)

Participation in our class is critical to your success! Participation means attending class and being an active participant. I ask that you come prepared to speak Russian and willing to make mistakes! I will take attendance in each class. Your attendance will impact your participation score. **You have three excused absences during the term.** These absences are meant to account for minor illness, mental health days, travel or any other conflicts that might arise. Please communicate with me if you plan on being absent. Remember that COVID-19 related accommodations need to go through the Office of the Dean of Students by filling out the online form on Minerva. For more information see <https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/academic-considerations>.

### Homework (20%)

Homework is an important part of your grade in this class. Plan on spending at least an hour completing the flexible activities that make up your homework. These may include reading textbook pages, watching short video lessons and completing activities from the Student Activities Manual (SAM) adapted for myCourses. The homework is purposefully designed to contain multiple low-stakes opportunities for practicing your Russian. Activities from the SAM

will be graded based on your highest attempt result. These activities have unlimited attempts for improving your score. It is important that you complete ALL the homework assignments in full. No late homework will be accepted except under extraordinary circumstances. Occasionally there will be hand-written assignments that will be turned in by hand during class sessions.

### **Quizzes (20%)**

There will be one vocabulary quiz and one grammar quiz for each chapter. Quizzes will be hand-written and taken during in-class sessions. Quizzes will be announced ahead of time on MyCourses. Pop-quizzes may also occur. Quizzes cannot be made up at a later date, except in the case of excused absences.

### **Tests (40%)**

There will be five cumulative chapter tests consisting of a written portion and an oral portion. The written portion will be taken online using the myCourses platform. You will be given a window of 24 hours in which to complete the written portion of the test. You will complete the oral portion of the test in class. More information about how to prepare for the oral portion will be available on myCourses. The oral portion will usually consist of short question and answer sessions conducted in Russian. Each test will focus on the new vocabulary and grammar items from that chapter; however, as language is cumulative, some old material will naturally be included. This course has no midterm or final examination. However, there will be a final group project that will account for 10% of your final grade.

### **Final Project (10%)**

For your final project, you will work in a small group (3-4 students) to prepare a skit. Skits can either be performed in class or recorded and shown in class. Detailed instructions will be announced later in the term and posted on MyCourses.

## **McGill Policy Statements**

**Academic Integrity:** “McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see [McGill’s guide to academic honesty](#) for more information). (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

« L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'**honnêteté académique**. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill). »

**Any use of translation programs (e.g. Google Translate) constitutes academic misconduct.**

You are free to use online dictionaries, but not any program that translates sentences or phrases for you. If you have any questions about how to use online resources, ask before you use them.

**OSD:** As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

**Health and Wellness Resources at McGill:** Student well-being is a priority for the University. All of our health and wellness resources have been integrated into a single Student Wellness Hub, your one-stop shop for everything related to your physical and mental health. If you need to access services or get more information, visit the Virtual Hub at [mcgill.ca/wellness-hub](https://mcgill.ca/wellness-hub) or drop by the Brown Student Services Building (downtown) or Centennial Centre (Macdonald Campus). Within your faculty, you can also connect with your Local Wellness Advisor (to make an appointment, visit [mcgill.ca/lwa](https://mcgill.ca/lwa)).

**Evaluations:** End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

**Know your rights:** Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights" (The Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities is available here <https://www.mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/rights> )