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RUSS 210-002 Elementary Russian Language 1

General Information

Course #    RUSS 210
Section #    002
Term        Fall
Year        2020
Course pre-requisite None
Course co-requisite None
Course schedule MWF 9:35-10:25am EDT
Number of credits 3

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name and Title  Kaylin Land, Ms. (she/her)
E-mail        kaylin.land@mcgill.ca
Virtual office hours  TBD
Communication plan  I look forward to meeting virtually through Zoom. Feel free to email me with any questions, concerns, or to set up a Zoom meeting. I will respond within 48 hours.

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 2021). 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. I 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 25, 2020). This pledge will be considered your word that do not have previous experience with Russian.

MODE OF DELIVERY AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Our class will meet remotely through Zoom during the regularly scheduled class times (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:35am to 10:25am Eastern Daylight Time). These meetings will provide us with a time to review course content, practice speaking Russian, and connect as a class. You will need a computer, an internet connection, a microphone, and a webcam (optional but highly recommended) for these sessions. Zoom meeting links are posted on myCourses. In order to prepare for participating in these meetings, please do the following:

- 1) If you do not already have a Zoom account through McGill, create an account by clicking on the link: https://mcgill.zoom.us/ You need to use your McGill username and password to create this account.
2) If you are new to Zoom, read this article about how to use it: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac.

3) Please test out your Zoom settings and make sure your microphone and webcam work. If you are having problems or if you are missing equipment, please email me so we can find a solution.

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 Zoom sessions. These activities will be indicated on myCourses through checklists, making it easy to identify what you need to do to prepare for each Zoom session. Zoom sessions will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the regular class time and will be your opportunity to practice the skills you have learned from the flexible learning activities. These fixed 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 through Zoom.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

To participate fully in this class, you will need to complete both flexible and fixed activities. Flexible activities (sometimes called asynchronous activities) are those that you can complete on your own time. These exercises will be essential to your learning and will count towards your homework grade. You will have a window of time (in between Zoom sessions) to complete these exercises before the fixed Zoom sessions. The only fixed element (synchronous) of this course will be the Zoom sessions.

You are invited to attend as many Zoom sessions as possible. I understand that for some students, particularly students living outside of Québec, attendance at each session may not be possible. You will not be graded based on your performance or attendance in the Zoom sessions. The entire goal of these sessions is to maximize your time speaking Russian and to build a classroom community. Seeing each other’s faces on video is a great way to get to know each other, so I encourage you to turn your camera on in class. Of course, it is
entirely up to you if you turn on your camera. We will use breakout rooms for conversation practice. We will also have large group sessions for asking questions; during this time, I will ask you to use the “raise hand” function to ask a question or to type your question in the chat. We will develop rules of Zoom etiquette together during the first Zoom session.

myCourses will be our one-stop-shop for all class content. You will get very familiar with myCourses! All flexible activities you need to complete will be listed on myCourses.

RECORDINGS OF SESSIONS

Occasionally, I will record Zoom sessions (for example, test review sessions) to make the content available to students who cannot attend. If the session is being recorded, you will be notified through a pop-up box in Zoom. By remaining in sessions that are recorded, you agree to the recording, and you understand that your image, voice, and name may be disclosed to classmates. You also understand that recordings will be made available in myCourses to students registered in the course. If you are not comfortable having your face in the recording, feel free to turn off your video. All videos will be made available on myCourses and will only be available to other students enrolled in the class.

COPYRIGHT

Instructor-generated course materials (anything posted on myCourses including worksheets, exam questions, 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. 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Дата (#classes)</th>
<th>Chapter/Урок</th>
<th>Grammar/Грамматика</th>
<th>Communicative Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>W1</strong> W1 Sept. 2-4 (2)</td>
<td>Introductory Chapter</td>
<td>Introduction Alphabet Pronunciation</td>
<td>The Russian Alphabet Greetings, Russian typing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W2</strong> W2 Sept. 7-11 (2)</td>
<td>Introductory Chapter &amp; Chapter 1</td>
<td>Formal and informal speech situation Grammatical case and gender</td>
<td>Introductions, asking for information about someone else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W3</strong> Sept. 14-18 (3)</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Nominative Case Prepositional Case</td>
<td>Naming objects Asking questions Что? Какой?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W4</strong> Sept. 21-Sept. 25 (3)</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Personal and Possessive Pronouns</td>
<td>Saying what you have Describing objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W5</strong> Sept. 28- Oct 2 (3)</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>У меня есть\ I have The spelling rules 1 and 2</td>
<td>Talking about languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W6</strong> Oct. 5-9(3)</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Nom. case of adjectives Это – Этот, это, это, эти</td>
<td>Talking about nationalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W7</strong> Oct. 12-16 (2)</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Verb conjugation – present tense Word order - adverbs</td>
<td>Talking about where and what people study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W8</strong> Oct. 19-23 (3)</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Verb Conjugation – past tense Prepositional case of adj. and nouns</td>
<td>Asking and answering questions about university life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W9</strong> Oct. 26-30(3)</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Verbs for ‘Study’ Prepositions B and HA Accusative Case Accusative Case of modifiers</td>
<td>Talking about daily activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W10</strong> Nov. 2-6 (3)</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Prepositional Case of question words Почему? Потому что... Также Также Verb conjugations – Review</td>
<td>Talking about classes Asking and telling time Times of the day Days of the week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W11</strong> Nov. 9-13 (3)</td>
<td>Chapter 4-5</td>
<td>Motion verbs – идти, ехать New verbs for describing daily routine</td>
<td>Telling about your daily routine in paragraphs;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Stress in Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W13</td>
<td>Nov. 23-Nov. 27 (3)</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W14</td>
<td>Nov. 30-Dec. 3 (3)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Test 5. Due Nov. 30 (Mon.) Project Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W14</td>
<td>Dec. 7 (Monday)</td>
<td>Final grades are posted on Minerva</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5 vocabulary, 5 grammar)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests (5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Checks</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Video/Presentation Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### HOMEWORK (30%)

The homework category makes up a large portion (30%) of your grade. Plan on spending at least an hour completing the flexible activities for each Zoom session. These flexible activities may include reading textbook pages, completing short quizzes embedded in 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. Quizzes embedded in short video lessons will help you check your understanding of the material. You will be graded based on your answers to the in-video quizzes as well as completion for watching the video (you must earn 80% on the quiz and watch the video to earn 100% for that activity). The activities from the SAM will be graded based on your final result (e.g. if you answer 8 out of 10 questions correctly, you will earn 80% for that activity). These exercises have unlimited attempts, so you will have opportunities to improve your scores. Your highest attempt will be graded. All homework assignments must be completed before 9am EDT the day of the associated Zoom session. It is important that
you complete ALL the homework assignments in full. **No late homework will be accepted.** All homework assignments will be turned in or completed in myCourses. In other words, a computer algorithm will decide whether or not your homework is on time and grade it accordingly. However, I am a human and understand that life happens. If a situation arises that keeps you from submitting your homework, it is important that you communicate with me ahead of time so that I can work with you to come up with a solution.

**QUIZZES (20%) AND TESTS (25%)**

Both quizzes and tests will be administered via myCourses and will make use of Lock-Down Browser. It is your responsibility to ensure that your browser is compatible with the system **BEFORE THE FIRST QUIZ.** To facilitate this, we will have a non-graded practice quiz before the first formal quiz. While using Lock-Down Browser, you will not be able to navigate away from the page during the time that you are expected to take the quizzes and chapter tests. You will have a window of 24 hours to complete quizzes and chapter tests. Once you choose to begin your quiz or test, Lock-Down Browser will block your browser for the duration of the test or quiz. I understand exceptions may arise (your internet goes down, the power goes out, you drop a meatball on your keyboard) but I also expect you to take the appropriate precautions for ensuring you are prepared to take your assessment once you begin your quiz or test.

There will be one vocabulary quiz and one grammar quiz for each chapter (for a total of 10 quizzes). Quizzes will be announced ahead of time. You will have a period of 24 hours to take the quiz. The quizzes will have a time limit (10 minutes) and you will not be able to return to the quiz after the time limit. Quizzes are designed to test your understanding of vocabulary and grammar concepts and encourage comprehension, not memorization. Instead of traditional vocabulary tests that require you to translate a word from Russian into English, we will use tests that require comprehension of the vocabulary words in real time. Answers that could be quickly Googled will not be included on quizzes to avoid the temptation to cheat. Any use of outside sources (Google Translate) will be considered plagiarism! It is usually easy to tell if you have used such sources because Google Translate suggests grammar constructions and vocabulary we have not covered.

There will be five cumulative chapter tests. Tests will be administered via myCourses. Similar to quizzes, you will have 24 hours to complete the test and there will be a time limit (60 minutes + 5 minute grace period). Detailed information about each exam, including grading criteria, will be included on the exam cover page posted on myCourses. Each test will focus on the new vocabulary and grammar items from that chapter; however, as language is cumulative, some previous material will naturally be included. There is no midterm or final examination for this course. Instead, a final group project will account for 10% of your final grade.

**ORAL CHECKS (15%)**

For each of the five chapters covered in the course, there will be an individual and a group Oral Check. These will take the form of individual interviews with the professor, group dialogues, and discussions based on cultural topics.

**FINAL PROJECT (10%)**

For your final project, you will work in groups of three to four students to prepare a skit that will combine the grammar and vocabulary you have learned in the course. You will use Bongo in myCourses to prepare and submit the video. More information will be available later in the term and posted in myCourses in early October.
**MC GILL 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.

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 site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

**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 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).

**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 )