



RUSS 311 Intermediate Russian Language 2 (3 credits) Win 2024

Instructor: Dr. Zora Kadyrbekova

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Office Hours: **Mon/Wed 1.30pm – 2.30pm and/or by appointment, SH680 R431**

Required materials:

1. Robin, Richard, Karen Evans-Romaine and Galina Shatalina. *Golosa: A Basic Course in Russian, Book Two*, 5th ed., Pearson, 2013. (free access online – link on MyCourses).
2. Robin, Richard, Karen Evans-Romaine and Galina Shatalina. *Student Activities Manual for Golosa: A Basic Course in Russian, Book Two*, 5th ed., Pearson, 2013 (free access online – link on MyCourses).

General Information: This course covers the second part of the Intermediate Russian Course Sequence at McGill University, and introduces learners to the advanced elements of the Russian language. RUSS 311 carries three (3) undergraduate credits and must be taken for a letter grade. Prerequisites: RUSS 310, or equivalent. Students of Russian ethnic origin and students who have lived under circumstances (e.g., family members, prolonged stay in Russia etc.) that would provide advantageous exposure to the language must inform the instructor about this. Failure to disclose this information to the instructors constitutes practicing deceit in an academic evaluation proceeding and will be regarded as an Academic Integrity offense.

If you have not previously taken Russian language courses at McGill, please contact Dr. Ivanova for a placement test (maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca).

Course content: RUSS 311 focuses on developing learners' intermediate proficiency in speaking, reading, listening, and writing with emphasis on reading short authentic texts, using more complex grammar structure and more extensive vocabulary. The content of the course relies on the materials, topics and grammar drills presented in the course textbook as indicated above. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the term the students will be able to do the following (according to ACTFL Guidelines, 2012):

1. Speaking: "Engage in conversation in a clearly participatory manner in order to communicate information on autobiographical topics, as well as topics of community, national or international interest"

Reading: “understand the main ideas and supporting details of authentic narrative and descriptive texts”;

2. Listening: “understand the main ideas and most supporting details in connected discourse on a variety of general interest topics, such as news stories, explanations, instructions, anecdotes, or travelogue descriptions”;

3. Writing: employ “a variety of cohesive devices up to several paragraphs in length” and demonstrate “control of the most frequently used syntactic structures and a range of general vocabulary.”

Instructional method: The course will be taught primarily in Russian. Classroom time is optimized for communicative practice and interactive activities, as well as for explanation/clarification of difficult grammar material. Because classroom time is used for the development of interactive proficiency, it is essential that you spend at least 2.5 hours per day for each class (as you would need to do for any language course). A thorough study session includes reviewing the material presented in class, writing out homework assignments, reviewing vocabulary and thinking about the material (making attempts to connect new material to old). Class will begin by reviewing items from both the previous class meeting and that class homework. The remainder of class will be spent discussing new material (class presentations), practicing it in groups or in brief writing assignments. Students will be evaluated on their participation, homework, compositions, final project, quizzes, and tests.

Because this is an Intermediate level and most of the grammar material introduced in chapters is a more in-depth presentation of the grammar material covered in previous levels (e.g., cases, verb aspect etc.), the classroom format will be predominantly of the following format:

1. At home: students read, review and study the new grammar material; complete assigned exercises;
2. In class: students participate in communicative activities and/or complete various assignments/exercises to practice and apply the studied new grammar material. If there are certain aspects of the new material that are difficult to understand – these will be addressed in class.

Classes will be held in-person. Should the mode of delivery change, students will be notified.

Your active participation in class is essential. It is my goal as your instructor that each student be given ample opportunity to learn and apply the material. In order for this to happen, it is imperative that we all work together to make the learning environment a truly productive one. The classroom atmosphere should be one where all students feel comfortable trying out the language and experimenting with language production. Therefore, I expect my students to respect one another, to participate in all activities, to maintain a positive attitude, to come prepared and to help one another out. *See MyCourses for detailed explanations of the Participation and Oral Practice component.*

Class Participation policy:

Because most language learning takes place in the classroom in communicative situations, where students need to speak with one another in Russian, non-participation and/or absence can be particularly damaging not only to a student’s progress, but also to the progress of others who must then work with someone who does not participate and/or is inadequately prepared. For this reason, this course follows a fairly strict participation policy:

- There are no excused absences in this course for any reason.
- Each day of class is essential to your mastery of the language.
- * The participation grade is critical because it cannot be made up.

There are no make-up tests, or quizzes, or assignments. Any medical emergencies and/or hospitalizations must be verified by a doctor’s note and/or medical certificate submitted no later than

10 workdays from the day of the absence. The instructor reserves the right to verify this information, and all final decisions are at the instructor's discretion.

- **4 absences – 75% participation, 5 absences – 50% participation, 6 absences – 25% participation, 7 absences - 0 participation and no extra credit.**

- * In case of absence students are responsible for catching up with the class, completing homework and coming to the next class prepared. Homework and assignment descriptions will be posted on MyCourses. To catch up with the missed material students are encouraged to use all the uploaded files on MyCourses, tutoring services, study groups and other resources.
- * If a student's health repeatedly prevents the student from completing graded activities (e.g., tests, quizzes etc.) and actively participating in class (which will inevitably significantly affect the grade), the student should consider taking time off to take care of their health and re-take the class when their health is strong enough not to disrupt their studying. Vacations, family gatherings, tickets booked in advance, dates immediately preceding/following holidays etc. are not legitimate excuses for a make-up test consideration. Absences for McGill Athletics events and religious holidays follow McGill University guidelines.
- * Because tardiness is disruptive, students are expected to arrive on time and not to leave before the end of the class session. While occasional tardiness may sometimes be unavoidable, frequent or chronic tardiness will be counted as absence. Three late arrivals (15 min or more) will count as one absence.
- * If you have to leave early, you have to notify your instructor in advance. Leaving the class early without notifying the instructor will count as an absence.

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

Syllabus Quiz	1%
Chapter Tests (5)	35%
Chapter Quizzes (9)	19%
Participation and Oral Practice	10%
Homework	15%
Compositions (2)	10%
Semester Project with Final Presentation	10%
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Grade	Percentages
A	100%-85%
A-	84%-80%
B+	79%-75%
B	74%-70%
B-	69%-65%
C+	64%/-60%
C	59%-55%
D	54%-50%
F	49%-0%

Home Assignments/SAM activities – see MyCourses for detailed submission instructions.

Students are expected to read/study the new material before class. Then, in class we go over it together and practice. This approach is necessary for two reasons: 1) to optimise the class time for interactive communicative activities and practice; 2) this course and its textbook are designed so that homework is studying; it's a step-by-step guide to learning the material, rather than something you do after you've completed the learning. This course starts fairly intensively because it is difficult to do much of interest with a language until you've developed a bit of a foundation. After the first week or so, you should anticipate 2.5 hours of studying/homework per day. You will have homework for almost every class, from on-line listening and grammar exercises in the online component to practice worksheets and writing assignments. No late assignments will be accepted.

There will be an answer key for selected assignments to allow students to check their mistakes right away as they study the material. First – the student is to complete a homework exercise; then – check with the answer key. The assignments with an answer key are expected to have corrections

by the student. All nuances about homework assignments will be further explained in class in person to ensure there are no misunderstandings.

Homework is graded for completion.

Only homework that has been corrected by students themselves using an Answer Key is considered completed (C) – full credit. Homework assignments that have uncorrected mistakes are considered to be partially completed (H) – half the credit. No homework submitted – zero credit.

Semester Project with Final Presentation – Detailed explanations and instructions will be posted on MyCourses in February. This is a semester-long project and students should begin working on early, following the steps/deadline posted on MyCourses.

The class will be divided into small group, and each group will choose a topic for the project.

Quizzes and Chapter Tests – see MyCourses for detailed instructions.

Quizzes based on the vocabulary and grammar will be given at different points of the term, after a portion of the course material has been covered. Quizzes will be announced ahead of time, giving you the necessary time to review the material and memorize the target vocabulary. Under normal circumstances, quizzes may not be made up or re-taken at a later date. Five (5) chapter tests will cover the material of individual chapters + some old material. There will be NO final examination scheduled during the final week in this class. Hence, the grade will be calculated from submitted homework, quizzes and five cumulative tests, and other activities.

Compositions – see MyCourses for detailed instructions.

There will be two compositions during the semester. The compositions will be written in two steps. The first step: students write the first draft and submit it. The instructor points out mistakes. Then students submit the second and final draft. Only the final draft will be graded.

Extra Credit – see MyCourses for detailed instructions.

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit. They will be announced and explained in class as soon as they become available. These will include attendance at the Russian Conversation Club, Russian Help Desk, end-of-term Russian Evening and other possible activities at the Russian Dept. Extra credit is a privilege. In order to qualify for it students must maintain attendance (see Attendance Policy above). For the Russian Evening all performances must be approved by the instructor. No unapproved performances will receive extra credit.

McGill policy statements:

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

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.

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.

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 <http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies/students/handbook-student-rights-and-responsibilitiesle-recueil-des-droits-et-obligations-d>

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).

If students miss any assignments or assessments due to McGill Athletic activities and religious holidays consult McGill policy. Students must notify their instructor two (2) weeks in advance. If a graded activity falls on such a religious holiday or an athletic event, the student may be allowed a make-up, but this make-up must be arranged in advance before the due date. If a student fails to notify their instructor two (2) weeks in advance and allow sufficient time for make-up arrangements, a student forfeits their opportunity for a make-up. No make-ups after the due date will be allowed.