



RUSS 316 (6 credits)
Intermediate Russian Language (Intensive Track)
Fall 2023
MWF 8:35-10:25 am – 680 Sherbrooke, Suite 223

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Office: 680 Sherbrooke, Suite 343

Office Hours: Mondays 12-1 pm, Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am, and by appointment

Required materials:

1. *Голоса 2* Textbook – available online for free
2. *Голоса 2* Student Activity Manual – available online for free
3. Resources and handouts posted by the instructor on myCourses – please make sure to access regularly.

Recommended materials:

4. Any reference grammar (links to free e-books available on myCourses).
5. Any Russian-English and English-Russian dictionary.

General information: RUSS 316 covers two regular semesters of Intermediate Russian at McGill. The rationale of this course is to move students from a beginning to an intermediate level of Russian in the four following areas: speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Pre-requisites: This course is designed for students who have successfully completed RUSS 210 and RUSS 211, RUSS 215, or an equivalent course sequence, as demonstrated by the placement test. Heritage speakers may be admitted with instructor's permission.

Course content: RUSS 316 focuses on developing learners' proficiency in speaking, reading, listening, and writing. The content of the course relies on the materials, topics and grammar drills presented in the textbook *Голоса 2*, accompanied by instructor-generated presentations and other materials. The course focuses on assisting students in making significant gains in their Russian oral and written production, as well as oral and written comprehension. Through daily engagement both in and outside the class, students will be better equipped to speak Russian as cleanly and fluently as possible. Additional materials, such as video clips, songs, advertisements, short films and other media will be used throughout the term to expose students to various facets of Russian culture. Detailed schedule of all assignments is available on myCourses.

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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 very much for your help with this.

Learning outcomes: By the end of the term students will speak, read, listen, and write at a level equivalent to Intermediate Low (ACTFL Proficiency Scale), CERF: B1, or higher; demonstrate increasing control over basic aspects of Russian grammar, such as case usage, verbal conjugation, tense and aspect in controlled settings. This growing accuracy will allow them to begin narrating personal experiences. Students will also demonstrate a developing awareness of Russian cultural norms in a growing number of contexts within the scope of the learning experience. Specific targets of this course are formulated in terms of the following communicative tasks:

- ask and answer questions on a number of personal and familiar topics, such as one's interests, daily routine, location of residence, academic pursuits, the life of a student, family life, childhood and family, dating and relationships.
- describe the physical appearances of people and places; well-known events and famous figures from history;
- discuss important personal experiences and difficult situations; such as, loss, theft, and recovery of items;
- read a variety of authentic texts, including radio broadcasts and interviews, on the topics above and comprehend the main idea and specific details;
- write short essays and formal and informal communications (e.g., emails; letters, notes) incorporating materials introduced in the texts

Instructional method: The course will be taught almost entirely in Russian, with occasional grammar explanations in English. The course is using a flipped approach. Classroom time is optimized for communicative practice and interactive activities. Because classroom time is used for the development of interactive proficiency, it is essential that you spend at least 2 hours per day for each class (as you would need to do for any language course). A thorough study session includes reviewing the material covered 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 answering questions about that class homework. The remainder of class will be spent discussing new material, practicing it in groups or pairs.

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

Home assignments	25%
Quizzes	15%
Tests	35%
Participation	10%
Group project	15%
	100%

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%

Student attendance and participation

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 important 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 without fear of making mistakes. To this end, I will **not** record our sessions, and I **do not consent** to them being recorded by any participant. Please respect one another, fully participate in all group/pair activities, and come prepared.

As most language learning takes place in the classroom in communicative situations, where students need to speak with one another in Russian, 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 is inadequately prepared. For this reason, this course follows a fairly strict attendance policy:

- There are no excused absences in this course.
- Each day of class is essential to your mastery of the language. The participation grade is critical because it cannot be made up.
- 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) will count as one absence.
- In case of absence students are responsible for catching up with the class, completing homework and coming to the next class prepared. 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.
- 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 since the day of the absence. The instructor reserves the right to verify this information, and all final decisions are at the instructor's discretion. 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 retake 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 holy days follow McGill University guidelines.

All absences are reflected in the attendance register. The following will also apply:

4 absences – 50% of participation grade;

5 absences – 0 grade for participation

6 absences – 0 grade for participation, no individual extra credit accepted (group extra credit still accepted)

7 absences – F for the course grade (failed the course)

Home Assignments

You will have homework almost every class, from on-line listening exercises to writing assignments. Assignments should be submitted by due dates and times written in cursive. **Late assignments will NOT be accepted. Assignments submitted by email will NOT be accepted.** Homework will be graded for completion. HW completed in full, with answers corrected using a key – 2 points. Fully completed HW without corrections via the key – 1 point. Late/incomplete/sloppy/absent HW – 0 points.

Quizzes and Tests

Vocabulary and grammar quizzes will be given at different points of the term, after a portion of the course material has been covered. Quizzes and tests schedule is announced at the beginning of the term, giving the students the necessary time to review the material and memorize the target vocabulary

and grammar. Chapter tests will include sections on vocabulary, grammar topics, and cultural information. Under normal circumstances, quizzes and tests may not be made up or taken at a later date.

Group projects

In this project you will work with a team of classmates (group size will depend on the final amount of people enrolled in this course) on finding information about various topics related to Russian culture, lifestyle, history, famous people, etc. During this semester-long project, you will be working on a presentation, to be performed on the last day of class. Detailed information on the group projects is posted on myCourses.

Extra credit

RUSS program at McGill offers plenty of opportunities for extracurricular activities (Conversation Club, Movie Nights, Help Desk, Russian Evening), which also allow to earn extra credit. All relevant information, including the schedule, will be posted on MyCourses, pending funding approval. All performances must be approved by the instructor in advance, to receive credit.

McGill policy statements:

Language of submission: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives. Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

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>)

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).

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

Copyright of lectures: All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

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).

[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. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

Note that to support academic integrity, your assignments may be submitted to [text-matching](#) or other appropriate [software](#).

Land acknowledgment: McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather. L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. Nous reconnaissons et remercions les divers peuples autochtones dont les pas ont marqué ce territoire sur lequel les peuples du monde entier se réunissent maintenant.