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RUSS 316 (6 credits)  
**Intermediate Russian Language (Intensive Track)**  
Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Maria Ivanova

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Office: 680 Sherbrooke, Suite 343

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30–3:30 pm, Wednesdays 1–2 pm, and by appointment

Required materials:

1. Richard M. Robin, Karen Evans-Romaine, Galina Shatalina. *Голоса: A Basic Course in Russian. Book Two* and *Голоса: Student Workbook. Book Two*. Sixth edition. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2023, also available via Course reserves in the McGill Library:  
<https://mcgill.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1395072823>  
<https://mcgill.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1350417591>
2. Resources and handouts posted by the instructor on myCourses – please make sure to access regularly and check for updates.

Recommended materials:

1. Any reference grammar (links to free e-books available on myCourses).
2. 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 for all assignments is available on myCourses.

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) 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 the instructor's materials 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 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:

- Attendance for this course is mandatory, as each day of class is essential to your mastery of the language. I will take attendance each class; absences will be reflected in the attendance register on myCourses.
- Because tardiness is disruptive, students are expected to arrive on time and not to leave before the end of the class session. Two late arrivals or early departures (10-20 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.
- Students requesting accommodation must do so before the assessment task is submitted.
- Under normal circumstances, there are no make-up tests, or quizzes, or assignments. Any medical emergencies and/or hospitalizations must be verified by valid documentation submitted no later than 10 days since the day of the absence.
- Vacations, family gatherings, tickets booked in advance, dates immediately preceding/following holidays etc. are not legitimate excuses for a make-up consideration. Absences for McGill Athletics events and holy days follow McGill University guidelines.
- After 3 absences, each subsequent absence will result in a loss of 2 points per absence deducted from the Final Calculated grade (e.g., 5 absences will result in the loss of 4 points). In addition, starting with 7 absences, the right to extra credit is revoked. Please note that missing over 40% of classes constitutes an automatic failure of the course, regardless of the performance in any other course components.
- Please note that graded assessment in language courses begins already during the Add/Drop period. Students who joined the course later during the Add/Drop period have one week from the registration date to complete the missed graded assignments. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to arrange for the timely make-up of assessments missed during the Add/Drop period. Once one week from the registration date elapsed, no make-ups will be allowed.

The Participation component emphasizes oral practice and continuous sustained interactive engagement with the course material and is essential for building Speaking fluency. To meet the

pedagogical goals for the Speaking modality and the learning outcomes for the course, students must continuously interact with their professor and peers (in pairs and groups) in the target language, to build communicative competency. Due to its spontaneous, in-class interactive, and context-depending nature, this component cannot be made up. Detailed assessment criteria for Participation are available on myCourses.

### *Home Assignments*

Since completing homework assignments is essential to the learning outcomes of the course, obtaining a passing grade on the homework component is required to pass the course. Due to the nature of second language acquisition, the course grade consists of multiple smaller components throughout the semester. The course material is introduced and organized in a sequential manner, with each subsequent unit building upon the preceding one. Homework assignments are holistic assessments aimed to help students practice, reinforce, and test reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as well as help with the mastery of grammar and vocabulary retention. Short writing assignments testing the Writing modality must be written in cursive. All due dates are indicated on myCourses. Students must complete all their assessments on time, as they are time-sensitive. Late assignments will NOT be accepted. Assignments submitted by email will NOT be accepted. Detailed instructions are available on myCourses.

### *Quizzes and Tests*

The dates for Quizzes and Tests are available at the beginning of the term (see Schedule on myCourses), giving the students the necessary time to review the material and memorize the target vocabulary and grammar. Please also remember that each subsequent unit is building upon the preceding one, in a cumulative manner, so grammar and vocabulary from previous units and/or levels may be expected in a language course.

### *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 that tests the Speaking, grammar, vocabulary and cultural competencies, you will be working on a presentation, to be performed on the last day of class. Detailed information on the group projects and the assessment criteria are posted on myCourses. Due to the interactive nature of this assessment component, it cannot be made up.

### *Extra credit*

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit in this course. All relevant information, including the schedule, will be posted on myCourses, as it becomes available, pending funding approval.

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Any use of AI (including but not limited to Chat GPT, Google Translate, and DeepL) is prohibited.

Electronic devices. You will need an electronic device (a computer or tablet) to write your tests and quizzes in class. Unless required by the instructor for learning purposes (e.g. Kahoot), any other use of electronic devices in class (such as sending emails, texting, social networks, gaming, etc.) is prohibited. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor. MC2 devices are not to be used for voice communication without the explicit permission of the instructor.

### 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 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.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

«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.» (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

Additional policies governing academic issues that affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' 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” (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See McGill's guide to academic honesty for more information).

«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 procédures disciplinaires.» (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill.)

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/or Student Accessibility and Achievement (<https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/>).

Respect. The University is committed to maintaining teaching and learning spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in course contexts may be cause for disciplinary action.

Many students may face mental health challenges that can impact not only their academic success but also their ability to thrive in our campus community. Please reach out for support when you need it from the Wellness Hub; wellness resources are available on campus, off campus, and online.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by your academic work and/or would like to further develop your time and workload management skills, don't hesitate to seek support from Student Services.

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.

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.