RUSS 401 Advanced Russian Language 2 (3 credits)  
Win 2021

Meeting Times: MWF 11.35am – 12.25pm (Zoom)

Instructor: Zora Kadyrbekova  
Email: zora.kadyrbekova@mcgill.ca  
Office Hours: Mon 12.30pm – 2.30pm and/or by appointment (Zoom).

Required materials:

2. www.russian.ucla.edu/AdvancedRussian - free companion website

General Information: This course covers the second part of the Advanced Russian Course Sequence at McGill University, and introduces learners to the advanced elements of the Russian language. RUSS 401 carries three (3) undergraduate credits and must be taken for a letter grade. Prerequisites: RUSS 400, 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 taken any Russian Courses at McGill, please see Dr. Maria Ivanova for a placement test (maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca)

Course content: RUSS 401 focuses on developing learners’ advanced 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 Russian: From Intermediate to Advanced. 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”;
2. Reading: “understand the main ideas and supporting details of authentic narrative and descriptive texts”;
3. 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”;
4. 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 attendance, participation, homework, quizzes, and tests.

Because this is an Advanced 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 synchronously via Zoom, so a webcam or equivalent is needed. Difficulties with webcam and related concerns will be accommodated depending on students’ individual needs.

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.

Class attendance policy:
Because 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. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to attend regularly. Due to the online/remote learning format attendance will not be taken.

* One make-up of a test, or a quiz will be granted. The two common out-of-student’s-control situations that may be considered for a make-up are: 1) severe illness with a verifiable medical
document/doctor’s note; 2) family emergency (loss etc.). If you become hospitalized on a test date
and provide a verifiable doctor’s note, making up of a test will be considered. This doctor’s note
must be submitted to the instructor within ten (10) working days from the missed class and should
show a clear indication of date(s). Inauthentic, forged and otherwise altered doctor’s notes will be treated as a
breach of academic integrity, will be reported and subjected to the appropriate disciplinary action.
*
However, only one make up due to a documented severe illness will be allowed. If a student keeps
becoming ill on test/quizzes/etc. dates, it will be suggested that the student take some time off to
take care of his/her health and re-take the class when his/her health is strong enough not to disrupt
his/her studying. Vacations, tickets booked in advance, dates immediately preceding/following
holidays etc. are not legitimate excuses for a make-up test consideration. All decisions about
courtesy make-ups/exemptions are at the instructor’s discretion. The instructor reserves the right to
verify all information and documents.

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions (5)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests (5)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compositions (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100%-85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>84%-80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>79%-75%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>74%-70%</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>69%-65%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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Home Assignments – to be submitted on MyCourses electronically
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) the online/remote learning
format; 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. Homework assignments may be collected randomly, even the ones 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.
Quizzes and Chapter Tests – to be completed asynchronously on MyCourses. 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. Tests have a 48-72 hr window and 90 minutes for completion. There will be NO final examination scheduled during the final week in this class. For the detailed instructions see MyCourses.

Discussions – to be presented synchronously during regular class hours. Students will be divided into groups. Each group will prepare a discussion for the entire class. This is a content-based communicative activity. For the detailed instructions and explanations see MyCourses.

Compositions – to be submitted electronically on MyCourses. 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.

Group Presentation Project – will be held synchronously during the regular class hour. At the end of the term, the class will be divided into small groups, and each group will choose a topic for the project. Should special accommodations be needed in case of personal or technical difficulties, they will be arranged. The detailed explanations will be given by February on MyCourses.

Extra Credit
There will be several generous opportunities to earn extra credit. They will be announced and explained in class as soon as they become available. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of our generous extra credit opportunities both to boost their grade and improve their Russian language skills. Should students miss a significant number of assignments, extra credit opportunities will help them compensate the lost points and boost their grade.

The complete detailed course schedule with all the due dates is available on MyCourses. This will allow students to pace themselves and prepare assignments in advance. Students are welcome to submit assignments earlier than the due date.

All the course materials, including presentations and in-class grammar and vocabulary exercises, will always be posted on MyCourses. Thus, should students miss a class, they will be able to access the missed material on MyCourses and catch up. Both the instructor and Russian Help Desk are there to help the students to catch up with the missed material.

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 email 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-responsibilitieslerecueil-des-droits-et-obligations-d

If students miss any assignments or assessments due to McGill Athletic activities and religious holidays consult McGill policy. All make-ups in these situations must be done before the planned absence. Make-ups on later dates will not be accepted. (e.g., if a student misses a test on Friday for the above reasons, the make up must be scheduled before that Friday).