

**University of Pittsburgh**  
*Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures*

**Syllabus: Russian 0014: Russian for Heritage Learners 1**

Fall 2010

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Office: Cathedral of Learning 1421 e-mail  
Office Hours: Mo, Th 1:00-2:00 PM

**I. Required Materials:**

Olga Kagan et al. Russian for Russians, *Slavica Publishers*, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 2002. (учебник, Уч)

<http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/rdr/> (учебник вебсайт, УчВ)

Handouts and additional materials (дополнительные материалы, ДМ) provided by the instructor.

**II. Online Materials:**

Russian encyclopedias and dictionaries:

<http://infolio.asf.ru/Sprav/Brokgaus/>

Audio resources:

<http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/~mdenner/Demo/listening2.htm>

<http://www.multitran.ru/>

Reference Grammar:

<http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/language/>

Online Media Resources:

<http://www.lenta.ru/>

<http://www.nns.ru>

<http://www.polit.ru/index.html>

<http://www.online.ru/emain/enews/>

**III. Prerequisites:**

Oral proficiency in Russian; placement test and consent of instructor.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is aimed at "heritage speakers" of Russian, i.e., those who grew up speaking Russian in the family without a native Russian's full educational and cultural background.

All students who will have completed this course successfully will develop grammatical awareness, reading and writing competency, and a sophisticated vocabulary.

Frequent in-class discussions of today's and yesterday's realities in Russia and the former USSR will be based on audio and video materials, newspaper articles, and Russian Internet resources used during class sessions, as well as on films and lectures the students will attend outside of class. A regular exposure to a wide variety of authentic printed, audio, and video sources in Russian throughout the program will enable the students to gain the cultural proficiency and promote a better understanding of Russian culture.

### **Course Description:**

This course will address specific needs of heritage students developing those aspects of their speaking, reading, and writing skills and cultural knowledge that will promote the attainment of professional level proficiency.

This will be a content based curriculum building linguistic (grammar and vocabulary), communicative (primarily interpretive and presentational) skills and cultural awareness.

As opposed to a gradual, case by case approach to teaching non-heritage students, this course will adopt a more aggressive approach concentrating on the concept and gradually improving spelling, grammar and stylistics. The focus will be on monologues and discussions based on the full range of native language input (audio, visual, and print).

Heritage students can be expected to have mastery of the interpersonal communication, especially in close personal contact. On the other hand, they have no or little experience with the interpretive (such as text analysis) and presentational communication (i.e. public writing and speaking). These two aspects will constitute the second focus of the curriculum.

### **Policies and Procedures:**

#### **Attendance:**

You MUST be exposed to Russian in order to learn Russian, therefore you must be in class. Regular attendance is required. Attendance will be recorded each class.

Like the instructor, students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive on time. No make-ups for missed quizzes are allowed. Absence due to personal

illness or death in the family must be documented. Absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes and handouts from their classmates. No credit for attendance will be given per se. The course, however, is structured around student discussions, role-play, and presentations. Class participation accounts for 20% of the final grade; attendance is, therefore, assumed to be a given. Students with fewer than three hours of absence in the course of one semester will be allowed to drop their lowest regular test grade.

Note that you are responsible for all class work you have missed and the assignments that are due on that date. **All written homework must be turned in on the day it is due so that homework correction can begin as soon as possible.** The instructor will not accept late assignments unless prior arrangements have been made. It is your responsibility to find out from a classmate and/or the instructor what you have missed as well as the work that has been assigned for the next class. *If you must miss a class, kindly inform the instructor of your absence via e-mail, preferably, ahead of time.*

Repetitive unexplained lateness for class will be counted as absence.

**Evaluation criteria:**

1. Student participation in classroom discussions: 20%
2. Oral presentations (4): 20%
3. Classroom quizzes: 10%
4. Quality of written homework: 10%
5. In-class unit tests: 15%
6. Final Exam: 15%
7. Personal Progress: 10%

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**TOTAL:** **100%**

**Note 1:** There will be no special exams, optional papers, or any other additional projects to compensate for poor performance in the class. There will be no procedures made available to students to “earn” extra credit. Thus, it is essential for students to apply their efforts carefully from the onset of the term.

**Note 2:** 10 absences automatically translate into an F for the course. In extenuating circumstances this condition may be negotiated..

**Note 3:** There will be no quiz and exam make-ups due to the highly intensive nature of the course and time limits. Exceptions to this policy are extremely rare and must be accompanied by written documentation justifying the absence on the day of the exam. No quiz make-ups are possible.

The following grading standards will be used in assigning grades in this course:

A+	98-100%	C+	78-79%
A	92-97%	C	72-77%
A-	90-91%	C-	70-71%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	82-87%	D	62-67%
B-	80-81%	D-	60-61%
		F	0 -59%

Written Work:

Textbook, workbook, and all other assignments are to be completed as indicated by the instructor. Complete all the assignments **before the next class day**. Each assignment has been designed to prepare you for the vocabulary and grammar activities planned for the next class. Class time will be spent clarifying grammar points and providing language reinforcement through class activities and exercises.

Students must prepare at home thoroughly for every class. Most of the new vocabulary and grammar structures will be learned by the students at home; grammar will not be taught in class. It is absolutely crucial that students understand that homework is not so much designed to practice what has been learned in class that day, but to teach students what they must know in order to participate in class the following day.

Written homework must be submitted on time.

Oral Presentations:

There will be 4 oral presentations that together will constitute 20% of the final grade. Two longer presentations (7-10 min) will be prepared at home. Two short presentations (3-5 min. analyses of a text or a movie) will be prepared in class.

Quizzes, Tests and Exams

Short announced or unannounced quizzes may be given as needed at any time during class. Each unit except the last will conclude with a written test. At the end of semester there will be a Final Exam. that will cover Units 1-4.

Personal Progress:

Unlike Non-Heritage students who were exposed to Russian in similar ways (regular Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced classes that are structured alike throughout most American Educational institutions), Heritage students coming to the Program, each have a different level of fluency in oral and written Russian and different needs and problems. Therefore, your personal progress in improving your Russian deserves special consideration.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to act with civility and personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, using online translators, fabricating field data or citations, ghosting (i.e., taking an exam for another student or having an exam taking for self), stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Students charged with a breach of academic integrity will receive due process and, if the charge is found valid, academic sanctions may range, depending on the severity of the offense, from an F for the assignment to an F for the course.

*Cellular Phone Policy:*

All cellular telephones must be switched off before coming to class. The use of all mobile devices during class is prohibited.

**Special Concerns:**

If you have questions or problems, come to talk to me during my office hours. If you cannot make it at that time, see me by the end of class, and we will schedule an appointment.

**Students with disabilities** who require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications are encouraged to notify me and must notify the Office of Disability Resources and Services *no later than the end of the first week of classes*. Students may be asked to provide documentation of their disabilities to determine the appropriateness of their requests. The Office of Disability Resources and Services is located in 216 William Pitt Union and is available by telephone (voice or TTY) at 412-648-7890.