

The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/slavic>

**FIRST-YEAR RUSSIAN I
RUS 506
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Nadya Clayton
Class Time: M-F 12:00 – 1:00 PM
Place: JES A216A
Office: CAL 7
Phone: 471-3607 (Slavic Department)
E-mail: nclayton@utexas.edu
Office hours: Mon. 11:00 – 12:00 PM, Thurs. 1:00 – 2:00 PM, or by appointment

Required Textbook: • Davidson, Gor, and Lekic. *Russian: Stage One: Live from Russia! vol.1*, (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co. 2008). This packaged set comprises one basic textbook, one workbook, one audio CD, and one DVD. Available at the University Co-op.

Recommended:

- Cruise, Edwina. *English Grammar for Students of Russian*, (Ann Arbor, MI: Olivia and Hill Press, 1993).
- Garza, Thomas. *Fundamentals of Russian Verbal Conjugation for Teachers and Students*, (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt and ACTR Publications), 1993.
- Katzner, Kenneth, ed. *English Russian/Russian English Dictionary*, (New York: Wiley Publishers, 1994).

Welcome to Russian 506! This course is designed to introduce you to the language and culture of one of the most influential and important regions of the world – today and over a millennium of history. Russian is spoken by more than 200 million people in the former Soviet Union, and an additional 150 million throughout the world. Now you can speak it, too. Удачи!

I. GENERAL

Course Content: This course is the first semester of Russian language instruction developing functional proficiency in listening, speaking, and reading. Writing will be developed primarily through workbook home assignments. We will cover Units One through Unit Six in the textbook (Vol. 1), spending about two weeks on each unit.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend daily classes regularly, participate actively in class, do all assigned coursework, and take all exams. You will be allowed a maximum of *five* (5) absences, excused or otherwise, during the semester. Each absence beyond the fifth shall result in the lowering of your final course grade by a diacritic (a B+ goes to a B, a B to a B-,

etc.). A student shall be considered absent after 15 minutes have elapsed from the beginning of class and the student has failed to arrive.

Tardiness: You are to arrive to class on time. Students who arrive after class has begun shall incur a tardy. A total of three (3) tardies shall be equivalent to one (1) absence and shall count towards the five absences allowed each student. Although the instructor will maintain daily records of attendance, he/she will not update students on the status of their attendance unless otherwise requested.

Course Requirements: A Course Syllabus for the entire semester, briefly describing goals and in class activities, is found on pp. xiii - xx in your *Textbook*. Corresponding homework assignments for each daily class meeting are found in the *Workbook*. **PREPARING AND HANDING IN DAILY HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS IS ESSENTIAL TO PASS THE COURSE!** This means that you should go over and be familiar with this material (or prepare relevant questions) in advance of class. Note that Days Eight and Nine in the syllabus are combined into ONE review day for us. You are also responsible for learning all of the words and expressions contained in the texts and exercises covered in the Course Syllabus which appear in **non-italic** type in the vocabulary lists at the end of each unit. **You should plan to spend about two hours of preparation for each hour in the classroom.** If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor or another student and find out what was covered and make up the missed work.

Technology Policy: Students should turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before class begins. Texting or taking/making calls during class is unacceptable and shall reflect poorly on students' participation grade.

Special Accommodations: If you have extenuating physical circumstances, all instructors in the Slavic Department will make themselves available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Before course accommodations will be made, students may be required to provide documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students -- Services for Students with Disabilities.

Testing: There will be six in-class one-hour tests, and a final examination for this course. The in-class tests, each covering one unit, will be given on **September 21, October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16, and December 4.** A comprehensive final exam will be given during the University's exam period between December 7 and 13, 2012.

II. GRADING

There are three components of your final course grade. These components and their relative weights are:

1. **Testing: 50%**

In-class tests: 20%

Final exam: 30% (written test – 15% and oral proficiency – 15%)

Because of the time constraints and pace of this course, make-ups on any of the tests will be given only in unusual cases with extenuating circumstances.

2. Homework: 30%

Written homework or in-class quizzes (e.g., vocabulary, grammar checks, etc.) will be graded on a credit (✓) / no credit (✗) basis. All assignments from the Workbook must be turned in on the class day after being assigned; a "no credit" assignment may be resubmitted for credit on the following day after being returned to the student. Your homework grade will be the percentage of "credit" assignments you submit during the term.

3. Participation: 20%

Your instructor determines this component as a reflection of your overall preparedness and performance in class; it is NOT merely an attendance grade. You are expected to a) attend class daily, b) prepare assigned material in advance for each class, and c) respond in class with reasonable accuracy and, of course, *enthusiasm*. The result of these calculations will be on a number on a scale of 0-100. This numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

98 – 100 = A+
94 – 97 = A
90 – 93 = A-
88 – 89 = B+
84 – 87 = B
80 – 83 = B-
78 – 79 = C+
74 – 77 = C
70 – 73 = C-
68 – 69 = D+
64 – 67 = D
60 – 63 = D-
59 and below = F

III. SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Your *Textbook* comes with an audio CD and a DVD that correspond to many of the exercises in each unit, indicated by a "cassette" and "camera" symbol, respectively. You will **greatly** enhance your own listening comprehension of Russian by downloading and using these media in your iPod or home/car stereo as often as possible. If you prefer to use the media on campus, there are facilities available in several locations, such as the Perry Castañeda Library and Flawn Academic Center. In addition, the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies has in Calhoun 422 a collection of both classic and very recent DVDs with movies, music, speeches and documentaries from and about Russia and the former Soviet states. These DVDs are interesting from both a cultural and purely entertainment point of view.

IV. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Every Thursday starting with the second week of classes you are invited to attend Movie Night (5 – 7 pm, room number TBD). You are required to attend at least two Movie Nights per semester (this will count towards your attendance percentage). Watching movies with subtitles is

a useful and fun way of getting acquainted with Russian culture! You are also strongly encouraged to explore Russian Internet, talk to native speakers, and pursue your interests, albeit in Russian language. The instructor will give you suggestions, but you may also rely on your imagination. Be creative!

RUS 506 COURSE OUTLINE

FIRST DAY

Wednesday, August 29

- Introduction to the course RUS 506 and how to use the materials with *Russian: Stage One: Live from Russia!*
- "Learn the Cyrillic Alphabet in 20 Minutes!"

INTRODUCTION: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Thursday, August 30 - Tuesday, Friday 7

UNIT ONE: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Monday, September 10 - Thursday, September 20

Unit One Exam: Friday, September 21

UNIT TWO: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Monday, September 24 - Thursday, October 4

Unit Two Exam: Friday, October 5

UNIT THREE: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Monday, October 8 - Thursday, October 18

Unit Three Exam: Friday, October 19

UNIT FOUR: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Monday, October 22 - Thursday, November 1

Unit Four Exam: Friday, November 2

UNIT FIVE: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Monday, November 5 - Thursday, November 15

Unit Five Exam: Friday, November 16

UNIT SIX: *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*

Monday, November 19 - Monday, December 3

Unit Six Exam: Tuesday, December 4

[Thanksgiving holidays: Thursday, November 22 - Saturday, November 24]

REVIEW ALL UNITS

December 5 - 7

Final Exam will be given during the University's exam period between December 7 and 13, 2012.

Счастливого Нового Года! Happy New Year!