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. It is the language of some of the world’s greatest literature: Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Pasternak, Bulgakov, Nabokov, Gorky, and Solzhenitsyn. It is the culture of some of the greatest scientists and innovators in the West: Lomonosov, Mendeleev, Pavlov, and Gagarin. And it is the country of some of most influential politicians of the Twentieth Century: Lenin, Stalin, Gorbachev, Putin – and Medvedev! The major cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg attract thousands of tourists, businesspeople, and
students every year, while in Siberia and the Caspian, oil and petroleum products are produced at a rate that rivals that of the Middle East. As a Member of the Group of Eight, Russia has become in the 21st century a power player in global policy from economics to terrorism to the environment. And, as events last year in North Ossetia and Georgia indicate, Russia remains as unpredictable in the shaping of world affairs as it was during Soviet times. As such, a command of the Russian language is a powerful (and lucrative!) facility in virtually any area of employment, be it government service, business, law, medicine, teaching, engineering, or the military. As you begin your adventure in learning Russian, use the resources of the Slavic Department and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies to further your knowledge of this fascinating region, people, and culture. And most of all, use your instructor as a live source of information, advice, and support! Удачи Вам! Good luck!

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. Students are expected to be aware of their own accumulated absences and tardies. 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 pagers before class begins. Texting or taking/making calls during class is unacceptable and shall reflect poorly on students' participation grade. Although many students prefer to take notes on a computer, a language class...
is generally not conducive to this type of note taking. Please refrain from using a computer during class unless you have sought and received the express consent of the instructor.

**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 16, September 30, October 14, October 28, November 11,** and **November 29.** A comprehensive final exam will be given during the University's exam period between December 8 and 15, 2010.

II. **GRADING**

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

1. **Testing:** 55%
   - In-class tests: 25%
   - Final exam: 30%
   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:** 15%
   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-
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 also 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. Many of the DVDs have both English subtitles (which can help you build your confidence and facility in hearing spoken Russian and deriving meaning), and some also have Russian subtitles, which are a real benefit to building listening comprehension as you gain a larger vocabulary and fluency. These may be checked out for home viewing; see your instructor for suggestions.

RUS 506 COURSE OUTLINE

FIRST DAY
Wednesday, August 25
• 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 26 - Thursday, September 2

UNIT ONE: LIVE FROM MOSCOW!
Friday, September 3 - Wednesday, September 15
[Monday, September 6 is Labor Day holiday]

Unit One Exam: Thursday, September 16
UNIT TWO:  *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*
Friday, September 17 - Wednesday, September 29

Unit Two Exam:  Thursday, September 30

UNIT THREE:  *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*
Friday, October 1 - Wednesday, October 13

Unit Three Exam:  Thursday, October 14

UNIT FOUR:  *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*
Friday, October 15 - Wednesday, October 27

Unit Four Exam:  Thursday, October 28

UNIT FIVE:  *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*
Friday, October 29 - Wednesday, November 10

Unit Five Exam:  Thursday, November 11

UNIT SIX:  *LIVE FROM MOSCOW!*
Friday, November 12 - Wednesday, November 24

Unit Six Exam:  Monday, November 30

[Thanksgiving holidays: Thursday, November 25 - Sunday, November 28]

REVIEW ALL UNITS
Tuesday, November 30 - Friday, December 3

«С праздником!»
«С новым 2010 годом!»
Happy Holidays!
Happy New Year 2010!