



Office of English & Foreign Languages

COURSE MANUAL

Introduction to Russian Language and Culture

Dr. Tatjana Kochetkova

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(AY2026-27)**

This document is prepared by the course instructor and contains basic information relevant to the execution of the course. It is the official record for all intents and purposes as far the elective course, *Public Speaking and Critical Thinking*, is concerned.

1. Course Description

This course will introduce you to Russian language and culture. It is intended for beginning students and contains no prerequisites, being taught by a native speaker of Russian. The course will extend your cultural awareness and prepare you better for travel/business involving Russian speaking areas.

There are two parts of the course: language and culture.

In the first part of the course, you will learn the basics of contemporary standard Russian. Main language skills will be practiced: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Topics revolve around the students' immediate world, including self, family and friends, interests, business, travel, sports, and others, building up to an A1 level. Especial focus is placed on basic conversation skills in daily situations. The course textbook will be supplemented by video and audio materials, literature, film, advertisements, and selections from Russian social media. The course instructor will give individual attention to the oral aspects of Russian including pronunciation, and idiomatic expressions.

In the second part of the course, we study Russian culture and art, including cinema. Students will be engaged in critical analysis and discourse, with English as a language of instruction. Here we explore the main Russian cultural influences of the 20th-21st century. We oversee the cultural movements developed from roughly 1880-2023 and discuss the main figures who embody these movements and their most significant works. The final exam assignment for the course is to write an essay (in English) that focuses on an individual who contributed to the 20th or 21st century cultural milieu.

2. Intended Learning Objectives

A 3-credit course will lead the student to A1 level Russian according to CEFR standard.

In this course, the students will:	Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Study conversational Russian that is used in daily settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Be able to have a simple conversation in the airport, hotel, to introduce themselves in Russian and meet other people, and find one's way on a trip in Russia ('Survival Russian')
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Study prominent works of Russian literature, songs, films of the 20th and 21st century	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Know about the prominent artists and key works of contemporary Russian culture.

3. Scheme of Evaluation and Grading

Marks	Description	Category
10	Class Participation	individual
20	Online quiz Antonova lessons 1-6 grammar and vocabulary	individual
20	Oral Assessments in Russian , as based on vocabulary learned in class.	Speaking skills, dialogues in pairs
20	In class presentation on a selected artwork, based on essay to submit via UMS Here is a large space for your creativity and personal taste. You can select a novel, a song or a painting, either classical or contemporary.	Individual
30	Final exam: Antonova lessons 1-8 book topics, Vocabulary & grammar	Individual,

4. Academic Integrity

Class-room participation means listening attentively to the teacher without creating any disturbance. It also means taking part in the discussion initiated at teacher's instance in the class. The use of mobile phone is not allowed in the class. Laptop too cannot be used in the class unless allowed by the teacher on special occasions. Anyone creating disturbance in the class can be turned out of the class and marked absent. Careless attitude in the class will also lead to deduction of credit points fixed for Classroom Participation. Those students who reach the classroom after the roll call has been taken will be marked absent. Students who fail to attend at least 75% of lectures will not be allowed to sit for the final exams.

Students must attempt assignments and questions given to them from time to time, diligently and innovatively. They should desist from what is commonly referred to as 'cut and paste' method which will not bring any credit to them. It may also be added here that the students must approach the material available on the Net with proper care and caution, because the World Wide Web is a free medium where all sorts of people upload their writings. Sometimes these have been found to be baseless or lacking in adequate evidence. It is not necessary that what is provided on the Net must be true also.

The university has strict policy against plagiarism. Any idea, sentence or paragraph that you take from a web source must be credited to the original source. If you paraphrase or directly quote from a web source in the exam, presentation, or essays, you must mention the source. Plagiarism, i.e., quoting without giving credit to the original source, is an academic dishonesty and is against the University norms.

The use of mobile phone is not allowed in the class. Laptop too cannot be used in the class unless

allowed by the teacher on special occasions.

5. Keyword Syllabus

Conversational Russian, Basic grammar, Contemporary Russian rock music, Russian Culture, Russian Literature, daily Russian vocabulary, Russian alphabet, and pronunciation

6. Course Material

TEXTBOOKS

B.E. Antonova - The Way to Russia Russian Language Textbook 1. 1

Online course YouLang (Conversational Russian for beginners) <https://youlang.ru/>

Daily Russian, Russian Grammar for Beginners Textbook + Workbook Included: Supercharge Your Russian with Essential Lessons and Exercises, 2021.

White Belt Mastery, Learn Russian Language: Illustrated step by step guide for complete beginners to understand Russian language from scratch, 2021.

POETRY

Anna Akhmatova

Nikolai Gumilev

Osip Mandelstam

Marina Tsvetaeva

STORIES

Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Heart of a Dog*, *Master and Margarita*

SINGERS

Boris Grebenshikov

Bi-2

Zemfira

[Юрий Шевчук и группа ДДТ. Лучшее.](#)

Футболки С Принтами

FILMS:

Navalny, 2022

Suggested Supplementary Readings:

- Bulgakov, *Master and Margaret*
- Evgeny Schwartz, *The Dragon*
- Andrew Kahn, Mark Lipovetsky, Irina Reyfman, Stephanie Sandler, *A History of Russian Literature*

- Sergei Medvedev, *The Return of the Russian Leviathan* (Polity, translated by Stephen Dalziel)
- Victoria Lomasko, *Other Russias: Stories and Drawings from the Age of Putin*.
- Rosalind J. Marsh, *Literature, History and Identity in Post-Soviet Russia*

Journals:

- Experiment, A Journal of Russian Culture, Brill
- The Russian Review, JSTOR (The Russian Review is a multi-disciplinary academic *journal* devoted to the history, literature, culture, fine arts, cinema, society, and politics.)

Web resources:

<https://www.duolingo.com/course/ru/en/Learn-Russian> (Learn Russian in just 5 minutes a day).
<http://www.russianforeveryone.com/> (Russian language self-study guide for beginners)
<https://www.babbel.com/learn-russian> (Learn Russian)
<https://www.youtube.com/c/RushintoRussian/videos> (Russian with Kris Amerikos)
<https://www.youtube.com/user/AntoniaRomaker/featured> (Antonia Romaker - English and Russian online)
<https://www.alllanguageresources.com/resources/russian/> (Russian language learning resources)
<https://www.rbth.com/arts/334786-100-masterpieces-russian-literature> (100 masterpieces of Russian literature)
<https://www.rbth.com/> (Russia beyond)
<https://bg-aquarium.com/en> (Boris Grebenshikov's official website)

NOTE:

The course content, session plan, procedures, etc. are subject to change. The decision regarding any change will be communicated to students well in time.