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RUSS 201.01: Intermediate Russian I

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Intermediate Russian
RUSS 201, fall 2022 in LA 234
M, T, W, Thur., 11-11:50 am

Office Hours: M 10-11am, W 10-11am and 12-1pm in LA 330

Русский язык: Второй год

Required Course Materials:*

Coursepack and/or handouts (for regular assignments)
Essential Russian Grammar (for handy reference)
Personal Journal (for class writing and vocab assignments, etc)
Моя книга первых слов (for vocab building in thematic groups)

Recommended:

Index cards to make flash cards and/or a notebook for vocabulary
A medium-sized Russian-English, English-Russian dictionary. **

- I will be loaning you these materials and I may distribute more as we proceed. I would like them returned at the end of the semester unless you wish to purchase a copy to keep. I will be loaning you CDs and/or DVDs as well. My goal is to save students some money and to have more flexibility for myself in what materials I can use in the course.

**If you do not yet own your own English-Russian, Russian-English dictionary, you should purchase one. Talk with me if you want some relatively cheap options.

Learning Outcomes

Students in Intermediate-Level Russian will:

- review, strengthen and expand upon the foundational skillsets generally covered in an introductory-level Russian course, such as the verb conjugation system, the six basic cases and their endings and general uses, and a wide variety of vocabulary subsets including words related to family, foods, locations and travel, education and interests, basic verbs, etc.
- substantially expand and enrich their passive and active vocabularies in Russian by intensive work with key prefixes, roots, and suffixes.
- develop higher-level skills in each of the five main areas of foreign-language competence: comprehension (listening), reading, speaking, writing, and cultural competency. Higher-level skills in Russian would include advanced grammar topics such as subjunctive mood, participles, verbal adverbs, advanced use of verbal aspect, and verbs of motion with prefixes.
- learn to read, discuss, analyze, and interpret unadapted texts and video material in Russian.
- Develop paragraph-length narration skills in Russian that will enable them to construct more complex thoughts and formulate original opinions in spoken and written Russian on a variety of topics appropriate for the intermediate level of language study.

Course Objectives

In the two semesters of Intermediate Russian (RUSS 201 and 202) we will strive for the following:

GRAMMAR: The primary goal of this course is to reinforce the basic rules of Russian grammar that were covered in some fashion in First-Year Russian and then to build on and further develop the range of this knowledge base. **When you are trying to build a solid structure that will last, everything depends on how solidly you construct your foundation.** If you start to build on a shoddy foundation, the likelihood of collapse becomes high. We want to reduce the chances of collapsed areas in your Russian structure by helping to solidify and buttress your base before you attempt to build new floors and levels. Moreover, if your foundation is well laid in Russian, you will substantially increase the rate at which you will be able to assimilate and successfully integrate new vocabulary into your Russian lexicon. Without a solid foundation, your brain will not possess a ready-made scaffolding for attaching new information as it is covered, so it will be far less likely to attach permanently to your long-term memory. The foundational structures for successfully constructing thoughts in Russian make up what is commonly referred to as deep grammar, and in the Russian language, the role that grammatical structures play for helping native speakers give verbal form to their thoughts is of paramount importance.

Having acquired a rudimentary understanding of much if not all of the basics of Russian grammar (knowledge of all six cases and some familiarity with the major verb conjugation patterns, basic verb of motion usage, basic verb aspect usage, etc.), you should (ideally) be relatively familiar with many of the basic concepts that will be revisited in an accelerated manner and reinforced in Russian 201 and Russian 202. However, I am well aware that due to the long summer break and the rapid pace of first-year Russian, a number of the topics that you may have already covered in first-year will in fact NOT be solid or clear in your minds. Your task in intermediate Russian, therefore, is to solidify your knowledge of Russian grammar, especially the cases (the declension and

use of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives) and verbs (conjugation, tense, aspect, and case governance) and to build on and expand your knowledge base **even as you simultaneously work to fill in gaps in your knowledge from first-year Russian**. In addition, you need to work toward a greater command of the "finer points" of Russian. Under this category I have in mind more advanced grammar concepts, such as subjunctive mood, verbal adverbs and participles, more advanced use of verb prefixes, aspect, and various exceptions, idioms, and stylistic nuances.

VOCABULARY: Intermediate Russian aims to solidify and enrich your lexicon (vocabulary) in Russian at a rapid rate. We also aim to reduce the chances that you will lose the vocabulary that you have already developed by revisiting key introductory-level vocabulary topics, such as food, clothing, animals, body parts, etc. Your vocabulary acquisition will be enhanced through the grouping of vocabulary entries around specific topics, texts, and films. Whenever possible, we will strive to learn new vocabulary in context, the way that native speakers do, so that you will be learning not isolated word units translated into English, but how words are used in various contexts in the original language. In order to enrich your lexicon in Russian, you must study vocabulary diligently and consistently. Organization is most important: **I strongly suggest that you use flash cards and/or a vocabulary notebook to make the job easier**. For each chapter test you are expected to know all of the vocabulary that we have covered up to that point in readings and through our activities in class. Special emphasis will be placed on the most recent vocabulary covered. Much of the vocabulary covered in RUSS 201 and especially RUSS 202 will be learned in authentic contexts (e.g., short texts, the DVDs with the films «Баллада о солдате», «Москва слезам не верит», etc).

SPEAKING, READING and WRITING: Second semester of Intermediate Russian places particular emphasis on improving your ability to speak, read, and write in Russian. To this end I conduct a substantial part of class in Russian and ask that you adhere to a Russian-only policy in the classroom whenever possible. During this course you will progress from single-word and sentence-length answers in Russian to the level of full-paragraph narration on a variety of subjects. You will also gradually progress from reading primarily adapted short texts written specially for non-native speakers to tasks designed to teach you how to work with authentic, unadapted texts in Russian. Learning to comprehend authentic Russian requires not only a base vocabulary and knowledge of grammar and key roots, but also strategies for working with authentic texts. You will learn to develop reading and listening strategies and skills to help prepare you to work with unfamiliar material in an authentic, native environment. Finally, you will learn to write in a variety of modes including paragraph descriptions, personal letters, personal essays, and analytical writing in Russian. You will also practice writing in Russian both with and without the use of dictionaries, reference aids, and the use of the internet. You will thus learn how to use the many language tools that are readily available to compose in Russian as well as to compose without them, since use of Russian in the real world requires both types of skill sets.

CULTURE: Language is inseparable from culture, and one cannot understand many basic language concepts without an understanding of how the words and concepts function within the culture as a whole. Every WORD in a language is a minute part of a larger cultural WORLD. One of the strengths of this year-long course is that it contains readings and video material on a wide array of subjects from Russian literature, history, and popular culture. These materials provide a range of subject matter to read and discuss and, as an added benefit, also introduce you to a wide spectrum of Russian culture and civilization.

As you can see from this introduction, Second-Year (Intermediate) Russian is a demanding course. During two semesters you will work to improve your abilities in each of the four areas of foreign-language competence: comprehension (listening), reading, speaking, and writing. Our primary goal is to activate and expand on the skills you learned in first-year Russian. You will also begin to internalize the deep structures in the Russian language that help native speakers to assimilate new vocabulary and information in the language at a much faster pace than those without an innate knowledge of these deep structures and patterns inherent to the Russian language. The grammar must become second nature to you, and you will need to expand your active vocabulary rather rapidly if you are to become proficient in the language. Ultimately, our aim by the end of third-year Russian (Advanced Russian) is to be ready to read, discuss, and write about authentic Russian texts in Russian in a relatively sophisticated manner. Ideally, second-year Russian should function as a bridge leading toward this goal. If **YOU** take some initiative on your own and make the extra effort, I have no doubt that you will be greatly rewarded! You are not competing against one another in the class -- all of you are working together toward a common goal. Make a concentrated effort to help one other, especially if you notice that someone is having an "off" day! With one year of hard work all of you can go from the level of a novice to the level of a student who is ready to begin reading works of Russian literature and understanding Russian cinema in the original!

Course Requirements and Guidelines

Class Participation

You are expected to attend nearly every class and to contribute actively toward its success. The value and enjoyment you obtain from class depends on your active participation and engagement in the course material. Adequate preparation will insure that you (and others) have an enriching and enjoyable class experience.

Attendance Policy

After five unexcused absences your course grade for this class may be lowered by one step (e.g., A- to B+). Six or more unexcused absences may result in the lowering of your grade by one full letter (e.g., A- to B-). Eight or more unexcused absences may lower your grade two full letters (e.g., A to C)! Russian is a performance-based course that depends on your active participation in discussion of the material. Therefore, you should come to each class prepared to work with the material that has been assigned.

Classroom Etiquette

It is essential to the learning process that students treat each other and the instructor with respect. Under the Student Conduct Code, students who are found to be disruptive may be asked to leave the classroom. Disruptive behaviors may include but are not limited to:

- Using electronic communication devices, including cell phones and laptops for purposes unrelated to ongoing class activities.
- Carrying on side conversations that are distracting to the instructor and other students.
- Verbally interrupting the class with comments or questions not relevant to the course or to the current discussion.
- Failure to participate in assigned group activities.
- Significantly interfering with instructor's work activities during or outside of class.

Grading

The final grade for this course will be calculated according to the following formula:

Attendance and Class Participation	15%	
Homework/Written Assignments	15%	
Oral exam		15%
Two comprehensive written tests	30%	
Written Final Exam	25%	

GRADING SCALE

94%-100%	A	88%-89% B+	78%-79% C+	60%-69% D
90%-93% A-	83%-87% B	73%-77% C	59% and below	F
	80%-82% B-	70%-72% C-		

Academic Honesty

All students should practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. I expect you to adhere to the standards set forth in the Student Conduct Code.

Here are some general guidelines for this course.

1. You should complete all tests (including the final) and quizzes without consulting outside sources (including phones, tablets and laptops) and without help from other individuals (e.g., native speakers) unless specified that it is okay for a given exercise. All work on homework should be your own.
2. Working with other students on homework can be quite helpful, and this practice is fine and even encouraged as long as you adhere to a few simple rules.
 - A. It is always permissible to consult with other students to review **general concepts** (i.e., when to use genitive case, case usage after numbers, the difference between imperfective and perfective aspect).
 - B. You may work on individual homework assignments with other students, but you need to make this a truly **collaborative** effort. The majority of answers to a given assignment must be solely your own, and when you share information, everyone must participate actively.
3. You may consult with native or heritage speakers only on general issues of Russian grammar. You should **not** ask a native speaker for help on individual assignments. Feel free to practice your Russian with anyone you wish, however (and I strongly encourage you to attend Russian-related functions on campus). The more you use your Russian, the better it will become!
4. If you are unclear about whether certain forms of consultation or common work are acceptable, **please ask me**.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you think you may have a disability that will affect your academic performance and you have not already registered with ODE, please visit the office on the first floor of Aber Hall or call 406.243.2243. I will be glad to work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

SYLLABUS

Nota Bene – The syllabus which follows is intended as a **general** syllabus. I reserve the right to change assignments, add homework to daily assignments or to make modifications during the semester. I will make every effort to keep major assignments (e.g. test dates, oral exam) as they are listed below.

August

WEEK ONE

Mon 29 Introductions, Fill out Class Cards
Distribution of Course Materials
Course Philosophy/Pedagogical Approach
HW: None—Celebrate the first day!

Tues 30 Review of Two Conjugations in Russian
Begin Verb Conjugation & Mutation
HW: List of verbs (in journal; 15 mins)
A Bit About Yourself (in journal; 20 mins)

September

Wed 31 Verb Conjugation & Mutation
Begin Verb Conjugation Paradigms
HW: Verb Conjug. & Mutation Practice Sheets

Thurs 1 Feedback and Discussion of Journal Work
Verb Conjugation & Mutation
More Verb Conjugation Paradigms
HW: Verb Conjug. & Mutation Practice Sheets

September

WEEK TWO

Mon 5 **LABOR DAY – No Class**

Tues 6 Verb Conjugation, Mutation (outside?)
Speaking Practice
HW: Verb Conjugation Worksheet

Wed 7 Some Key Grammar Terms in Russian
Accusative Case Overview
More Verb Conjugation Paradigms
HW: Accusative Case Assignment

Thurs 8 Prepositional Case Overview
Vocab Topic One: Colors
HW: Review Vocab for Colors in Russian

Verb Conjugation Set One
Prepositional Case Practice Sheet

WEEK THREE

Mon 12 Dative Case
Russian Root Work One: ДА- “GIVE”
HW: Verb Conjugation Set Two

Tues 13 Dative Case
Vocab Topic Two: Body Parts, p. 2 «Моя книжка
первых слов»

HW: Dative Case Worksheet/Assignment
Go Over/Review Vocab for Body Parts

Wed 14 Dative Case
Russian Root Work Two: ПИС- "WRITE"

HW: Dative Case Worksheet/Assignment

Thurs 15 Dative Case
Vocab Topic Three: Fruits, p. 36-39

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Three
Review Vocab for Fruits
Make an Overview Sheet for Dative Case

WEEK FOUR

Mon 19 Genitive Case
Russ. Root Work Three: СТА-/СТО- "STAND"

HW: Genitive Case Worksheet

Tues 20 Genitive Case
Vocab Topic Four: Vegetables/Berries, p. 32-35

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Four
Review Vocab for Vegetables/Berries

Wed 21 Genitive Plural Overview
Root Work Four: СИД-/СЕД-/САД-/САЖ-
"SIT/SET/PLANT"

HW: Genitive Plural Worksheet

Thurs 22 Genitive Case
Vocab Topic Five: Food & Drinks, p. 40-51

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Five
Review Vocab for Foods & Drinks
Prepare an Overview of Genitive Case

WEEK FIVE

Mon 26 Genitive Case
Root Work Five: ЛЕЖ-/ЛОЖ-/ ЛОГ-/ЛЯГ-
"LIE/LAY" "PUT/PLACE"

HW: Genitive Case Worksheet

Tues 27 Instrumental Case
Vocab Topic Six: Rooms & Furniture, p. 102-107

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Six
Review Vocab for Rooms & Furniture

Wed 28 Instrumental Case
Russian Root Work Six: ЗНА- "KNOW/SIGN-"

HW: Instrumental Case Worksheet

Thurs 29 Instrumental Case
Vocab Topic Seven: Dishes, p. 108-109

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Seven
Review Vocab for Dishes

WEEK SIX

October

Mon 3 Instrumental Case
Root Work Seven: РОД-/ПОЖ- "BIRTH/GEN-"

HW: Instrumental Case Worksheet

Tues 4 General Review for Exam One

HW: Prepare an Overview of Instrumental Case

Wed 5 General Review for Exam One

HW: Study for Exam One

Thur 6 **Written Exam One**

HW: NONE – Enjoy the Weekend!

WEEK SEVEN

Mon 10 КОТОРЫЙ
Root Work Eight: ПРАВ- "RIGHT/RECT-
/TRUTH"

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Eight

Tues 11 КОТОРЫЙ
Vocab Topic Eight: Seasons/Parts of Day, p. 14-17

HW: КОТОРЫЙ Worksheet
Review Vocab for Seasons/Parts of the Day

Wed 12 КОТОРЫЙ
Russian Root Work Nine: КРЫ-/КРО- "COVER"

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Nine

Thurs 13 КОТОРЫЙ
Vocab Topic Nine: Clothes & Shoes, p. 88-101

HW: КОТОРЫЙ Worksheet
Review Vocab for Clothes & Shoes

WEEK EIGHT

Mon 17 ЧТОБЫ
Root Work Ten: БЕРТ-/БРАТ-/БОПОТ-/БЕРН-
"TURN"

HW: Verb Conjugation Set Ten

Tues 18 ЧТОБЫ
Vocab Topic Ten: Hats & Accessories, p. 98-99
HW: Worksheet with ЧТОБЫ
Review Vocab for Hats & Accessories

Wed 19 ЧТОБЫ
Root Work Eleven: МАЛ-/МЕЛ-/МОЛ- "SMALL/GROUND UP"
HW: Verb Conjugation Set Eleven

Thurs 20 БЫ
Vocab Topic Eleven: Nature & Weather,
p. 20-21, 26-27
HW: Worksheet with БЫ
Review Vocab for Nature & Weather

WEEK NINE

Mon 24 БЫ
Russian Root Work Twelve: ТЕП-/ТЁП-/ТОП-
"WARM/HEAT"
HW: Verb Conjugation Set Twelve

Tues 25 БЫ
Vocab Topic Twelve: Animals, pp. 50-69
HW: Worksheet with БЫ
Review Vocab for Animals

Wed 26 «Ступеньки» (in class work on short text)
Root Work Thirteen: СТУП-/СТЕП- "STEP"
HW: Verb Conjugation Set Thirteen

Thurs 27 ЧТОБЫ & БЫ
Vocab Topic Thirteen: Opposites
HW: Watch all of «Баллада о солдате»
Try to write down some vocab you hear
as you are watching the film (or afterwards).

WEEK TEN

Mon 31 «Баллада о солдате»
Verbal Adverbs
Verb Aspect
HW: Translations and/or Verbal Adverb Sheet

November

Tues 1 «Баллада о солдате»
Verbal Adverbs
Verb Aspect

HW: Translations and/or Verbal Adverb Sheet

Wed 2
Verbal Adverbs

«Баллада о солдате»
Verb Aspect

HW: Translations and/or Verbal Adverb Sheet

Thurs 3
Verbal Adverbs and Verb Aspect

«Баллада о солдате»

HW: Questions in Russian: «Баллада о солдате»

WEEK ELEVEN

Mon 7
Verbal Adverbs and Verb Aspect

«Баллада о солдате»

HW: Questions in Russian: «Баллада о солдате»

Tues 8

ELECTION DAY -- No Class

Wed 9

«Баллада о солдате»
Verbal Adverbs and Verb Aspect

HW: Begin Mini-Essay on «Баллада о солдате»

Thurs 10

«Баллада о солдате»

HW: Finish Mini-Essay on «Баллада о солдате»

WEEK TWELVE

Mon 14

Class Discussion of «Баллада о солдате»

Tues 15

Review for Exam Two

Wed 16

Review for Exam Two

HW: Study for Exam Two

Thurs 17

Written Exam Two

WEEK THIRTEEN – Oral Exam Practice

Mon 21

Vocab building to go with the Oral Exam

HW: Oral Exam Prep Questions 1-10

Tues 22

Oral Exam Questions 1-10 due in written form

Wed 23

THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Class

Thurs 24

THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Class

WEEK FOURTEEN Oral Exam Practice

Mon 28 Oral Exam Questions 11-20 due in written form

Tues 29 Oral Exam Questions 21-30 due in written form

Wed 30 Oral Exam Questions 31-end due in written form

December

Thurs 1 Oral Exam Review Practice in class (entire exam)

WEEK FIFTEEN Oral Exam/Review for Final

Mon 5 Oral Exam Review Practice in class (entire exam)

Tues 6 **ORAL EXAM** (No regular class today)

Wed 7 Review for Written Final

Thurs 8 Review for Written Final

The **written FINAL EXAM** is on **Monday, Dec 12 from 8-10am in LA 234.**