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RUSS 301.01: Russian Oral and Written Expression I

Ona Renner-Fahey

University of Montana - Missoula, Ona.Renner@mso.umt.edu

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RUSSIAN 301

Oral and Written Expression I

Autumn 2018

Time: MWF 9:00-9:50

Location: Liberal Arts 234

Credits: 3

Professor: Ona Renner-Fahey

Office Hours: M 1-1:50, W 11-11:50; F 11-11:50
and by appointment.

Office: Liberal Arts 329

E-mail: ona.renner@mso.umt.edu

Course description:

This course is structured around readings that are geared toward stimulating reflection and discussion. Vocabulary and grammar will be introduced *in context* through readings and then further activated through the writing of compositions about the topics of the readings. Once the students have familiarized themselves with the topics in the target language, they will have in-class discussions and debates using the new material and skills.

Goals and outcomes:

In this course students will increase their familiarity with and comfort in the target language. More specifically, they will advance their vocabulary; improve their reading and writing skills; and gain confidence and fluency in their oral proficiency. Particular emphasis will be placed upon learning to express opinions and defend viewpoints.

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.

Disability accommodations: If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable accommodation in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program accommodations. If you are already working with Disability Services, then you should arrange to meet with your instructor during her office hours to discuss accommodations that may be necessary.

Percentage distribution of final course grade:

Class engagement: 18%	Unit compositions (4 @ 6%): 24%
Discussion days (4 @ 3): 12 %	Composition on film: 10%
Pen pal participation 10%	Final exam: 10%
Unit quizzes (4 @ 4%): 16%	

Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required. The students will receive **participation grades** of 0-3: 0 for being absent, 1 for present without contributing to the discussion (letter grade of C), 2 for adequate participation (letter grade of B), 3 for high quality (not just quantity) of participation (letter grade of A). Other factors figured into participation grades are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. On scheduled discussion days students will receive a grade out of 100 percentage points. The grade will be based on not only how much students speak and interact with one another but whether they prove that they have learned vocabulary and phrases from the unit. *Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade. One discussion day may be missed, as only four discussion day grades will be counted. If a student is going to miss a second discussion day, s/he must let the professor know before class and then must arrange to make it up within one week. If a student participates in all five discussion day, the lowest grade will be dropped.*

Each student will be matched with a Russian pen pal in Vladimir through the program American Home. This program will be administered by American Home via e-mail. *It is the student's responsibility to write to her/his pen pal on time. When a student sends an essay or set of corrections late, one percentage point will be deducted from the pen pal participation grade. Each time the communication appears to be done sloppily or with too much dependence on the Internet, a point will be deducted.*

Compositions must be neatly handwritten, skipping lines. Please use both sides of the paper but avoid dark pens that bleed through. Because the sizes of paper and of handwriting vary so much, a specific number of pages is not assigned. Students will be told once in a while how the word count of their essays compares to their classmates'. The most important requirement is that you cover all the questions brought up in the readings and actively use a lot of the new vocabulary. Dictionaries and reference books may be used when writing the essays; the Internet, however, should be avoided. If the Internet is used at all, it must be limited to standard on-line dictionaries, NOT Google translate or anything comparable and not to look up entire phrases. *If the language of an essay seems to be too advanced, I will meet with the student to discuss the writing process and content and may require the essay to be rewritten. Inappropriate use of the Internet has been increasing the last few years and will not be tolerated. Finally, if essays are handed in late, they will be marked down 2 points per day, 4 points over a weekend. After class the same day will result in a 1 or 2 point reduction, depending on the time.*

Course materials:

1. It is not necessary to purchase a textbook for this course. Selected readings from R.A. Kul'kova's Я хочу тебя спросить... will be provided through Moodle.
2. A good English-Russian/Russian-English dictionary is, however, required (Katzner or Oxford is recommended. A pocket dictionary will not suffice. Neither will on-line dictionaries.)
3. A book of verb conjugations is highly suggested.

COURSE SCHEDULE (*Subject to change):

Homework assignments will be due on the dates provided. In the event of an absence, of course, you should check to see whether any changes were made to the scheduled homework.

M 8/27 Introduction

W 8/29 Grammar review due

UNIT 1: FOOD AND NUTRITION

F 8/31 First reading due

M 9/3 NO CLASSES

W 9/5 Second reading due

F 9/7 Third reading due

M 9/10 Composition due

W 9/12 Quiz

F 9/14 Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 2: EDUCATION

M 9/17 First reading due

W 9/19 Second reading due

F 9/21 Third reading due

M 9/24 Composition due

W 9/26 Quiz

F 9/28 Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 3: FRIENDSHIP

M 10/1 First reading due

W 10/3 Second reading due

F 10/5 Third reading due

M 10/8 Composition due

W 10/10 Quiz

F 10/12 Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 4: NATURE

M 10/15 First reading due

W 10/17 Second reading due

F 10/19 Third reading due

M 10/22 Composition due

W 10/24 Quiz

F 10/26 Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 5: FILM: *Dersu Uzala*

M 10/29 Introduction to film

W 10/31 Film; homework TBA

F 11/2 Film; homework TBA

M 11/5 Film; homework TBA

W 11/7 Film; homework TBA

F 11/9 Film; homework TBA

M 11/12 NO CLASSES

W 11/14 Film; homework TBA

F 11/16 NO CLASSES

M 11/19 Film review

*****THANKSGIVING BREAK*****

M 11/26 Composition due

W 11/28 Review for final; homework TBA

F 11/30 Review for final: homework TBA

W 12/3 Review for final: homework TBA

F 12/5 Discussion day; Corrected composition due

M 12/7 Review for final

FINAL EXAM: 8-10 am on Wednesday, December 12th

Autumn 2018
Russian 301

Attendance / Participation Policy: Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required. The students will periodically receive *participation grades* of 0-3: 0 for being absent, 1 for present without contributing to the discussion (letter grade of C), 2 for adequate participation (letter grade of B), 3 for high quality (not just quantity) of participation (letter grade of A). (Students will always receive a grade for a scheduled discussion day, which will be calculated differently.) Such days are considered the most important of the semester. Other factors figured into participation grades are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. *Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade. One discussion day may be missed, as only four discussion day grades will be counted. If a student is going to miss a second discussion day, s/he must let the professor know before class and then must arrange to make it up within one week. If a student participates in all five discussion day, the lowest grade will be dropped.*

Tardiness may also have an effect upon participation grades For example, if your course grade averages to a 91% but you were absent 3 times, your course grade would be changed to an 89%. If you were absent 4 times, your course grade would be changed to an 87%. *If a student does not miss any classes (and was not regularly tardy) over the course of the semester, two percentage points will be added to her/his final course grade. If a student is late and marked absent, it is his/her responsibility to make sure that absence is removed.*

Absences will only be excused for serious illnesses or university-sponsored events that have been *approved ahead of time* by your Russian instructor. In general, doctors' appointments, weddings, minor colds, etc., will not be excused. You may use your two free absences for those types of situations.

I have read and understand the above attendance policy for third-year Russian at the University of Montana.

Signature

Date

Printed name