Welcome to the Slavic Department!

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course develops elementary skills in Russian. We will begin by learning the alphabet and go on to read, understand, write and speak Russian in basic contexts related to everyday life (where you are from, where you live, what do like or dislike, what do you do every day, what courses you take at IU, your favorite places to hang out, etc). We will work with a range of exciting authentic materials, videos, the Internet, and music – all related to the fascinating scene of Russia today. At the end of the course you will be able to participate in simple informal conversations, read simplified literary and ‘popular’ texts, and listen to and comprehend sentence-length utterances consisting of learned elements. Most students successfully completing this course will emerge with novice high to intermediate low proficiency levels according to the ACTFL proficiency guidelines (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

EXTRACURRICULAR STUDIES & ACTIVITIES

In addition to language instruction, our Department offers a variety of opportunities for you to explore Russian culture: lecture series, Russian table - weekly informal gatherings, movie nights, field trips, etc. At the end of semester, all Russian language courses prepare a Talent Show, so it is good to get an early start and begin thinking of what our class can pitch in. You will also receive info via the Slavic Department mailing-lists and from your instructor. If you want to further expand your cultural and linguistic experience with Russian, you may want to consider residence at the Global Village where you can room with students who also speak Russian or who are native Russian speakers themselves (http://www.indiana.edu/~college/global/about.shtml). Finally, you are strongly encouraged to speak as much Russian as possible outside the classroom, especially with your fellow classmates, teachers, and other students.

If you have creative or academic ideas of how to use or enhance your Russian, go ahead, share it with us. We are always happy to do things together. Be a part of the Department!

COURSE MATERIALS

In this course, we will use a course pack (available for purchase at two book stores – Barnes & Noble in the Memorial Union Building and T.I.S. on the 3rd street near the Bear’s Place) and various authentic materials ranging from cartoons to the Russian Internet. All additional materials, as well as the course syllabus, homework assignments, and exercise keys are available through the IU’s Oncourse at: https://cas.iu.edu/cas/login?cassvc=CMS&casurl=https://oncourse.iu.edu/sakai-login-tool/container?
Course Pack (Required):
  - DVD with Video
  - Textbook I
  - Workbook I
  - CD with Interactive audio drills

Suggested Reference Materials (These are optional, we won’t be using them):
- Russian-English and English-Russian Free Online Dictionary
  [http://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?a=1&SHL=1](http://www.multitran.ru/c/m.exe?a=1&SHL=1)

COURSE POLICIES

- COURSE GRADE
  - Class Attendance & Participation 20%
  - Homework 20%
  - Quizzes 20%
  - Unit Tests & Culture Diary (5% of the unit test value) 20%
  - Midterm & Final Tests (Written & Oral) 20%
  - Extra credit 5%

  Grading scale

- ATTENDANCE AND MISSED WORK
  Regular class attendance is absolutely essential for your progress. You make a commitment to invest your time, energy and thought required to master this complex language, you also make a commitment to your fellow classmates to study steadily and to attend all classes regularly, lest we all waste valuable time repeating material that has already been presented in class. If you must miss class due to illness or some other legitimate reason (i.e., religious holidays), please notify the instructor in advance by sending an email. For every 3 unexcused absences your final grade will be dropped by one point.

- CLASS PARTICIPATION
  Class participation is one of the most important components of your performance and, consequently, your grade in this class. Your full engagement is expected – try to speak as much as possible in class. Your performance on oral assignments (e.g., preparing in advance for discussions or preparing short monologues, dialogues, verses, or skits) will be evaluated for effort and counted toward your class participation grade. Over
the course of the semester, you will receive two interim grades for your attendance and participation – after the fifth and tenth weeks. These will comprise two-thirds of your final grade for attendance and participation.

- **HOMEWORK**
  You are expected to spend about 1-1.5 hours on your homework daily. Written homework exercises will be graded for accuracy and effort. **Homework must be turned in the next day it has been assigned. For instance, the homework assigned on Monday must be turned in on Tuesday. Late homework will not be graded resulting in your loosing points toward the final grade.**

- **QUIZZES**
  Each unit will be accompanied with at least one vocabulary or/and grammar quiz.

- **UNIT WRITTEN TESTS**
  A typical written unit test will consist of a listening and/or reading comprehension component, a vocabulary/grammar section, a fill-in-the-blanks section, a translation, and a creative writing task. We will have unit tests approximately every other week.

- **CULTURE DIARY / ONCOURSE POSTING**
  Every other week we will have a Russian Culture Class devoted to various aspects of Russian life and culture. We will watch cartoons, excerpts from movies, listen to songs and musical performances, and alike. You will be expected to keep a Culture Diary in which you will make six brief entries on issues discussed in class. In your Diaries, you will be asked to share your ideas and impressions about the topic at hand. You may also choose to write on additional topics that are of interest to you. Minimum entry length is a paragraph – i.e., approximately a hundred of words. You will be posting your Culture Diaries every other week on OnCourse Forum. The Diary will be a unit behind, so you will submit your first entry with your second unit test and your final entry by the end of classes.

- **MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMINATION**
  These two exams have a similar format. They consist of two sections - **written** and **oral**; both written and oral sections cover all of the materials presented by the day of the exam with particular emphasis on the vocabulary and grammar learned in the last unit before the exam. Written exams are similar to unit tests. During oral exam you will engage in conversation covering topics that we have dealt in class – university life and family, the Internet and youth culture, your house (room); you will be also expected to compare academic life and youth culture in Russia and America. The conversation will also include such topics as Russian social institutions, households, family relations and such. Oral exam may also include a role-play which will be read to you in English and then you will be asked to act it out in Russian.

- **EXTRA CREDIT**
  You will get an additional 5% to your final grade if you do one of the following: a) participate in the Slavic Talent Show; b) present a creative project in Russian (e.g., write a poem, a short story, a song, or a skit; make a video; draw a comic strip; etc); participate in a Russian-based research project.

- **SPECIAL NEEDS**
  If you have special learning needs make sure to discuss them with the instructor as soon as possible. We are committed to providing instruction to all learners.
### IMPORTANT DATES
If you decide to drop the course, there are several important dates to remember so to avoid or alleviate possible academic and financial consequences:

http://enrollmentbulletin.indiana.edu/pages/offcal.php?Term=1&s=f16w

After a week of the inconsequential course-drop period (by August 30, 2013), it will be progressively more difficult to drop the course. If you need to drop the course well into the semester, try to arrange it by October 23, 2013, so you will leave with an automatic W-grade. After October 23, 2013 you won’t be able to drop the course via online system, instead you will need to obtain a course drop form from your school, complete it and submit it at Student Central on Union.

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*The assignments and events are subject to change*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments/Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | August 26-29 | Introduction  
Start UNIT 1 |
| Week 2 | September 3-5 (short week) | QUIZ 1  
TEST 1  
Culture Diary Entry 1  
Start UNIT 2 |
| Week 3 | September 9-12 | UNIT 2  
Culture Diary Entry 1 |
| Week 4 | September 16-19 | QUIZ 2  
TEST 2  
Culture Diary Entry 2  
Attendance & Participation Grade 1 |
| Week 5 | September 23-26 | UNIT 3  
Culture Diary Entry 3  
Attendance & Participation Grade 1 |
| Week 6 | September 30 – October 3 | Start UNIT 3  
THANKSGIVING BREAK |
| Week 7 | October 7-10 | QUIZ 3  
TEST 3  
Culture Diary Entry 3 |
| Week 8 | October 14-17 | Start UNIT 4  
Culture Diary Entry 6  
REVIEW  
TALENT SHOW |

### FINAL ORAL & WRITTEN EXAMINATION

- Oral examinations will be scheduled by your instructor
- To find out about your Final Written Exam go to (The Final will be held in your regular classroom):
  http://enrollmentbulletin.indiana.edu/pages/finexsche.php?Term=1#grid