Добро пожаловать на третий курс!

**COURSE OVERVIEW**
This course develops students' advanced skills in speaking, writing, reading and listening about a broad range of topics related to contemporary Russian culture and society – e.g., values and beliefs, political climate and opinion polls, urban life and stress, youth culture etc. Materials are drawn from diverse sources: articles from Russian media, the Internet, excerpts from films, cartoons, advertisements, blogs, and selected short stories by 19th and 20th century Russian authors. We will briefly survey Russian culture and history to contextualize our readings. The emphasis is placed on fostering students’ cultural awareness, higher level of listening and reading comprehension, as well as more sophisticated self-expression in both writing and speaking. Continued work on grammar and vocabulary building.

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We will be primarily working on your speaking and writing skills. Your success in this course is predicated on your active participation in an ongoing discussion – oral or written. You will be expanding your vocabulary and grammatical knowledge as well as strengthening your narrative ability. To this end, you will lead one in-class discussion, tape and post oncourse four peer-to-peer conversations related to the topics covered in class (each 2-3 minutes long), and write five 350/400-word comprehensive essays based on five course-themes.

Within each topic, we will be gradually moving from simple conversations to more complex and sophisticated ones. We will also diversify our writing repertoires and practice various genres (e.g., summaries, retellings, essays). We will continue working on vocabulary and grammar; most of your grammar homework will consists of self-check assignments.

We will have quizzes in which you will be tested on how well you have learned new vocabulary, grammar, and narrative structures. We will not have a traditional final exam, instead each of you will be researching a topic of interest during the course of the semester. At the end of the semester, you will make a 10-minute presentation on your topic. Your presentation will be evaluated based on: a) your ability to create a coherent discourse; b) breadth of vocabulary; c) use of new grammar (grammatical
topics that will be covered in class, i.e., participles, gerunds, complex sentences with subordination); d) grammatical accuracy; e) fluency.

Finally, we all as a class put on a play that we’ll present at the Slavic Talent Show. You will select a play out of our readings. I hope you’ll be audacious enough to embellish the original texts and give them a modern-day spin!

**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!**

If you want to explore Russian on your own, you might find the following sites interesting:

- Russian radio station *Mayak*, you won’t understand all of it but you will be able to make out some words and even phrases: http://tunein.com/tuner/?StationId=14105

**COURSE MATERIALS**

All course related materials, as well as homework assignments are available through the oncourse: https://oncourse.iu.edu/portal

You **don’t need to purchase any textbook** for the course, all materials will be either delivered through Oncourse – IU’s file sharing system, or distributed in class.

**Suggested Reference Materials:**

• Russian Internet search-engines: www.rambler.ru; www.yandex.ru
• Russian history source organized by topic (in Russian): http://hiztory.ru/
• English source for Russian history: http://www.bucknell.edu/x17601.xml

### COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading in-class discussion (1)</td>
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<td>Taped conversations with your classmate (4)</td>
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<td>Compositions (5)</td>
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<td>Vocabulary/grammar quizzes</td>
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<td>Final presentation</td>
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<td>Extra credit (Talent show/Participation in outside of class activities)</td>
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#### Grading scale

- **97-100** A+
- **88-89** B+
- **78-79** C+
- **68-69** D+
- **93-96** A
- **83-87** B
- **73-77** C
- **65-67** D
- **90-92** A-
- **80-82** B-
- **70-72** C-
- **0-64** F

- **ATTENDANCE AND 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. 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. **For every 3 unexcused absences your final grade will be dropped by one point. You are responsible for submitting all the work required by this course regardless of your absence in class.**

- **LEADING IN-CLASS DISCUSSION:** this is a collaborative task. Team up with one of your classmates and decide which topic on our syllabus you both would like to discuss in class. You will need to prepare a brief intro for your discussion, as well as a sensible number of questions for your classmates.

- **TAPED DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR PARTNER:** Over the course of the semester, tape and submit via oncourse two discussions with a classmate. Choose any two out of the five course themes. Make sure to present your point of view clearly in a well-organized fashion, using complex sentences (e.g., with the words который, чтобы, после того как). Each of you has to take a certain position on a topic you are discussing; then both of you will try to convince your partner to change their opinion on the topic. Make sure you work with different partners for each taped discussion.

- **COMPOSITIONS:** over the course of the semester we will practice various writing genres; be prepared to write at least one composition per week. After each theme you will write a 350/400-
word essay, presenting the topic at hand and expressing your position/ideas. Your writing assignments will be graded for their structural coherence, topic-development, use of new vocabulary and sophisticated grammar.

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

- **FINAL PRESENTATION:** You may choose an individual or a group presentation. If you decide to prepare a group presentation, make sure that all participants have a chance to speak. Group presentations are expected to be longer than individual presentations, proportionally to the number of participating individuals. The topic of your presentation has to lie within socio-political or socio-cultural areas. You have to assume a certain stance vis-à-vis the issue that you are covering and present your argument in favor of or against other existent views on that issue. The format of your presentation is flexible: you can make a standard academic presentation or you can run a survey among your peers or professors; tape an interview with a Russian speaker; participate in the Internet group-discussion and present your conclusions, and alike. You are encouraged to discuss your topic with the instructor.

- **CONVERSATIONAL MEETINGS WITH SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS:** Over the course of the semester, you will participate in five short online conversations with a second-year student. Each conversation should not exceed 5 minutes. Prior to each conversation, you will be provided with a few discussion questions or a scenario. Then, you and a second-year student will ask each other these questions and/or play out the scenario in Russian. If time permits, you may also ask additional questions of your conversational partner. Tape and submit these conversations via oncourse.

- **EXTRACREDIT:** Students participating in the Talent Show held at the end of the semester will receive 3% toward their final grade. If you attend other events organized by REEI or the Slavic Department, these will also count toward the extracredit.

- **SPECIAL NEEDS:** Students with special learning needs are asked 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](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**

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<td>• Тема 1</td>
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<td>• Аудиозапись 1: «Как я провел/провела лето»</td>
<td>• Тема 2</td>
<td>• Зачёт 2</td>
<td>• Оценка за посещаемость и работу в классе -2</td>
<td>• Аудиозапись 2</td>
<td>• Зачёт 3</td>
<td>• Тема 4</td>
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*The assignments and events are subject to change*