

Department of Russian and East European Studies  
University of Pennsylvania  
745 Williams Hall, (215) 898-8704  
<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/slavic>

## **RUSSIAN 002: Elementary Russian II**

### **Course Syllabus**

### **Spring 2021**

#### **Times and locations:**

##### **Monday, Wednesday**

12:00– 12:50 PM EDT – whole-class synchronous session (Zoom classroom)

##### **Tuesday, Thursday**

12:00– 1:00 PM EDT – 20-minute small-group synchronous sessions (Zoom classroom)

**Friday** – asynchronous activities

**Instructor:** Olga Nechaeva (Olga Igorevna)

**Office:** Zoom room

**Office hours:** Wednesday, 5-6 pm EDT

**E-mail:** [nechaeva@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:nechaeva@sas.upenn.edu)

**Welcome to Russian 002!** This course is the second in a series of elementary-level courses offered in the Russian program at Penn and is intended for students who completed Russian 001 or have otherwise demonstrated language competence at this level.

**This course is intended for students with no previous background in Russian. If you are new to Penn and have studied or been exposed to Russian elsewhere, you must take departmental placement test before registering for this course. Please contact Russian program coordinator, Dr. Maria Alley ([malley@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:malley@sas.upenn.edu)), as soon as possible.**

In this course you will further develop your language competence in speaking, listening, reading, and understanding contemporary Russian. We will work with an exciting range of authentic materials, including news reports, short stories, the Internet, music, and videos relating to the dynamic scene of Russia today. At the end of the course, students will be comfortable engaging in simple conversations about daily life, likes and dislikes, past events, and plans for the future. In addition to becoming a proficient speaker of Russian, we hope that you will become a skilled language learner and develop a curiosity about and love for Slavic cultures.

#### **COURSE MATERIALS**

Elementary Russian I and II use materials developed at Penn. All course materials will be available on our course page on Canvas. Check our Canvas site for a list of additional recommended materials and resources. A required reference book is **Terence Wade and David Gillespie's *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2010)**. You may purchase this book online and use a print or an electronic edition. A copy (both paper and e-book) is available in Van Pelt library. This is the Russian language program's reference book that will serve as a good reference for you as long as you study Russian language, at Penn and beyond!

#### **GRADING**

Attendance and participation	20%
Homework (written and oral)	30%
Quizzes	10%
4 unit projects	30%
2 speaking tests	10%

At the end of the semester, your final percentage will determine your final course grade as follows:

98-100	<b>A+</b>	83 - 86	<b>B</b>	70 - 72	<b>C-</b>
93 - 97	<b>A</b>	80 - 82	<b>B-</b>	60 - 69	<b>D</b>
90 - 92	<b>A-</b>	77 - 79	<b>C+</b>	59 & below	<b>F</b>
87 - 89	<b>B+</b>	73 - 76	<b>C</b>		

All grades are rounded up from .5 and down from .4.

### AUDITING THE COURSE

Registered course audits are only allowed for graduate students with permission from their home departments. Undergraduate students are not allowed to audit this course. Auditing students have the same requirements as registered students. Silent auditors are not allowed.

### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

The whole class will meet for 50-minute synchronous sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, you will meet for 20-minute synchronous meetings in small groups facilitated by your instructor. Check our Canvas schedule for group assignments. The Friday class time is reserved for various types of asynchronous activities, which you will complete individually, with a partner or in small group. Additionally, every week you will have one 30-minute standing individual meeting with your instructor.

Regular attendance of all these meetings and active participation in all activities is absolutely essential for your progress. Each day that you are absent will not only seriously affect your attendance and participation grade, but will also affect your performance on homework and assessments. By missing class or coming to class unprepared or late, you are less likely to learn the material, will be unable to achieve your own language learning goals, and will deprive your classmates of opportunities to learn as well. At the end of the semester, your attendance and participation grade will be calculated based on the average of daily attendance and participation grades assigned using the following scale:

<b>0</b>	absent
<b>1</b>	present, but not prepared for class; does not participate; does not stay on task and/or in Russian, does not listen to others.
<b>2</b>	present, but <i>minimally</i> prepared; <i>rarely</i> able to answer when called on; rarely uses Russian when required; rarely stays on task during partner/group work, rarely volunteers or contributes to group activities, rarely listens to others.
<b>3</b>	present, but <i>inconsistently</i> prepared; <i>sometimes</i> able to answer when called on; sometimes uses Russian when required; sometimes stays on task during partner/group work, sometimes volunteers or productively contributes to group activities, sometimes listens to others.

- 4 present and prepared for *most* activities; answers when called on *most of the time*, willingly and productively contributes to class activities; makes a conscious effort to use Russian as much as possible and stays on task during partner/group work; volunteers answers to open questions (not directed at anyone) with constructive comments; listens and respects contributions of others.

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- 5 present; demonstrates high level of preparation; always answers when called on; willingly and productively participates in all class activities; uses Russian almost exclusively; stays on task during partner/group work; volunteers constructive comments; shares pertinent information; listens and respects the ideas and comments of others; is engaged and participatory but also mindful and careful not to dominate talking time.

You are *not* expected to answer all questions correctly without any mistakes. In fact, mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. However, we expect that you will come to every class committed and prepared to *attempt* to answer every question, to take every opportunity to practice your Russian, and to help other students in class to do the same. If you arrive late, points will be deducted from your daily attendance and participation grade.

**At the end of the semester, your five lowest daily attendance and participation scores will be dropped. These may include absences. Following Penn policy, if a student misses or anticipates missing 5 or more consecutive days of classes, she or he should contact her/his school's advising office as soon as possible. If a student misses 10 or more classes, including small group meetings, for any reason s/he will automatically receive a failing grade in the course.**

**There are no "excused absences" – if you miss class, you are responsible for making up any work and knowing the material covered. All absences must be reported using "Course Absence Report" in Penn-in-Touch. Students are encouraged to keep close communication with the instructors throughout the semester. Email and, if necessary, Course Problem Notices (CPNs) in Penn-in-Touch will be used to alert students of any course-related problems.**

## HOMEWORK

Frequent, sustained engagement with the language is crucial to your success in Russian. To that end, you should spend at least an hour completing assigned activities every day, but you should frequently spend up to two hours per day going over the material covered in class and in earlier lessons, learning and applying new vocabulary and grammar structures, and exploring other ways to practice Russian (listening to music, surfing the internet, etc.).

Homework assignments range in point value from 5 to approximately 15 points. We try to scale the point values of the homework assignments in terms of how much time and effort they should take you to complete. However, all homework assignments are important and you should not interpret the point-values of the assignments too strictly. Your final homework grade is the percentage of the cumulative tally of homework points earned divided by the total possible homework points. At the end of the semester, your five lowest daily homework scores will be dropped (based on the average point-value of homework assignments). You can receive partial credit for late homework that is submitted up to 5 class days after the due date.

In this course, there will be several types of assignments, detailed below.

### Course packet and hand-written responses

Many explanations and exercises to be done at home will come from the course packet (**курсовой пакет**). Every time an exercise in the course packet prompts you to complete an activity in cursive writing, you should do so in a notebook or on a separate piece of paper. When you are done, take a picture of your answers using your phone or another device and upload it to Canvas in the corresponding assignment using “Submit Assignment” button. The goal of these assignments is to give you an opportunity to meaningfully apply the topics we are discussing in class using the vocabulary and grammar structures that have been practiced in class and in homework. Your answers should show thought and attention.

### **Canvas quizzes**

Although these are called “Quizzes,” these are meant as regular homework assignments. The goals of Canvas quizzes vary depending on what is being discussed or done in class. Some quizzes will be used to review and practice the information and constructions we used in class that day in a more structured way, others will introduce the information, the structures or vocabulary we will be using in class the following day, as a way to make you feel more comfortable in class. Other quizzes will focus on developing reading or listening competency. The quizzes focus on meanings of individual words and how these words are used in context and include a variety of question types. All quizzes allow three attempts to take the quiz in order to give you an opportunity to receive immediate feedback and make corrections to your answers.

### **Panopto activities**

Longer videos will be presented via Panopto as guided video activities. The goal of these activities is to give you frequent opportunities to listen to Russian spoken by a variety of speakers in a variety of contexts in a low-pressure environment. These videos are created by native speakers for native speakers and may seem overwhelming at times. Panoptos allow you to watch them as many times as you wish, to pause and rewind the video at any point and to retake the quizzes. We also use subtitles in English and in Russian to help guide you through the videos. These mediated opportunities to work with authentic texts are a way for you to increase your listening skills progressively and to prepare for listening in real life.

### **Quizlet sets**

Frequent and focused work with vocabulary outside of class is essential for expanding your active and passive vocabulary and developing your overall competency in Russian. One of the ways you will work with vocabulary is through Quizlet sets. Some Quizlets review the vocabulary we are working with in class and in homework, others will introduce you to new vocabulary as a way to prepare you for the next class meeting. Sometimes a Quizlet set will include individual words and sometimes phrases or sentences. We recommend that you repeat the words out loud as you listen to them and when working with individual words you put them into meaningful sentences to help you remember them better. You should also frequently return to old Quizlets to review the material covered in the past.

## **QUIZZES**

Almost every Monday during the semester there will be a short at-home quiz, which will test your competency in listening, reading, writing, and speaking Russian. These quizzes will assess the skills, competencies and information covered in class and in homework. The content and delivery method of quizzes will differ depending on what is being done in class. Sometimes you will complete a Canvas quiz similar to the ones you have done as homework, sometimes you will be asked to compose and hand-write a brief essay in Russian and upload it to Canvas, etc. Consistent class attendance, participation and preparation will contribute significantly to your performance on these quizzes.

## **PROJECTS**

At the end of each thematic unit, you will complete a project, in which you will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and competencies you acquired in the unit in a real-life situation. Projects vary in format and requirements depending on the topic we are covering and may include taking part in a role-play, making a presentation or a video, interviewing another Russian-speaking student and writing an essay.

## **SPEAKING TESTS**

During the semester there will also be 2 speaking tests, which will be conducted by your instructor outside of class during your standing individual meeting. Speaking tests may include a reading task, a role-play task, in which you will act out a specific situation or complete a concrete task, or a spontaneous conversation with your instructor or your classmate. During each speaking test your performance will be evaluated on content (what you are trying to communicate, how do you maintain communication), accuracy (in pronunciation and intonation, grammar and vocabulary), fluency and comprehension. Expectations and requirements for each speaking test will be discussed in class in advance.

## **ASYNCHRONOUS ACTIVITIES**

The goal of asynchronous activities is to give you additional practice opportunities with the vocabulary and structures we are learning grounded in Russian cultural context. In order to maximize your opportunities to communicate in Russian, this semester most asynchronous activities will consist of two parts. In addition to typical asynchronous activities that you saw last semester (part 1), we will ask you to meet with a classmate for a 15-20-minute recorded Zoom conversation based on a series of questions or a task related to our class work that week. To allow more time for planning, all asynchronous activities will be due by 11:59 pm EDT on Sundays.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students of Russian at Penn may take advantage of a wealth of extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Department and by other units at Penn, including conversation gatherings (Russian Tea) and language clubs, lectures, and more. You may receive up to three points of extra credit added to an assessment grade for participation in such events (1 point per one event). Extra-curricular activities will be announced in class and on the [department website](#).

## **LANGUAGE SUPPORT**

Every student at Penn can request a Russian tutor who will attend to his/her linguistic and learning needs patiently and with care. It is a free service provided through Penn Language Center. If you are interested, you may find more information about this program [here](#).

## **CLASSROOM RULES FOR RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES**

Remote learning requires some adjustments on your part as well as on the part of your instructors. To be a student in a physical classroom and to be a student in an online course is not the same. The following is a list of classroom rules that was devised so that all students may experience a comfortable and productive learning

environment and in order to maximize their learning in a remote classroom.

Many of these rules are self-evident and already observed by most students. However, it is helpful for everyone in the group to understand explicitly what type of behavior is expected in a remote Russian language classroom. All students are expected to abide by these rules, and students will be held accountable for any infraction of these rules. Thank you for your cooperation, and please see your instructor if you have any questions or concerns.

1. All students are expected to abide by the rules of [the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity](#) and [Code of Student Conduct](#). Any violations of the Codes, including plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own) or dishonest practices during examinations will be reported to the university officials.

**Specifically, in Russian-language courses, the use of any translation program and/or website with phrasal input (where you can translate a whole phrase or a sentence) or any help of other speakers of Russian is considered plagiarism. Any work you submit for a grade must be your own and must represent vocabulary and structures covered in this course.**

2. It's recommended that you use a computer rather than a smartphone for synchronous sessions because some of the mobile interfaces aren't as robust as on a computer.
3. During a synchronous class, you are expected to have your **video on** at all times, unless there are bandwidth issues. If you are not talking, have your **microphone off**, to avoid background noise interference.
4. Use “raise your hand” function in Zoom or physically raise your hand when you are ready to contribute, unless instructed otherwise.
5. In order to promote Russian language learning, it is necessary to maximize your opportunities to speak and hear Russian. In the classroom, you are therefore **expected to use Russian at all times**, participate in the shared learning environment and use the class time to practice speaking Russian as much as possible.
6. In this course, you will be asked to express personal opinions and to talk and write about yourself, your family, and friends. If you prefer, you do not need to discuss or reveal any personal information; instead you may provide fictitious information. When you are being creative, you are expected to keep in mind the general purpose of the activity by using relevant vocabulary and expressions.
7. Be professional: Treat your online lessons as face-to-face meetings.
  - a. Dress as if you are going to class. Remember that this is a shared academic space and you will be using your camera, so you are expected to look as you would in an in-person class.
  - b. Do everything possible to find a quiet space where you can concentrate for the duration of the lesson. Enclosed spaces, like a room with a door, are ideal to minimize interruption, disrupting background sound, and other distractions. This includes finding a place where your parents, siblings or pets will not be a distraction. If necessary, consider asking your family members to respect your learning space. Be mindful of what is behind you in the room as it will be visible to everybody.
  - c. You may be required to share your screen to present your work, and/or other related class materials. Therefore, remember that what's visible in your screen and browser should be

- appropriate for a scholarly environment.
- d. Punctuality is important just as it is in a physical class.
  - e. Have the assigned texts and your notebooks in front of you. Take notes just like you would in a regular class.
  - f. Avoid lurking in the cyberspace background. Don't text, surf the Internet, write e-mails, shop online, etc. during the online session. As you would in an in-person class, do your best to avoid any online and other activities, as well as communications that do not relate directly to the class. Close tabs in the browser that you don't need during the lesson. Keep only those tabs open which you will be using during class. Turn off notifications on your computers; turn off and put away your phones (if possible), unless you need them during class for some tasks or to communicate technical difficulties.
  - g. The use of profanity in the classroom (in any language) will not be tolerated.
  - h. Chewing gum or eating is not acceptable in the language classroom. Soft drinks are allowed, as long they do not interfere with your ability to speak Russian.

**Should you have any questions regarding Russian at Penn please feel free to talk to your instructor, and, of course, at any time you are welcome to contact the Russian Language Program Coordinator, Dr. Maria Alley ([malley@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:malley@sas.upenn.edu)).**