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Intermediate Russian
RUSS 201, fall 2019 in LA 234
M, T, Thur., 11-11:50am PLUS
one individualized practice
session each week.

Office Hours: M 12-1pm, Tues 1-2pm and by appointment in LA 330

Русский язык: Второй год

Required Course Materials* [\$50 or \$40*]:

Coursepack	\$10
Essential Russian Grammar	\$4
«Изучаем мир вокруг»	\$4
Носов, «Фантазеры»	\$10 (optional*)
Моя книга первых слов	\$10
First Thousand Words in Russ	\$6
Other small booklets	\$6

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

I will be LOANING you CDs and/or DVDs during the semester. I have purchased these materials myself in order to save you money! Please handle them with care—if a CD or DVD is broken, you will need to pay replacement costs!

*These materials are available for purchase (at cost) from your instructor.

**If you do not yet own your own English-Russian, Russian-English dictionary, you should purchase one. Talk with me if you want some cheaper 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 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 you 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, 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 grammar and syntax, 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 the basics of Russian grammar (six cases and all 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 and reinforced in an accelerated format 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. I am even willing to bet that there are even basic concepts that

you remember rather poorly. I have many, many years of teaching experience to back up this assertion! 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, participles, and verbal adverbs, 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», «Снежная Королева» and «Москва слезам не верит», etc).

SPEAKING, READING and WRITING: This 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 that are specially written 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 these skillsets.

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 cinema in their original language!

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 this 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

Please be sure to bring a letter of excuse for official or excused absences (e.g., serious illness, religious holiday, family emergency). After four unexcused absences your course grade 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	10%	
Written Homework	15%	
Oral weekly homework	15%	
Oral exam		10%
Two comprehensive tests	25%	
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. The Code is available for review online at: <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>. Here are some general guidelines for this course.

1. You should complete all tests (including the final) and quizzes without consulting outside sources and without help from another individual. All work on these exercises should be solely 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 Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will be glad to work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.

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 at any time during the semester. I will make every effort to keep major

assignments (e.g. test dates, oral exam) as they are listed below, but it is possible one or more of these could also have to be changed.

August

WEEK ONE

Mon	26	Course Overview Verb Conjugation and Mutation
	Tues 27	Nominative and Accusative Verb Conjugation and Mutation
Thurs	29	Prepositional Verb Conjugation and Mutation

September

WEEK TWO

Mon	2	<u>LABOR DAY – No Class</u>
Tues	3	Dative Case Overview
Thurs	5	Dative Case Verb Conjugation and Mutation

WEEK THREE

Mon	9	Genitive Case Overview
Tues	10	Genitive Plural
Thurs	12	Genitive Plural

WEEK FOUR

Mon	16	Instrumental Case Overview
Tues	17	Instrumental Case
Thurs	19	Written Exam One

HW – Watch the entire film «Баллада о солдате» and
Look over the corresponding materials in the coursepack.
Prepare for a general discussion of the film in class on Tuesday. Focus in particular on the first half and describing the characters.

WEEK FIVE

Mon	23	NO CLASS Prepare for the discussion of «Баллада о солдате»
Tues	24	Discussion of «Баллада о солдате» (focus on the first half & the characters & relationships)
Thurs	26	NO CLASS

WEEK SIX

September

Mon 30 «Баллада о солдате»
Prepare for general discussion of the film.

October

Tues 1 «Важный разговор» текст и вопросы

Thurs 3 «Трудный экзамен» текст и вопросы

WEEK SEVEN

Mon 7 «Как они познакомились» текст и вопросы

Tues 8 бы и чтобы
«Ступеньки» текст и вопросы

Thurs 10 «Ступеньки» текст и вопросы
Verb Prefixes

WEEK EIGHT

Mon 14 «Леденец» текст и вопросы
Verb Prefixes

Tues 15 «Леденец» текст и вопросы
Verb Prefixes

Thurs 17 Verb Prefixes

WEEK NINE

Mon 21 «Прятки» текст и вопросы
Verb prefixes and ROOTS

Tues 22 «Прятки» текст и вопросы
Verb prefixes and ROOTS

Thurs 24 Verb prefixes and ROOTS

WEEK TEN

Mon 28 Verbal Adverbs
Verb Aspect

Tues 29 Verbal Adverbs
Verb Aspect

Thurs 31 Verbal Adverbs
Verb Aspect

WEEK ELEVEN

November

Mon 4 «Как Ленин учился» текст и вопросы
Verb prefixes and ROOTS

Tues 5 **ELECTION DAY – No Class**

Thurs 7 «Как Ленин учился» текст и вопросы
Verb prefixes and ROOTS

WEEK TWELVE

Mon 11 **VETERAN'S DAY - No Class**

Tues 12 Review for Exam Two

Thurs 14 **Written Exam Two**

WEEK THIRTEEN – Oral Exam Practice

Mon 18 Vocab building to go with the Oral Exam

Tues 19 Oral Exam Review Questions 1-15 due in written form

Sign up for an oral exam slot today

Thurs 21 Oral Exam Review Questions 16-30 due in written form

WEEK FOURTEEN Oral Exam Practice

Mon 25 Oral Exam Questions 31-end due in written form

Tues 26 Oral Exam Review Practice in class (entire exam)

Thurs 28 **THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Class**

December **WEEK FIFTEEN Oral Exam/Review for Final**

Mon 2 Oral Exam Review Practice in class (entire exam)

Tues 3 **ORAL EXAM** (No regular class today)

Wed 4 Review for Written Final

Thurs 5 Review for Written Final

The **written FINAL EXAM** is on **Friday, Dec 13 from 8-10am in LA 234.**