

**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**

**Pittsburg State University**

**Spring 2010**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**MLL 184-01 Russian Language and Culture I**

**Credit Hours: 5**

**Time: Monday/ Wednesday 4:30- 6:50**

**Location: 103 Grubbs Hall**

**Instructor:** Zhanar Akhmetova

**Office hours:** Monday/ Tuesday: 3.30-4.30 p.m, Wednesday/ Thursday: 1.30-4.30 p.m.

or by appointment

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**GENERAL EDUCATION**

This course counts toward the requirements in General Education for your degree program. General Education is an important part of educational program at Pittsburg State University that has been designed to implement the following philosophy.

**PHILOSOPHY OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

General education is the study of humans in their global setting. The general education curriculum, therefore, acts as the heart of a university education by developing the capacities that typify the educated person and providing a basis for life-long learning and intellectual, ethical, and an esthetic fulfillment. General education examines the world around us and fosters an understanding of our interactions with the world and our place in the universe. General education celebrates the creative capacities of humankind and helps to preserve and transmit to future generations the values, knowledge, wisdom, and sense of history that are our common heritage.

**GOALS OF GENERAL EDUCATION FOR THIS COURSE**

This course contributes to the overall purpose of the General Education program by:

- 1) Providing the students with the basic knowledge and skills in a foreign language that will enable them to participate more effectively in our global society.(1.1, 1.2)

- 2) Stimulating critical thinking and encouraging decision-making free from prejudice or insularity.(2.1, 2.4)
- 3) Promoting an appreciation of different cultures. ( Goal # 4.ii.3)

However, the emphasis of this course will be to help the students meet the following objectives for the understanding and appreciation of a variety of cultures and their interrelationships (3.1, 3.2)

These objectives are met through a variety of means, including:

- A) Reading, analysis, and discussion of cultural information about the country where the target language is spoken;
- B) Discussion of authentic materials, such as audio tapes, DVDs, pictures ,music and internet resources, that show the diversity of people who speak the language;
- C) The practice of situations that show the sociolinguistic appropriateness of language use in different communicative instances.

**RETRO-CREDITS** The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has a retro-credits program designed to reward students who have already spent years learning languages in high school. Students must sign up for the program with Kathy Dyer (Grubbs Hall 428), Department Secretary, during the first three weeks of the semester in which they take their first language course at PSU. That course determines their entry level and the maximum credits they can earn through retro-credits.

### **Course Description**

Russian Language and Culture I is an introductory course to the Russian language with emphasis on phonetics, comprehension of the spoken language, conversation, basic grammar, and appreciation of Russian culture.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the semester, students will be able to comprehend a variety of conversational topics and speak, read, and write in relation to them( more attention will be devoted to listening, speaking and reading, while writing will be considered auxiliary).

Students will acquire a good instruction contemporary Russian culture and will be required to make short presentations on different topics related to the Russian culture.

Students' interest in the subject and additional independent study (through internet and library sources) are always encouraged.

### **Required Texts and Materials**

**Textbook:** *GOLOSA: A Basic Course in Russian. Book 1. 4<sup>th</sup> edition.* Prentice Hall,

Authors: Richard Robin, Karen Evans-Romaine, Galina Shatalina, Joanna Robin

**Dictionary:** The Oxford Russian Dictionary

### **Attendance:**

Attending class on a regular basis is an important and vital. Since 5 hours a week of this class are most likely to be your exposure to a Russian- speaking environment, attendance and participation are very

important and therefore will be counted significantly in the course grade. Except in the case of extraordinary circumstances, any student who misses more than five classes will be dropped from the class for excessive absences.

Frequent, daily exposure to and use of the target language is vital to making real progress towards fluency in foreign language.

Should you ever miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the assignment for the next class and be prepared (email/call me or a classmate for the information).

**Papers turn in:** Students should keep a copy of all papers and materials turned in for grading. Should any papers be misplaced or lost, a replacement copy may be requested.

**Students with disabilities:** Students seeking assistance with academic programs because of disability should contact Jamie L. Brooksher, director of Equal Opportunity, 218 Russ Hall (telephone 235 – 4193 or 4189). Students with learning disabilities should contact the Director of Learning Disabilities, 207 Whitesitt Hall (telephone 235- 4193). If there is any student who has a handicap or disability which impairs the learning process, please notify me immediately.

**Assistance:** I encourage students to talk with me if they are having problems, need some additional help, want guidance on projects, or would just like to discuss any matters that I can help with.

**Evaluation:**

- In-class activities
- Dialogues
- Grammar exercises
- Listening comprehension
- Individual project/ presentation
- Quizzes, midterm test and final test

**Grading:**

5 quizzes (50 pts each) = 250 points

5 homework assignments (30 pts each) = 150(due on the day of Quiz)

In-class activities= 50 points

Midterm test=50 points

Individual project/presentation=100 points (must be presented by the end of the semester)

Projects will be typically consisting of a written report and a supporting presentation.

Final exam= 50 points

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650 total points

The following percentage scale will be used to determine final grade:

Grade      Percentage Scale

A	100-90%	of total possible weighted points
B	89.99-80.00%	
C	79.99-70.00%	
D	69.99-60.00%	
F	59.99-00.00%	

### Tentative Course Schedule

Introduction to Russian Language and Culture

Russian alphabet and sounds

Phonetics

Cursive and italic Russian

Culture hour: Russian Fairy tales

Russian speaking countries

Quiz 1 (Assignment on Alphabet is due)

#### **Lesson 1**

Russian greeting habits

Culture hour: Russian cities

Culture hour: Russian history

Quiz 2 (Assignment on Unit 1 is due)

#### **Lesson 2**

Naming common objects

Culture hour: Russian cuisine

Culture hour: Russian history

Quiz 3 (Assignment on Unit 2 is due)

#### **Lesson 3**

Talking about languages

Culture hour: Russian history

Culture hour: Russian history

Quiz 4 (Assignment on Unit 3 is due)

**Lesson 4**

Talking about where and what people study

Culture hour: Higher education in Russia: universities and institutes

Culture hour: (movie)

Quiz 4 (Assignment on Unit 4 is due)

**Lesson 5**

Students' projects

**Final exam**

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**Changes:** The instructor reserves the right to amend and to reorganize this syllabus at any time.