

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Pittsburg State University
Spring 2007

COURSE SYLLABUS
MLL 184-01 Russian Language and Culture I
5 semester hours
Course time: M/W 4:30-6:50pm
Room: 103 Grubbs Hall

Instructor: Ekaterina Kolesnikova
Office: 403 Grubbs Hall
Office hours: T, Th 2:00 – 4:30 PM
Office phone: 620-235-4704
E-mail: katya_98@hotmail.com

GENERAL EDUCATION

This course counts toward the requirements in General Education for your degree program. General Education is an important part of your 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), Departmental 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 introduction to contemporary Russian culture and will be required to make short presentations on different topics related to 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. 3rd ed. Prentice Hall.

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

Class Attendance

Attendance is essential. Since 5 hours a week of this class are most likely to be your only 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 a foreign language.

Should you even 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).

Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be determined by your results on:

- class work over the textbook 'GOLOSA'
- dialogues
- grammar exercises
- listening comprehension
- presentation
- quizzes, midterm test and final test

Grading

5 quizzes (25 - 50 pts each) = 125 - 250 points

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

classroom activities = 50 points

midterm test = 50 points

presentation = 50 points (must be presented by the end of the semester)

final exam = 100 points

525 – 650 total points

A = 90-100% of total points

B = 80-89% of total points

C = 70-79% of total points

D = 60-69% of total points

Tentative Course Schedule

Introduction to Russian language and culture

Russian alphabet and sounds

Phonetics

Cursive and italic Russian

Culture hour: Russian fairy tales

Quiz review

Quiz I (Homework on Alphabet is due)

Урок 1

Quiz Review

Quiz II (Homework on Unit 1 is due)

Урок 2

Culture hour: Russian cuisine

Culture hour: Russian cities

Culture hour: Russian history

Culture hour: Russian history

Quiz review

Quiz III (Homework on Unit 2 is due)

Урок 3

Culture hour: Russian history

Culture hour: Russian history

Culture hour: Russian history

Quiz IV (Homework on Unit 3 is due)

Урок 4

Culture hour: (movie)

Culture hour: (movie)

Culture hour:

Quiz V (Homework on Unit 4 is due)

Урок 5

Culture hour: students' presentations

Review for the final

Final exam

Note: This is an approximate outline and necessary adjustments could be made during the semester.