

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
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(416) 926-2075

**RUSSIAN 100 - 101**

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: OFFICE:  
OFFICE HOURS: PHONE:  
E-MAIL:

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OFFICE HOURS: PHONE:  
E-MAIL:

We do our best to answer students' emails within 24 hours. You can ask questions about grammar and course material either in person during office hours or via Blackboard's Discussion Board. This way if your instructors are late with a reply, some of your fellow students might help you with the answer in the meantime. You may also ask your question by phone during office hours. Answers to questions about test and assignment due dates can be found in the syllabus!

Blackboard site: [www.portal.utoronto.ca](http://www.portal.utoronto.ca) (you can find a copy of this syllabus on the class Blackboard site)

Blackboard is an important means of communication between you and your instructor. There you will find updates on tests, test dates, links to videos and poetry, weekly plans, updated information on homework etc. If you do not have UofT email, you must set it up and check it regularly. Your instructors will send important updates via Blackboard.

**Books:** available at The Bob Miller Book Room,  
180 Bloor Street West, Lower Concourse,  
Telephone: (416) - 922-3557

**Required Textbooks and Readings**

1. *GOLOSA* Book 1 Robin, Evans-Romaine, Shatalina and Robin.  
*Workbook and Laboratory Manual* to accompany *GOLOSA 1*  
*Video and audio files* can be found on line at: <http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/golosa/>
2. *Russian Animation for Conversation*, Merrill, Mikhailova, Alley. Focus Publishing, Newburyport, 2008.

**Recommended:**

*5000 Russian Words With All Their Inflected Forms: A Russian English Dictionary*  
Richard L. Leed and Slava Paperno, 1987  
ISBN: 0-89357-170-9, can be obtained in the bookstore or at  
<http://www.slavica.com/textbooks.html>

### **Course Goals:**

Welcome to Russian! By the end of the first part of this course, you will be able to carry on basic conversations in Russian about **yourself, what and where you study, and your daily schedule**. By the end of the second part of this course you will be able to talk about **your family, describe the place where you live**, carry on a basic conversation **at a store and order a meal at a restaurant**. You will be able to write notes or simple letters to Russian friends or keep a simple journal in Russian. You will also have the skills to read basic texts. 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.

### **Good study hints:**

To learn a language well, daily study and practice are needed. Language learning is a combination of both intellectual and skills (habit) learning. Just as a basketball team, a violin student or a serious runner must practice daily in order to excel, so must you in learning a language. You should expect to study one to two hours per day at home for every hour in class.

You will have required written homework nearly every night as a way of cementing what's being done orally in class. If answers to the assignments are provided, you should correct your homework before turning it in. It is also important that you listen to the appropriate part of the textbook audio for each assignment. This is a crucial aid for developing good pronunciation and listening skills.

Successful language learning requires frequent interaction, diligent preparation and active participation. Thus it is imperative that you attend class faithfully. Each day that you are absent will affect your performance on tests, quizzes, and homework. By missing class or coming to class unprepared, you are less likely to learn the material and will deprive your classmates of opportunities to learn. Please remember that in a language class new knowledge is always connected to old: B follows from A. You can expect to acquire the abilities listed under the **Course Goals** only if you attend classes and do your home assignments regularly, in good faith and on time. Furthermore, please keep in mind that with each absence, your participation grade will be seriously affected.

### **How to study:**

Try this: set aside one hour per day, five days per week, when you WILL study Russian. Then, during this time, work this way: Listen to the dialogues for the current material once. Take a 10-minute break (no more!); stand up and walk around. Then do your next day's written and reading assignments. If doing this takes you less than an hour, fill the rest of the time by reviewing vocabulary words (flash cards), verb conjugations, nouns/adjectives/pronoun declensions, or go over mistakes you made on past homework assignment and tests. Then listen to current dialogues again. If you do this 5 times a week, you will learn.

### **Grades:**

1 cursive and reading quiz	3%
2 written tests:	20%
1 Final exam	33%
2 oral exams	10%
Class Participation	10%
Written Homework	10%
2 Compositions	10%
Announced and pop-up Vocab quizzes	4%

### Written Tests:

Term tests will be approximately one hour long and will consist of 4 parts: listening, reading, grammar and an essay. The final test will be 3 hours long. The percentage of each part will vary from test to test. No aids are allowed during the tests.

During any term test, the use of cell phones and the visits to the washroom will not be permitted. These are the regulations of the University.

Cursive and reading test - Sept 18

Written test 1 – October 9

Written test 2 – November 13

The final exam is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_ tba \_\_\_\_\_.

### Oral tests:

Oral tests are based on the material covered in the preceding chapters. Oral tests will be a combination of individually prepared and spontaneous monologues, prepared dialogues, dialogues with an instructor, and / or reading a passage to show your ability to read Cyrillic and talk about the passage that you just read.

The topics of the oral tests will be announced by your instructors two weeks in advance, and can be found on Blackboard. Instructors will provide you with the time slots available for each test and you will sign up for tests in advance.

(a detailed description of Oral test assessment is attached at the end of the syllabus)

Oral 1 Oct. 13-17

Oral 2 Nov 17-21

### Compositions

Each composition consists of a draft and a final version. Every draft will be returned to you with comments (to help your grammar) and questions (to help you write in more depth). You will rewrite the composition for the assigned deadline, and the final assignment grade will depend on how well you incorporate the instructors' comments into your final version. You will write compositions about yourself and your family, about your daily schedule/activities, and about your home/apartment/living conditions, and travels. Topics for compositions will be given out later in class and placed on the class Blackboard site two weeks prior to submission date. Your compositions will be graded as follows:

Communicative Content	30 points
Organization	20 points
Vocabulary	20 points
Language Use (grammatical accuracy and syntax)	25 points
Mechanics (spelling, punctuation, handwriting)	5 points

(a detailed description is attached at the end of the syllabus)

### Compositions schedule

Composition 1 – draft Oct 13, final Oct 23

Composition 2 – draft Nov 24, final Dec 4

**Note carefully** the dates for written and oral tests as listed on this syllabus. If you miss a test or exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero for this test. If this schedule needs to be changed, changes will be announced both in class and on Blackboard. There will be no test make-ups, (except in the case of

death in the family, military orders, or an excuse from your doctor showing that you are physically incapable of taking the exam).

In case you need to write a make-up test, it may be written not later than a week after the actual test date!

**Policy on Religious Holidays:** If you observe any religious holidays which will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with fulfilling any course requirement, your instructor will offer you an opportunity to make up the class or course requirement if you make arrangements by informing your instructor of the dates of your religious holidays **within two weeks** of the beginning of the semester (or **three days** before any holidays which fall within the first two weeks of class).

**Final Grade:** Letter grades for unit tests, the midterm exam, the final exam, and the entire course will be assigned as follows:

90-100	A+		70-72	B-		57-59	D+
85-89	A		67-69	C+		53-56	D
80-84	A-		63-66	C		50-52	D-
77-79	B+		60-62	C-		0-49	F
73-78	B						

Your instructor may decide to curve any test or exam if class performance indicates that the test was too difficult (i.e., class scores are lower than expected). If a test is to be curved, it will be curved before the assignment of the letter grade. The percentage score may be raised as part of a curve, but it will not be lowered.

**The 75% Minimum:**

Language study is cumulative. If you don't know what's in Lesson #1, you really cannot go on to Lesson #2 (whereas, by contrast, you can open up a history text in the middle and start reading with relatively full comprehension). Thus, we consider 75% to be the minimum mastery level you should achieve to enable you to continue. Lower marks, while passing, are not a very solid foundation to build on. Therefore if on a test you achieve less than 75%, you must see your teacher at least once, privately during office hours or by appointment, in order to go over the mistakes you made on your test. This must be done prior to your taking the next test.

You will have a chance to improve your test grade by 1% if you do corrections for the mistakes made in a test. You will have a couple of days (talk to the instructor to set the dates) to correct your mistakes and resubmit the test with corrections.

**Class Participation** will be graded on a daily basis according to the following formula:

- 5 points Present and Completely Prepared
- 4 points Present and Partially Prepared
- 3 points Present but Completely Unprepared
- 0 points Absent

*Completely Prepared* does not mean that the student can answer every question correctly: it merely means that the student is prepared to attempt to answer every question based on the previous evening's homework assignment.

*Partially Prepared* means that the student has demonstrated that she/he has not completed the given day's assignment completely, although some of the assignment was completed.

**Homework Exercises** will be graded according to the following scale: each exercise will be given

2 points	Submitted on time, self-corrected
1 point	Submitted on time, not self-corrected/ late, self-corrected
0 points	not submitted / late, not self-corrected

No late homework will be accepted without a legitimate excuse (e.g. illness). The semester grade for homework will be the percentage of total homework points earned (of the total homework points possible).

Please keep in mind that you do homework to learn the language and to master it. Therefore, self-correction is a big part of learning. Answer keys will be placed on Blackboard. It will serve you good to make corrections right after you made a mistake and the material is still fresh in your mind, rather than wait for the teacher to correct you and return the homework days after it was submitted. Often, students do not look at the teacher's corrections, and similar mistakes appear on the following tests. Therefore, in this class students take responsibility for their learning progress and eliminate mistakes before they become habitual.

**Homework Expectations:** You can expect to spend 4-5 hours of time on homework every week. Your instructor will spend 3-4 hours outside of classroom correcting your papers and compositions, planning the next day's lesson, and making up tests. You should be willing to put as much effort into learning Russian as your instructor does in teaching it to you. One hour a day outside of class will, if done faithfully, virtually guarantee your success in Russian. Advice: do not put off all the homework until the night before class. It will not do any good for your learning process. Try to work on your homework during the week.

### **Study in Russia:**

It's not too early for you to start thinking about this. No matter what your major is, this can be an irreplaceable educational experience for you. There are many opportunities to study Russian in Russia during the summer. Ask us about it or see the coordinator of Russian language courses, Professor Mikhailova, AH 413 (416-926-1300, ex. 3217; [julia.mikhailova@utoronto.ca](mailto:julia.mikhailova@utoronto.ca)).

### **Thinking of Majoring or Minor in Russian?**

A Russian major or minor can be very useful for your future career, when combined with another discipline, for example, a degree in education, business, math, linguistics, history, anthropology, or science. Students who complete Russian 100 are just a few courses shy of earning a Russian minor. Please contact the Department's undergraduate coordinating adviser Professor T. Koznarsky at 416-926-1300 (ex. 3236) or [taras.koznarsky@utoronto.ca](mailto:taras.koznarsky@utoronto.ca) for more information on major and minor programs in Russian.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Students of Russian at UofT may take advantage of a wealth of extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Department and by other units at UofT, including lectures, informal conversation gatherings (Russian Table every Thursday from 4-5 in the departmental kitchen), films, Russian news broadcasts, talent shows, cuisine nights, parties and more. You may receive up to 3% of extra credit for each test. Please ask your Instructor for more information.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities may request this document and other materials related to this class in alternate formats (Braille, large print, audio tape, or computer disk). Please contact your instructor for more information or the coordinator of Russian language courses, Professor Mikhailova, AH 413 (416-926-1300, ex. 3217; [julia.mikhailova@utoronto.ca](mailto:julia.mikhailova@utoronto.ca).)

**Questions?** Ask your instructors for clarification of anything on these pages, and of course at any time you are welcome to drop by the office of the coordinator of Russian language courses, Professor Mikhailova, AH 413 (416-926-1300, ex. 3217; [julia.mikhailova@utoronto.ca](mailto:julia.mikhailova@utoronto.ca)).

### **Classroom Rules for Russian Language Classes**

The following is a list of classroom rules that were devised so that all students may experience a comfortable and productive learning environment. 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 Russian language classrooms. 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. Plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own, as outlined in the university's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters) will not be tolerated. While students are encouraged to form study partnerships, each individual student is responsible for his/her own work.
2. Using a Russian friend or Google Translate **is not allowed** when you write compositions. Should you decide to use complicated phrases and syntax that you did not study in class yet, please ask your instructors for help rather than using Google Translate. Here are some reasons why using a Russian friend or Google Translate is not very productive for your experience. Remember that the purpose of the composition is to show your ability to use the vocabulary, grammar and structures *learned* in class in accordance with your level of Russian. Sometimes Google Translate does not do the best job and the result in the target language is nonsense.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The use of profanity in the classroom will not be tolerated.
6. Your instructor may ask that you change your seat in order to work in pairs or small groups. You may also be asked to move if the instructor or your fellow classmates are unable to hear you. You should be prepared to change your seat at your instructor's request.
7. Chewing gum or eating is not acceptable in the language classroom. Soft drinks are allowed, as long as they do not interfere with your ability to speak Russian.
8. From time to time, matters may come up that will require you to stop by your instructor's office. Every attempt will be made to find a mutually convenient time, but the responsibility is ultimately yours. You should be prepared to find some time to meet with your instructor during normal business hours.
9. Students should be familiar with the *Student Code of Conduct of the University of Toronto*. Any suspected infractions of this Code will be handled by official rules and policies of the University. Penalties for infractions may result in a failing grade in the course or expulsion from the University.
10. The use of cell phones, reading newspapers in English, playing on tablets or computers, and sitting on desks is not allowed during the class time.

11. Those students who talk during the class IN ENGLISH on topics not related to class work and disrupt the class will be asked to leave for that day and will not receive the full participation mark for that day.

12. Questions that do not relate to the course material can be asked during a break or during office hours. If you have personal questions, for example, if you wish to inquire about your progress in this class, you should schedule an appointment with the instructor, or that you will be missing a class – you can talk about it after class, via email or during instructors' office hours.

**☺ Enjoy your Russian, and recommend it to a friend. ☺**