

**RUSSIAN 121
ELEMENTARY RUSSIAN**

BULLETIN INFORMATION

RUSS 121 - Elementary Russian (4 credit hours)

Course Description:

Grammar and practical vocabulary necessary for fundamental communication skills. Assumes no prior experience in the language.

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will introduce students to the Russian language and culture by focusing on four essential skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will gain confidence and proficiency in specific communicative tasks and will develop a basic understanding of the structure of the Russian language and the culture of the Russian people, with an emphasis on using language in its cultural context.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Russian 121 students will be able to:

1. Communication
 - a. Communicate on a basic level orally and in writing, using the Cyrillic alphabet as used in Russian (including cursive.)
 - b. Express location and destination, use proper case forms for three cases, express actions in the present and past, "going" in certain contexts, obligation, and basic time expressions; use numbers up to 1,000 in certain contexts; tell time on the hour.
2. Culture
 - a. Demonstrate understanding of the essentials of "small-c" culture necessary to function in Russia, including basic interactions such as forms of address, greetings and salutations, invitations, and expressions of likes and dislikes.
 - b. Describe some of Russia's cultural heritage, including well-known figures in the arts and sciences.
3. Connections
 - a. Demonstrate basic understanding of Russian society, family life, housing, education, daily rituals, and culture.
4. Comparisons

- a. Make conclusions about their own language and culture, as they compare daily routines, educational systems, issues of nationality, and family structures, along with other aspects of Russian and American life.
5. Communities
- a. Participate in experiences that increase understanding of Russian life and the Russian-speaking world.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. *Golosa (Voices) Book 1*, 4th edition: (1) textbook (TB), ISBN 9780131986282; (2) Student Activities Manual (SAM) ISBN 9780131986299; and (3) audio, available in mp3 format at <http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/golosa/audio/audio1-4e.htm>
2. Sona Vocabulary Assistant: Assignments will include required practice with Sona Vocabulary Assistant (<http://www.sonasoftware.com/vocab>), an interactive program for Mac OS X and Windows. Designed by Dr. Curtis Ford of the USC Russian program, Sona helps you master new words by integrating vocabulary from the text in a variety of interactive exercises and games. As a student of Russian at USC, you can use Sona Vocabulary Assistant free of charge on your own computer; see the class Blackboard page for a registration key to use the software. To download, please visit <http://www.sonasoftware.com/vocab/download.html>. Word lists keyed to our text can be downloaded at <http://www.sonasoftware.com/vocab/downloads/golosa/index.html>. For help, please consult <http://www.sonasoftware.com/vocab/help.html>; if you don't find the answer you need there, please send questions, comments, suggestions, or bug reports to Dr. Ford at cford@sc.edu

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS

1. **4 unit tests:** Alphabet chapter + chapters 1, 2 & 4
2. **5 vocabulary quizzes:** chapters 1 – 5
3. **1 midterm test:** chapters 1 – 3
4. **Final examination:** covers chapters 1 – 5
5. **Preparation for class,** several in-class “pop” quizzes, enthusiastic participation, completion of assignments with Sona Vocabulary Assistant (see below), and homework (15% of grade). You will have homework 4 nights per week; it should be completed before the class immediately following the assignment. Bring your workbook to each class, and be prepared to ask questions about any assignment that you did not fully understand. You will have periodic “pop” quizzes on homework assignments, so be sure to stay up to date!
6. **On-time attendance at all classes,** four days per week (remember that this is a four-credit course!). Please tell your teacher in advance if you must be absent; after 5 unexcused absences your final grade will go down (e.g. B+ to B) for each further absence. Three late arrivals count as one unexcused absence.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

- Class 1:** Introduction to the class. Go over syllabus and get acquainted. Alphabet: letters & sounds.
HW: Go to the course Blackboard site and print out a copy of the full syllabus! Then read TB pp. 2 – 9, listening along with the online audio. Do this at least twice. Then do SAM exercise 1 – 6, pp. 2 – 4, with audio.
- Class 2:** Introductions (Russian names and how they work!), palatalization, oral exercises.
HW: Reread TB pp. 10 – 11, then read 12 – 14, following along closely with the online audio. Repeat. Do SAM exercise 10.
- Class 3:** Introduction to Sona Vocabulary Assistant. Go over TB pages 12 – 14 (vowel reduction and voicing), reading and listening. Do Numerals, SAM p. 1, and ex. 7 – 9 in class.
HW: Study material covered thus far. Tomorrow you will learn to write the Cyrillic alphabet!
- Class 4:** Writing the alphabet.
HW: Read and study TB pages 15 – 18. Do SAM ex. 16 – 18. Practice writing the alphabet!
- Class 5:** Writing practice. Oral exercises on pronunciation.
HW: Do SAM ex. 11 – 15, 19 – 20; study for test on alphabet!
- Class 6:** Drills on pronunciation.
HW: Study alphabet: please note that you have a test on the alphabet this Friday! Start practicing vocabulary for upcoming unit 1 with Sona: i1 (lesson 1) nouns (work on this all week)
- Class 7:** Questions on alphabet or homework? Unit 1, What are we talking about?
HW: Study what you went over in class. Conversations: read TB pp. 22 carefully. As your textbook notes, you will listen to conversations about introductions and modes of address in Russian. You will not understand everything you hear! The goal is to listen only for the info you need to answer the questions on p. 22. Listen as many times as needed to answer the questions.
- Class 8:** Unit 1, Dialogues, Exercises on the dialogues (introductions, modes of address).
HW: Read over dialogues, listen, and practice. Note that you will need to memorize one of the dialogues to reproduce in written form on your Unit 1 test. In SAM, do Phonetics and Intonation, p. 17 – 18.

- Class 9:** Short alphabet TEST. Video: introductions in Russia. Grammar §§1 – 3, TB pp. 27 – 29; review unit vocab.
HW: Review TB pp. 27 – 29. Do oral drills 1 – 5, SAM pp. 19 – 21. These oral drills are self-check exercises. You do not need to write anything in the workbook. Sona i1: phrases, other.
- Class 10:** Numbers, SAM p. 15 ex. A. Grammar §4, TB 30 – 31. In groups, do Oral Translation: Communication between Russians and non-Russians, TB p. 26, and Let's Read: Russian business cards 1-28 and 1-29, TB pp. 35 – 36, followed by SAM ex. 8.
HW: In SAM, do Numerals, ex. Б – Д, pp. 15 – 16.
- Class 11:** Role-Plays: meeting Russians in Russia, introducing yourself, TB p. 26. Grammar §§5 – 8, TB 31 – 34 (the Russian case system: Nominative and Prepositional).
HW: Review TB pp. 31 – 34. Then do SAM oral drills 6 – 10 and SAM written ex. 1 – 7 and 9 – 10.
- Class 12:** Let's Listen: audio, distinguishing Russian names, TB pp. 38 – 39.
HW: Study for vocabulary quiz.
- Class 13:** Brief vocabulary quiz. Review Unit 1 grammar, answer questions on homework.
HW: Start studying for unit test! Come to class Wednesday with your questions on Unit 1.
- Class 14:** Practice Unit 1 conversation topics.
HW: Prepare for test on Unit 1. Remember to have one dialogue memorized and practice unit vocab!
- Class 15:** Review Unit 1. Video: *Goodbye, Summer*, part 1, and discussion.
HW: Prepare for test on Unit 1. Remember to have one dialogue memorized and practice unit vocab!
- Class 16:** Test on Unit 1.
HW: Look over Unit 2, What are we talking about?, pp. 44 – 48. Sona i2: adjectives, clothing.
- Class 17:** Unit 2, What are we talking about? Clothing, Technology, Print Resources, Typical classroom objects.
HW: Read questions for the Unit 2 Conversations (Visiting Russia, Gifts, Housing and furniture), TB p. 49, then listen and answer the questions; see how much you can answer in Russian!
- Class 18:** Numbers, SAM p. 31. Dialogues: Welcome to Russia, luggage and gifts, Russian homes and homestays, Russian vs. American housing, TB pp. 50 – 51.

HW: Read over the dialogues again; be prepared to perform them in class. Do Numbers Б – Г. Sona i2: colors, nouns.

- Class 19:** Grammar §§1 – 3, TB pp. 54 – 57 (Nominative plurals, pronouns).
HW: read over grammar presented in class. In SAM, do Phonetics, p.33 – 34, oral drills 1 – 3, and written ex. 1 – 2.
- Class 20:** Grammar §4, TB pp. 57 – 59 (Possessive pronouns). Perform dialogues. Role-plays (homestays in Russia, unpacking) and Oral Translation (Arriving in Russia and meeting Russians), TB p. 53.
HW: in SAM, oral drills 4 – 9 & written ex. 3 – 5. Study vocab.
- Class 21:** Grammar §§5 – 6, TB pp. 59 – 62 (Adjectives).
HW: Read over grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 10 – 12 and written ex. 6 – 10. Let's Read (Emailing in Russian), 2-34 and 2-35, pp. 65 – 67; prepare for class discussion. Sona i2: gadgets, pronouns, words and phrases.
- Class 22:** Questions on homework thus far? Grammar §§7 – 8, TB pp. 62 – 64 (Possession). Let's Read, TB 65 – 67.
HW: Do SAM ex. 13 – 17. Memorize a Unit 2 dialogue and review unit vocabulary.
- Class 23:** Brief vocabulary quiz. Review Unit 2; go over SAM ex. 13 – 17.
HW: Prepare for Unit 2 test. Remember to have a dialogue memorized.
- Class 24:** Test on Unit 2!
HW: Look over Unit 3, What are we talking about? Read TB pp. 74 – 75. Sona i3: adverbs, nouns.
- Class 25:** Unit 3, What are we talking about? (Nationalities, languages, countries); Cultural Life (Russian passports and issues of nationality), ex. 3-1, TB p. 78.
HW: After reading questions on TB p. 75, listen to Conversations (learning languages, nationalities in the Russian-speaking world). Write out answers to the questions, using as much Russian as possible.
- Class 26:** Numerals (51 – 199), SAM p. 55. Dialogues: What languages do you speak, What is your nationality, Nationalities in the Former Soviet Union, TB p. 76 – 77.
HW: Practice Dialogues and start memorizing one. In SAM, do Numerals A – Б (p. 56 – 57) and Phonetics and Intonation, p. 58 – 59.
- Class 27:** Perform Dialogues. Grammar §§1 – 2, TB pp. 81 – 83 (Verbs: Present Tense). Go over unit vocabulary. Video: *Goodbye, Summer*, part 2, and discussion.
HW: Read over grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 1 – 6 and written ex. 1 – 5. Sona i3: countries, nationalities.

- Class 28:** Grammar §§3 – 5, TB pp. 83 – 86 (Past Tense); Let's Read: Studying languages in the US and in Russia, 3-28, p. 97.
HW: Review grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 7 – 10 and written ex. 6 – 7.
- Class 29:** Grammar, §§6 – 7, TB pp. 86 – 89 (Languages). Cultural Life: Differing words for Russian (ethnicity and nationality), TB p. 89.
HW: Review the grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 11 – 16 and written ex. 8 – 11. Study for vocabulary quiz.
- Class 30:** Role-plays (discussing your Russian knowledge with Russian hosts); Oral Translation (Russians and Americans discussing language), p. 80.
- Class 31:** Brief vocabulary quiz. Grammar §§8 – 9, TB pp. 89 – 94 (Prepositional Case).
HW: Review grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 17 – 20 and written ex. 12 – 18. Sona i3: verbs.
- Class 32:** Questions on homework? Grammar 3.10, TB pp. 95 – 96 (Summary).
Video: *Goodbye, Summer*, part 3, and discussion. Review for midterm. *HW: Study for midterm! Read and prepare Let's Read 3-30, p. 98 – 100.*
- Class 33:** Drills on prepositional case.
HW: Review previous chapters and study for midterm!
- Class 34:** Review & drills: grammar, numerals, vocab.
HW: Review; remember your memorized dialogue from Unit 3!
- Class 35:** MIDTERM, Units 1 – 3.
HW: Look over Unit 4, What are we talking about?(Where and what people study, academic schedules, diplomas).
- Class 36:** Unit 4, What are we talking about? (Where and what people study, academic schedules, diplomas). Cultural life: Popular subjects of study in contemporary Russia, TB p. 108.
HW: After reading questions on TB p. 108, listen to the Conversations (Study abroad in Russia, understanding foreigners). Write out answers to the questions in Russian. Sona i4: adjectives, nouns1.
- Class 37:** Numerals (100 – 1000), SAM p. 76. Dialogues (Subjects of study, majors, working and going to school), pp. 109 – 110.
HW: Reread and listen to Dialogues; be prepared to perform them in class. Do Numerals and Phonetics, SAM pp. 79 – 82.

- Class 38:** TB ex. 4-4 – 4-6, p. 110 – 111. Review Dialogues and unit vocab.
HW: Read Cultural life (Higher education in Russia), TB 111. Study vocab.
- Class 39:** Grammar §§1 – 3, TB pp. 114 – 117 (Prepositions with the prepositional case).
Video: Russian music. *HW: Review the grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 1 – 5 and written ex. 1 – 6. Read and prepare Let's read 4-29, p. 126 – 128.*
- Class 40:** M Grammar §4, TB pp. 118 – 120 (Accusative Case). Let's Read (Russian transcripts and university descriptions), 4-29, p. 126 – 128. Cultural life (Russian grading system and university names, Mikhail Lomonosov), TB pp. 126-7.
HW: Review the grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 8 – 11, then written ex. 7- 9. Sona i4: nouns2, verbs & adverbs.
- Class 41:** Let's read (University of Nizhnyi Novgorod, Nikolai Lobachevsky) 4-30, p. 128 – 131.
HW: Review the grammar presented in class.
- Class 42:** Grammar §§5 – 6, TB pp. 120 – 122 (Pronouns and the case system).
HW: In SAM, do oral drill 12 – 14 and written ex. 10 – 12.
- Class 43:** Brief vocabulary quiz. Grammar §§7 – 8, TB pp. 122 – 125 (Conjunctions).
Russian songs.
HW: In SAM, do oral drills 15 – 17 and written ex. 13 – 16.
- Class 44:** Questions on homework? Review Unit 4.
HW: Come to next class prepared to ask questions on Unit 4. Sona i4: other.
- Class 45:** Let's Listen (Kazan State University, dean's address and university description), TB p. 134. Role-plays (interviews about language background), TB p. 112.
HW: Memorize a Unit 4 dialogue.
- Class 46:** Review Unit 4.
HW: Study for Unit 4 test. Remember your dialogue and unit vocab!
- Class 47:** Test on Unit 4.
HW: Look over Unit 5 What are we talking about? (daily activities), TB pp. 140 – 141; Sona i5: verbs, nouns.
- Class 48:** Unit 5, What are we talking about? (daily activities), TB pp. 140 – 141. Cultural Life: times of day in Russia, TB p. 141. Begin Dialogues (invitations, telephone etiquette, times of the day and schedules).
HW: Разговоры: after reading questions on TB p. 141, listen the recording and write out answers to the questions in Russian.

- Class 49:** Finish Dialogues. Questions on the dialogues, p. 144 – 145. Review unit vocab. Work together to learn a dialogue.
HW: Finish memorizing a dialogue; study for vocabulary quiz. Do Phonetics, SAM pp. 106 – 107. Sona i5: adverbs, nouns2.
- Class 50:** Exercises on the dialogues, 5-9 – 5-15, pp. 148 – 150. Grammar §1, TB p. 153 (Telling time).
HW: In SAM, do oral drills 1 – 4 and written ex. 1 – 3.
- Class 51:** Role-plays (invitations), TB p. 151. Grammar §§2 – 3, TB pp. 154 – 158 (Days of week, time expressions).
HW: In SAM, do Numerals, pp. 105 – 106, oral drills 5 – 6, and written ex. 4 – 5. Sona i5: modifiers etc.
- Class 52:** Grammar §4, TB pp. 158 – 161 (verbs of motion).
HW: Review grammar. SAM: do oral drills 7 – 10 and written ex. 6 – 7.
- Class 53:** Questions on unit thus far? Grammar §7, TB pp. 164 – 165 (expressions of necessity).
HW: Review grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drill 17 and written ex. 13. Review Unit 5 vocab!
- Class 54:** Grammar §§5 – 6, TB pp. 162 – 164 (Verbs of motion and the case system).
HW: Review grammar presented in class. In SAM, do oral drills 11 – 16 and written ex. 8 – 12.
- Class 55:** Brief vocabulary quiz. Let's read 5-39 (Emailing in Russian, Russian visitors to America), TB pp. 169 – 171. Grammar review and drills.
HW: Review grammar. In SAM, do oral drills 17 – 18 and written ex. 13 – 16. Come to class with questions.
- Class 56:** Questions on homework? Review for final exam.
HW: Study Russian!
- Class 57:** Review for final exam.
HW: Study for final exam.

Final exam according to university exam schedule