### INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Curt Woolhiser (Курт Артурович Вулхайзер)

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### RECITATION HOUR INSTRUCTOR
Katerina Rudykh

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**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

### GRALL ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR
Alyssa Ring

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**Добро пожаловать! Welcome to Intermediate Russian!**
This is the first semester of the two-semester sequence of Intermediate Russian. Although Brandeis requires only three semesters of a foreign language, we strongly encourage you to complete this sequence and take Russian 40 in the spring.
COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In this course you will significantly expand your knowledge of the Russian language, building upon the basic grammar, vocabulary and conversational strategies that you learned in Beginning Russian. In the area of grammar, you will learn the subjunctive and conditional moods, gain a deeper understanding of the Russian verbal system, expand your knowledge of Russian verbs of motion, solidify your knowledge of nominal and pronominal declension, and move towards more complex syntactic structures.

You will continue to learn how to facilitate conversations by agreeing or disagreeing with an interlocutor, by supporting your opinions and expressing your feelings. You will use more complex sentences to express your thoughts in speaking and writing. In all course activities you will learn about various important aspects of Russian culture and society, family life, daily rituals, education, and high and popular culture. In the conversation section and assignments for it, you will also learn more about the geography of Russia and the former Soviet Union, Russian and Soviet history, as well as Russian literature, music, art and film.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbooks and Readings

We will first finish the last 3 chapters in Stage I: Volume II (our textbook from last semester if you were in Russian 20) and then proceed to the first 3 chapters from Russian Stage Two: Welcome Back! by Cynthia Martin (be sure to purchase the 2011 edition).

Handouts

Handouts with supplementary grammar exercises, vocabulary practice and reading assignments, as well as instructions for oral presentations and the final project, will be distributed over the course of the semester. Please use a binder or folder to organize these materials.

Course Website

The LATTE site for Russian 30 will include unit syllabi, additional homework assignments, links for instructional videos, readings, study guides, links for films, and other materials related to the course.

Films and Video Materials

This semester we will watch and discuss Oksana Bychkova’s romantic comedy Питер ФМ (2006), as well as excerpts from other Russian feature films and assorted video materials.
CHAPTER SYLLABUS (РАСПИСАНИЕ)

The chapter syllabus indicates the activities to be done in class on a given day, followed by the homework assignment to be done that night for the next class period. These activities and assignments are flexible and may be changed, so you should always bring the syllabus with you to class in order to write in any changes. Likewise, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out if there were any changes made in the daily assignment. If you miss a class, you are expected to keep up with the syllabus and come to the next class prepared. Please bring the syllabus and the textbook to every class meeting. BE SURE TO READ THE CHAPTER SYLLABUS ON LATTE!

GRADING

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

20% - Attendance, preparation, and participation, including Recitations and vocabulary quizzes
10% - Oral Practice attendance and participation, including oral presentations
25% - Homework, including written compositions
20% - Unit Tests (including oral component)
5% - Midterm Oral Presentation
10% - Final Written Examination
10% - Final Oral Presentation

Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>84-86</td>
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HOMEWORK

Homework assignments will consist of two parts:

i) written assignments, generally in the Workbooks (for Chapters 12-14 in Stage I and Chapters 1-3 in Welcome Back!)

AND

ii) studying the assigned grammatical material ahead of each class session by reading textbook explanations and/or watching instructional videos posted on LATTE. The goal of studying new material prior to the lesson is to give you a chance to familiarize yourselves with grammatical concepts and rules on your own time so that a larger portion of class time can be devoted to actual language practice. Please note that both parts of the homework are mandatory.
Homework will be evaluated on a credit/no credit (зачёт/незачёт) basis. If your homework meets expectations, you will receive a check mark (√). Homework that exceeds expectations will receive a √+. If, however, your homework does not meet expectations, you will receive a √-, which means that you will need to re-do your work and correct all mistakes. Students MUST correct circled mistakes and re-submit the work NO LATER THAN 2 CLASS PERIODS LATER. Full credit will be given only when all corrections are made and the work is re-submitted. Only one re-submission is allowed.

Four or more missed homework assignments will lower your final grade. Homework must be submitted on the day when it is due and will be returned to students on the following day in most cases. If you know that you will not be able to make it to the class, submit your homework in advance or arrange for a friend to hand it in for you. (5 missed homeworks will earn you a “B+”, 6-7 missed homeworks – “B”, 8 missed homeworks – “B-“, etc.).

Homework which is more than 4 class periods late will be accepted, but you will NOT receive any credit.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

You must hear Russian and use Russian in order to learn Russian. For this reason it is essential that you attend classes and keep up with course work on a daily basis. Moreover, students who come to class unprepared fall behind and hold up the rest of the class. For these reasons, attendance is mandatory: More than four absences will result in the lowering of your final grade: (5 absences earn you a “B+”, 6-7 absences – “B”, 8 – “B-“, etc.). Repeated or extreme tardiness will also be counted as absence.

You will receive a daily participation grade:

5 (A) Well prepared and actively participates; comes to class on time
4 (B) Not that well prepared, but actively participates (or was 5-10 minutes late)
3 (C) Not prepared and makes little or no effort to participate (or was 15 minutes late)
0 (F) Absent (or was more than 20 minutes late)

Extra Credit to make up for missed classes
You can earn extra credit by attending tutor sessions with BUGS tutor Yan Shneyderman (yanshney@brandeis.edu) and/or any of the events organized by the Russian program throughout the semester (more credit is given to conversation table/Russian tea). Two visits to the tutor (for at least 20 minutes) or two Russian teas/conversation tables will make up for one missed class.
You will need to bring a form (obtainable from the tutor) signed by Yan or the instructor for the Russian tea (Katerina Rudykh, our TA) to receive credit. There are no make-ups for missed homework!
CLASSROOM POLICIES

 Behavior: You are expected to contribute to a respectful and positive learning environment. Please do not bring food to class. It is hard to practice a foreign language when your mouth is busy with food!

 Punctuality is essential. Therefore, only an occasional late arrival will be accepted.

 Cell phones: The use of cell phones in class is strictly prohibited. Phones should be turned off and out of sight while class is in session.

 Communication: Please make sure your Brandeis e-mail address is active and check it regularly. I will communicate a lot of important information about the course to you via the Course Announcement function on our LATTE page or by direct e-mailing. Again, I rely on your maturity and respect for this course to maintain an open channel of communication with your instructors throughout the semester.

 Russian only rule: You are required to use Russian as much as possible in the classroom. You are in the second year of Russian, and have already learned how to ask questions, indicate that you don’t understand something, express your emotions (surprise, wonder, disbelief, etc). Use these skills actively in class!!! While English will still be the dominant language in the classroom for grammar explanations, we will be using Russian more and more as the topics and grammar allow.

 CONVERSATION SECTION

 Thursday classes will be devoted to conversation practice, where the focus will be on activating the material learned in class in the MWF course section. Your conversation section instructor will be Irina Evgen’evna Dubinina (Ирина Евгеньевна Дубинина). Oral quizzes may be assigned at the end of a chapter and will be administered either in the Conversation Section or outside of class. Please note that Conversation Section attendance is mandatory and is subject to the same attendance and participation policy as for the MWF course section.

 RECITATION HOUR

 This course requires that you attend one additional hour of class per week. It is called the “Recitation Hour,” which in a language course means that you will practice phonetics, do selected homework exercises together, practice conversation, prepare for oral exams, etc. The Recitation Hour is extremely valuable for your language development as it gives you many additional opportunities to practice your language outside the classroom, to work on your pronunciation and to learn more about contemporary Russian life. Recitation Hours will also be reserved for short weekly vocabulary quizzes. You will be responsible for all new words in the previous week (as they come up in the textbook and the workbook).
The exact time for the Recitation Hour will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester by common consent. However, the suggestion is that the recitation hour be scheduled for Mondays 6:00 – 6:50 p.m. Recitations will start the second full week of classes: the week of September 11th. There will be a total of 13 recitations. You must attend at least 11 to receive the grade of “A” for this portion of the final grade. More than 2 missed recitations will lower your grade. Attendance will be taken at each recitation. The instructor for the Recitation Hour will be our Fulbright TA from Russia, Katerina Rudykh (Катерина Рудых).

Please note that Recitation Hour attendance is mandatory (for at least 11 out of 13 sessions) and is subject to the same attendance, participation and classroom policy as the MWF course section and Thursday Conversation Section.

As part of your Recitation hour, you will be required to be actively involved in a Russian social network site called vkontakte. Our Recitation Hour Instructor (Katerina Rudykh) will create a group on this site that will be closed to anybody, but you. You will receive instructions on how to register for the site and what specific activities you are expected to do in the fourth week of the semester. There will be 6-8 tasks that you will need to do vkontakte throughout the semester. You will not be graded on these tasks, but the level of your involvement will be noticed (you will be marked either as “very active”, “moderately active,” or “feeble attempts/inactive”), and this will figure in the calculation of your final participation grade for the course.

UNIT TESTS

A fifty-minute written test is scheduled at the end of each unit. Sometimes unit tests will be take-home. You will receive specific instructions for take-home tests.

*Important Exam Policy*

I will return corrected written examinations no later than 3 days after the test. Except for the final, you are responsible for making corrections in a different color ink and re-submitting the test the following class period. **Your grade for the exam will not be entered until I have received the corrected exam.** That’s why it is important to keep ALL your exams along with your homework in a handy binder (just in case if you forgot to turn in a corrected exam, and I don’t have a record of it, you can still prove that you’ve taken it and received a certain grade). Spelling counts for partial credit. No electronic devices are permitted during an exam.

FINAL EXAMS

There will be a three-hour final examination at the end of the semester. There will also be a final oral examination scheduled for Study Day (December 11). Both exams will be based on the entire semester’s work with an emphasis on the last two units covered.
Group dynamics

This class relies heavily on all of you working together. Some of you are faster at grasping new grammar concepts and memorizing new vocabulary while others require more time to process language information. Personality types also play a huge role in how people learn languages: some are afraid to speak in front of other people and are very shy; others are more outgoing and are not afraid of experimenting and taking chances. Please be patient with each other and be polite. The important thing to keep in mind is that you NEED each other to activate what you have learned at home. Be grateful for the fact that you have “comrades in arms” in your quest to master the Russian language!

Dictionaries and reference grammar

While you are not required to purchase dictionaries for this course, you may find it helpful to have a Russian-English and English-Russian dictionary, particularly when you are writing compositions. The Oxford Russian-English Dictionary, priced at approximately $27.00, is a good one, as is Katzner, English-Russian Russian-English Dictionary. For those willing to make do with a pocket dictionary, the Oxford Pocket Dictionary is the best available. Students who plan to continue in Russian beyond the second year may wish also to purchase Terence Wade’s A Comprehensive Russian Grammar, which provides a more thorough and systematic treatment of grammatical topics covered in intermediate-level and advanced-level Russian.

Multitran online dictionary

One of the best and most popular on-line Russian-English/English-Russian dictionaries is Multitran: http://www.multitran.ru/. Employing a database containing more than 5 million terms, Multitran classifies variant translations for words and collocations (word combinations) according to general and specialized usage (i.e. general usage vs. slang or specialized terminology in business, economics, law, natural sciences, etc.). In addition, the search feature provides examples in context from the database classified by thematic area.

On-line grammar reference

The website Gramota.ru, created by Russia’s Federal Agency for the Press and Mass Communications, is an invaluable tool for the student of Russian. Particularly helpful is the word search function, which allows you to find the correct declension and conjugation patterns (including stresses) for virtually all Russian nouns and verbs. To use the search function, enter the word you are looking for under «проверка слова» (on the right side of the screen).

Recommended reading

Students who are considering majoring or minoring in Russian studies and/or traveling to Russia may also wish to purchase the following reference works:

Russian life that are covered only superficially, if at all, in ordinary textbooks. These include words for household objects, terminology referring to school and university life, personal names and their diminutive variants, names of common Russian animals and plants (and their cultural connotations), the Russian Orthodox Church and its holidays, common interjections, expletives, and much more.

2. Eloise Boyle and Genevra Gerhart (eds.), *The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language.* The study of a language is much more than memorizing words and grammatical rules. Mastering it requires understanding the cultural significance of terms and realities which are unique to native speakers of the language. This book attempts to provide the student of Russian with an overview of the Russian “cultural minimum” – that is, what every educated Russian knows about Russian history, geography, politics, literature, folklore, music, visual arts, film and popular culture. The book lists numerous quotations and references to literary works (including children’s literature) and films that are often used and immediately recognized by modern Russians. The book is accompanied by a CD with sound recordings and images.

Both books may be ordered from Slavica Publishers (Bloomington, IN); website: www.slavica.com; tel. 1-877-SLAVICA (752-8422).

**Study abroad and other related opportunities**

Brandeis has 7 approved programs for studying Russian in the Russian Federation. You will be able to choose between summer programs, semester-long and year-long programs. The Brandeis Russian Language Program recommends that you have at least 4 semesters of Russian before a study-abroad program. You are well on your way toward this goal! If you are interested in going abroad, please talk to your instructor and visit the Study Abroad office and website. There are several summer intensive Russian language programs in the U.S. The Russian program’s website lists a few of them. If you would like to know more about these programs, please talk to your instructor.

**Useful contacts**

The undergraduate advisor for the Russian language program is professor David Powelstock (pstock@brandeis.edu). He will help you plan out your Russian Studies major or minor and guide you in questions related to study abroad credits.

The Russian program’s Undergraduate Representatives for the 2017-2018 academic year are Linda Liu (lliu18@brandeis.edu), Andrew Baker (abaker31@brandeis.edu), and Chantal Tepper (chantaltepper@brandeis.edu). All three of them are majoring in Russian Studies. Andrew started learning Russian in high school; Linda started Russian at Brandeis, and Chantal grew up speaking Russian with her mother and English with her father, but started learning the language formally at Brandeis. The UDRs can answer your questions about choosing a Russian major or minor, professors in the Russian program, etc. Linda, Andrew and Chantal are wonderful
resources not only for your questions about major/minor, but also about Russian literature and
despite, studying habits, or successful language learning strategies.

What to do if you need extra help

Please do not wait until problems start piling up. If you need another explanation for a grammar
concept or want to practice vocabulary, pronunciation and conversation, seek help from your
instructor (Curt Woolhiser) during office hours or by appointment, Recitation Hour instructor
(Rossina Soyan) during her office hours, and the BUGS tutor, Breanna Vizlakh (Брина Визлах)
(bvizlakh@brandeis.edu). Breanna is not only your BUGS tutor this semester, she is also our
undergraduate TA. You are highly encouraged to practice the language with her. She can help
with pronunciation practice, homework troubles, vocabulary learning, etc.

There are two listserves you may want to join:

Brandeis has a very active Russian Club. If you are interested in participating in events
organized by the club, please sign up for their e-mail list. (Find them through the Brandeis
website). If you are interested in receiving messages with announcements about Russian
language and culture-related events, please sign up for the Russian list serve (put your e-mail on
the Bio Info Form). Links to these listserves are also available at the program’s website:
hp://www.braddeis.edu/departments/grall/russian/

Statement on Brandeis Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis
University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when
assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or
ideas of another person, be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner, without proper
acknowledgement of that source.

Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section Three of Rights and
Responsibilities, may result in failure of the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or
dismissal from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment
in this course, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor for clarification.

Notice of Accommodation

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to
have reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.