Congratulations! You grew up bilingual (to a greater or lesser extent)! However, as you know very well, your bilingualism is lopsided: English is your stronger language and is the language of preference in your daily communications in a variety of contexts (with friends, siblings, at school, at work, sometimes even with parents). In order to support your bilingualism, we need to continue the focus on developing your Russian.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

In this course you will work on improving your *ability to express your thoughts in Russian both orally and in writing*. Although the course focuses on developing your grammatical knowledge, you will also work on expanding your vocabulary and acquiring certain linguistic sensitivities which will allow you to tease apart *and keep* your two languages separate.

Successful completing of RUS 39 will satisfy the World Languages and Cultures requirement, which is part of the Global Engagement requirement. By developing your abilities to express yourself in two languages, you will enhance your engagement with Russian speakers who live in and outside the U.S.

Two introductory language courses – RUS 29 and 39 - are not enough to maintain and develop your bilingualism. Therefore, you should seriously consider taking a Russian course every semester while you are at Brandeis. Bilingualism offers tremendous cognitive, emotional and professional benefits, but in order to unlock these benefits, you must use both languages on a regular basis as equally as possible.

In addition to the learning outcomes (below), this course will introduce you to concepts and skills that will help you hold on to the Russian side of your bilingual mind, hopefully, for the rest of your lives. It will also develop your *analytical skills*, such as short and long-term memory, pattern recognition in unfamiliar data, ability to extend knowledge to novel situations and to synthesize various patterns into a system.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

If you adhere to your responsibilities as a student in this course, by the end of the semester …

You will have a respectable knowledge of
- the basic structure of contemporary Russian language;
- the morphological principle of spelling in Russian;
- the complex system of Russian roots, suffixes and prefixes;
- the socio-cultural norms of communication in contemporary Russian;
- structural differences between English and Russian.

You will be able to apply this knowledge to do the following:
- talk and write in Russian in a grammatically correct way with some degree of lexical sophistication on a variety of general every-day life topics, such as family, community, university studies, hobbies, etc.;
- observe socio-cultural norms of communication by using correct formal forms for greetings, farewells, address, requests, etc.;
- read authentic Russian texts (fiction and non-fiction);
- use Internet to find information in Russian;
- use standard computer programs and on-line resources to type in Russian and check your language.

Required Materials

We will be using the textbook «Родная речь» (Georgetown UP), which is designed specifically for bilingual learners like you. You can purchase it in the bookstore or online. There will also be a copy on reserve at the library. The Workbook and Readings will be available on the textbook’s companion website. In addition, you will be provided with various handouts during class. Electronic copies will always be posted on LATTE.

NOTE: If you are having difficulty purchasing course materials, please make an appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options and/or textbook alternatives. There is a copy of the textbook on reserve at the main library.

Classroom Policies

Behavior: You are expected to contribute to a respectful and positive learning environment. Please do not bring food to class as much as it can be helped. You should be able to finish your lunch either before or after class. It is hard to practice a foreign language while your mouth is busy with food.

Punctuality is essential.

Cell phones: I rely on your maturity to know that the use of cell phones in class for any reason is disrespectful and distracting. Phones should be turned off and out of sight while class is in session. Absolutely no text-messaging.
**Russian-only rule:** When you come to class, please be prepared to speak Russian not only to the instructor, but also to the fellow students. If you speak Russian only to your instructor, you will never advance your Russian skills.

**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.

**Group Dynamics**
This class relies heavily on all of you working together. Some of you are faster at grasping new grammatical 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 growing up. Be grateful for the fact that you have “comrades in arms” in your conquest of the Russian language!

**Notice of Accommodation**
Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, please talk with me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as you can. In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support (SAS) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

**Grading**
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Weekly participation and preparation:
  23 classes out of 27 possible x 10 points each = 230 points (or 23%)
- Language Labs:
  10 meetings with Tania x 10 points each = 100 points (or 10%)
- Homework assignment:
  - 22 tasks out of 24 possible x 10 points = 220 points (or 22%)
  - reading tasks: 5 x 10 = 50 points (or 5%)
- Weekly quizzes/dictations:
  10 quizzes x 20 points = 200 points (or 20%)
- Family History Project: Written and Oral Reports
  50 points each = 100 points (or 10%)
- Final exam: 100 points (or 10%)
COMPONENTS OF COURSE WORK
The text below explains in detail what you are expected to do in this course and how you will be graded. But I invite you to think more about developing your proficiency in the language rather than focusing on the mechanics of the grade. The ultimate goal for you and for me is to give you knowledge and ability to communicate effectively in Russian!

Preparation and Participation/ Подготовка и работа на уроке (250 points)
We will do a lot of language practice in class where you will work in pairs solving linguistic puzzles, writing dictations and checking each other’s work, applying grammatical rules, and discussing texts you read at home. Therefore, it is essential that you thoroughly prepare for a class and that you attend all classes. Just being in class is not enough to (re)gain proficiency in the language and develop appropriate linguistic habits. You need to be active and engaged.

When you are assigned to do an exercise with a partner, please stay away from chatting in English. Focus on your Russian instead! You will receive a daily participation score on a very simple scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>prepared (i.e., have done the homework and is prepared to work with new grammatical material and vocabulary in class) and actively participates; comes to class on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>not prepared (have not watched the Flipped Classroom videos, have not done the homework, does not know new words) and, as a result, participation is minimal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On rare occasions, I may consider giving partial credit (5 points).

Please note that you are allowed to miss up to 3 classes for whatever reason without penalty. The total score for participation already takes that into account.

Co-curricular and extra-curricular events
The Russian language program and other programs/departments/ institutes on campus organize a number of events on campus throughout the academic year which focus on Russia and the Russophone world. These include lectures by Brandeis University faculty or by guest speakers outside the university, Russian Club events and, very importantly, Russian Teas. You can receive extra credit for attending and participating in these events. Participation in two events will allow you to make up for one missed class. Overall, you can make up for up to 3 missed classed or homeworks. In order to receive this credit, you need to fill out a form (see LATTE) and write a summary of the event and a short reflection on what you’ve learned.

Language Labs (100 points)
This course requires that you attend a 30-minute language lab per week. You will have a study partner for this activity and will need to find a common time to meet with the Russian TA Tania Socolova. During the language lab meetings, you can work clearing out questions and confusions about rules and fix mistakes in your homeworks. Tania will quiz you (orally and without
grading) on the key words of the chapter, grammar rules (e.g., table of case endings) and spelling (e.g., short dictations). You will also take weekly quizzes during Language Lab. You will receive a participation grade for each recitation hour: 10 points for being fully engaged or 0 points for anything less than fully engaged. On rare occasions we will consider giving half the grade (5 points) for recitation participation.

**Homework/Домашняя работа (230 points)**

Daily homework consists of two parts:

a) written exercises (handouts provided in class or printed by you from LATTE),

AND

b) studying the assigned grammatical and lexical material ahead of the lesson by reading the textbook and/or watching instructional videos posted on LATTE. The goal of studying grammatical material prior to the lesson is to give you a chance to familiarize yourselves with grammatical concepts and rules at your own pace so that we can dedicate a bigger portion of class time to actual language practice.

**Please note that both parts of the homework are mandatory.** Written homework will receive grade in the homework category while the grade for studying grammar will be reflected in your daily preparation/participation score (i.e., it will be obvious if you have not done the work).

Expectations for the homework are the following:

a) work is turned in on time and at any rate, no later than one week after the due date;

b) work is complete (all assigned exercises are done);

c) it is at least 90% correct, and

d) there are no systematic errors which would indicate that re-learning and re-focusing is required.

There are two possible scores you may receive for your homework:

**Full credit – 10 points**

if your work meets the expectations outlined above.

**No credit – 0 points**

for homework that is late by more than a week.

If your homework does not meet expectations, you will receive a “v-“, which means that you will need to correct all circled mistakes and re-submit the work NO LATER THAN one week from the assigned date. Full credit (10 points) will be given only when all corrections are made and the work is re-submitted. If you do not submit your corrections, you will receive only partial credit (5 points). Please note that only one re-submission is allowed.

Homework **must be submitted on the day** when it is due and will be returned to you on the following day in most cases. If you know that you will not be able to make it to class, submit
your homework in advance or arrange for a friend to hand it in for you. **Three or more missed homework assignments** will lower your final grade in the “Homework” category. *Homework which is more than a week late will be accepted and feedback will be provided, but you will NOT receive any credit for it.*

In addition to the daily homework, you will have 5 reading assignments where you will need to record yourselves reading a passage from a story and answer questions concerning comprehension and interpretation of the text.

**Nota Bene:** Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 10-12 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (written homework, instructional videos, research for culture hunts, preparation for quizzes and exams).

Moreover, studies show that students who do not do language homework on a regular basis, do not perform well on exams, no matter how much they study the night before.

**Weekly Quizzes / Самостоятельные работы (100 points)**
You will have ten 10-minute quizzes, covering the material studied in the previous week. You will be tested on vocabulary, spelling (in the form of dictations) and grammar points discussed in class and practiced in the homework. Please note that spelling does count!

**Family History Project/Проект «Моя семья» (100 points)**
For the final project of this semester you will need to interview the oldest living member of your family or your friend’s family. If you don’t have living grandparents or prefer not to interview them, your instructor will help connect you to a community of elderly Russian speakers in the Boston area. The interviews can be focused on any of the topics that are of interest to you: the family’s immigration, life in the USSR, education and professional life in the USSR, memories of WWII, etc. The final product of the project that provides evidence of your learning is a written report in which you synthesize the information and illustrate it with pictures (from your family’s album and/or outside sources). You will also make an oral presentation to the class about the interviews. You will receive specific instructions for each stage of the project early in the semester.

**Final Exam/Финальный экзамен (100 points)**
There will be a three-hour final examination at the end of the semester which will be based on the entire semester’s work.

**What to do if you need extra help**
Please do not wait until problems start piling up. If you need another explanation of a particular concept or want to practice vocabulary, pronunciation, conversation, seek help from your instructor (Ирина Евгеньевна Дубинина) during office hours or by appointment, Russian
language Fulbright TA (Татьяна Соколова)) during her office hours in Golding 11, and the BUGS tutor by appointment.

**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 2019-2020 is Polina Potochevska (ppotochevska@brandeis.edu). She took this course two years ago and is minoring in Russian Studies. Polina is a great resource not only for your questions about major/minor, but also about Russian literature, studying habits, or successful language learning strategies.

**Information on Russia-related Events on Campus**

If you are interested in receiving messages with announcements about Russian language and culture related events as well as about courses offered in the Russian Studies program, please sign up for the Russian listserv (put your e-mail on the Bio Info Form)

Link to the listserv is also available at the program’s website:
http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/grall/russian/

**Study-Abroad and Other Related Opportunities**

Brandeis has a number of approved programs for studying Russian in the Russian Federation. You will be able to choose between summer programs, semester-long and year-long programs. 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. There are also 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.

**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.

**Statement on Success**

Success in this course depends heavily on your personal health and well-being. Recognize that stress is an expected part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by
unexpected setback or life changes outside the classroom. Your other professors and I strongly encourage you to reframe challenges as unavoidable pathways to success. Reflect on your role in taking care of yourself throughout the academic year, before the demands of exams and projects reach their peak. Please feel free to reach out to me about difficulties you may be having that may impact your performance in this course as soon as it occurs and before it becomes too overwhelming.

SPECIAL NOTE: It has become a tradition of the Russian program to organize a Russian evening in celebration of the International Women’s Day on March 8th. I would like to invite our class to participate in this evening (it is really meant as a show of student talent). Please consult with your friends and let me know if there is an act you’d like to present. It can be a song, a dance, a skit, an i-movie, a poetry reading, etc. We will definitely be doing something together as a group!

Удачи!