WELCOME TO THE CONTINUATION OF BEGINNING RUSSIAN: RUSS 20

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 12:00 - 12:50
Friday 12:30 - 1:20 (Marina Eneva)
Kutz Hall 132

Congratulations!
You made it to the second semester of Beginning Russian!

Course Description
We will continue with the engaging textbook and accompanying video, which serve as an introduction to the basic building blocks of the Russian language and Russian cultural norms. Building on the material learned in the first semester, you will continue developing your vocabulary to reach about one thousand words, expand your pragmatic skills to
include promises, requests, and advice among others, and complete your understanding of the Russian grammatical system.

COURSE GOALS
This course has several ambitious Goals:
- to help you develop appreciation for a different language;
- to help you build confidence in expressing personal meaning in a foreign language;
- to help you understand a different culture better, among other things by learning about a different worldview.

Here are a few additional Goals that you may want to choose for yourself:
- to be able to communicate with a native Russian speaker on a variety of every day topics
- to enjoy taking risks
- to find joy in living in the zone of discomfort

- ... ____________________
  add your own goal(s)

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
If you adhere to your part of this contract, after completing Russian 20 you will be able to:
- Talk about your interests, hobbies and personal preferences
- Compare and contrast things, ideas and people in more than one way
- Describe your university studies in fair detail: classes, exams, research papers, etc.
- Express your opinion, agreement (disagreement), surprise, frustration and some other emotions
- Invite people to do something together
- Order people around
- Make polite requests
- Give advice
- Make plans and give promises

You will also know and comprehend the following:

Grammar
- the entire declension system (all 6 cases!) for nouns, pronouns and adjectives
- expressions of necessity and obligation
- impersonal constructions expressing various states of mental and physical being
- verbal aspect (perfective and imperfective)
- unprefix ed verbs of motion
- first and second-person commands
- past, present and future tenses
Culture
- some facts and names pertaining to Russian and Soviet “high” culture
- sociocultural norms of interpersonal communication
- basics of Russian worldview as encoded in the language (how many fingers does a human being have?)
- some basic facts about Russian and Soviet social history which shape the way Russians think about themselves and the others

Ultimately this knowledge and skills will bring you closer to the Intermediate-Low level of proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing as defined by the ACTFL guidelines which is characterized by the following:
- the ability to handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated basic communicative tasks and social situations (such as shopping or traveling);
- describing self and family members, immediate environment, daily activities and personal preferences;
- expressing personal meaning by combining and recombining known elements and conversational input to make meaningful utterances of short-paragraph length; and
- to be understood by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives despite frequent misunderstandings and inaccuracies.

(for more information go to http://www.sil.org/lingualinks/languagelearning/OtherResources/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines/ACTFLGuidelinesSpeakingInterme.htm)

Learning a language is never just about the language. You are gaining a new tool and resource for exploring the world. The material of this course will also allow you to make connections to other disciplines: history, anthropology, literature, and geography among others.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
The textbook is Russian Stage One: Live From Moscow, and comes with a workbook, CD and DVD (the disks are located inside the textbook and workbook covers). NOTE: the textbook and the workbook come in two volumes. We will finish the last chapter of VOLUME I before we begin with the first chapter of Volume II.

Please note that VOLUME II is already at the bookstore. You can purchase it now or wait for two weeks until we finish VOLUME I.

Volume II consists of 8 units; we will be able to finish 5. We will resume in the fall (in Russian 30) with units 12 and 13 before switching to a different textbook. As with Volume I, each unit of Volume II consists of 9 days, each of which corresponds to one class period. The workbook clearly indicates the homework that goes with a particular day in a particular unit. We may occasionally combine two days into one class period (especially
Days 1 and 2 or Days 8 and 9 of every chapter) or you will have two days worth of homework to complete, especially between a Friday and a Monday. You will receive a detailed unit work plan at the beginning of each new unit.

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. 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.

**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 at home. Be grateful for the fact that you have “comrades in arms” in your conquest of the Russian language!

**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.

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

- Preparation and Participation = **180 points total** (or 20%)
  - 50 classes out of 53 possible × 3 pts each = 150 points (or 15%)
  - 10 recitations out of 12 possible × 3 pts each = 30 points (or 5%)
Homework – 250 points total (or 25%)
- 46 out of 50 possible x 5 pts each = 230 points,
- including Culture Hunts (10 out of 12 x 2 points each = 20 points)

Weekly quizzes
- 20 quizzes x 5 points each = 100 points (or 10%)

Assessment: regular grading scale
- Unit tests (4 total) x 50 points each = 200 points (or 20%)
- Summative assessment: Language Project = 120 points (or 12%)
- Final Integrated Performance Assessment = 150 points (or 15%)

Grading Scale

94-100 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
84-86 = B
80-83 = B-
77-79 = C+
74-76 = C
70-73 = C-

Nota Bene*: Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend 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, scientific 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.

(*Nota Bene is Latin for "Note well," i.e., please take a note)

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 an ability to communicate in a different language!

Preparation and Participation (180 points)
You must hear Russian and use Russian in order to learn Russian. Therefore, it is essential that students attend classes and keep up with course work on a daily basis. Moreover,
students who come to class unprepared, fall behind very quickly and hold up the rest of the class. Therefore, coming to every class and preparing for each lesson is essential not only to your learning, but also to the learning of your peers. Just being in class is not enough to gain proficiency in the language. 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! Your participation will be marked on a very simple scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 points</th>
<th>prepared (i.e., have done the homework and is prepared to work with new grammatical material and vocabulary in class) and <strong>actively</strong> participates; comes to class on time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 points</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>
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On rare occasions, I may consider giving partial credit (1.5 points).

Please note that you are all allowed to miss up to 4 classes for whatever reason without penalty. The total score for participation already takes that into account.

**Recitation Hour (50 points; as part of the 200 points for participation and preparation)**

This course requires that you attend one additional hour of class per week. It is called the “Recitation hour”, which in a language-learning course means that you will practice phonetics, do selected homework exercises together, practice conversation, prepare for oral exams, and have an extra opportunity to work with authentic language and culture materials. It is a great benefit to your language development as it gives you lots of opportunities to practice your language outside of classroom, to work on your pronunciation and to learn more about the culture of the language. Recitations 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 will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester by common consent. However, the suggestion is that recitation hour shall be scheduled for Mondays 7:00 – 7:50 p.m. There will be a total of 12 recitations. You must participate at least 10 recitations to receive the full credit for this portion of the final grade.

Please note that **your participation in the Recitation Hour is mandatory** and important for the same reasons as attendance and participation of regular class sessions. It is subject to the same participation and classroom policy as the attendance of the regular sessions of the class. You will receive a participation grade for each recitation hour: 3 points for being fully engaged or 0 points for anything less than fully engaged. On rare occasions we will consider giving half the grade (1.5 points) for recitation participation.
Homework consists of two parts:
   a) appropriate pages from the Workbook (sold with the textbook) for written exercises,

   AND

   b) on certain days studying the assigned grammatical material ahead of the lesson by watching instructional videos posted on LATTE. The goal of studying grammatical material explicitly prior to the lesson is to give you a chance to develop a conceptual understanding of the grammatical material on your own time so that we can dedicate a bigger portion of class time to actual language usage. This practice is known as the Flipped Model. It allows for a greater individualization of learning and is one of the more effective innovative approaches to teaching such morphologically complex languages as Russian.

Please note that both parts of the homework are mandatory. Written homework will receive a score in the homework category while the grade for viewing the videos will be reflected in your daily participation score (if you have not watched the assigned instructional videos at home, you won’t be able to participate in class).

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 some other method to turn it in.

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 three possible scores you may receive for your homework:
   Full credit – 5 points
      if your work meets the expectations outlined above.

   No credit – 0 points
      for homework that is late by more than a week or does not meet expectations of been at least 90% correct and complete

   Partial credit – 2.5 points
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 THE END OF THE UNIT. Full credit (5 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 partial credit.

Only one re-submission is allowed.

Please note:

• Homework which is more than a week late will be accepted and checked for errors, but you will NOT receive any credit for it. No resubmissions will be allowed for late homework

• Corrections/resubmissions must be received by the last day of the unit (usually, the unit test day). Homework resubmitted after the unit test will be accepted, but you will receive only partial credit.

**Culture Hunts:** starting in the 2nd week of the semester, you will receive a weekly set of questions on Russian culture or history (in English). These questions may include points about social and high culture and/or linguistics (for example, what are false cognates?). You can explore the Internet resources, ask your Russian friends or go to the library. You are not allowed to simply copy the material from the Internet (e.g., Wikipedia articles); you must use your own words in your answers. Please indicate the source of your information for every answer.

There will be 12 Culture Hunts total in the semester; you need to complete at least 10 for a full credit. Each completed Culture Hunt will earn you 2 points (full credit). If you do not submit a culture hunt, you will receive zero points. There will be no other scores for this task.

**Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes (100 points; about 10% of the total grade)**

You will have weekly vocabulary and grammar quizzes. Vocabulary quizzes will be every Recitation, beginning on January 22nd. Grammar quizzes will be every Friday. The quizzes are short – no more than 10 minutes, most being 5 minutes.

Vocabulary quizzes will have the following format: “list as many items of clothing as possible, at least 10 different items for a full credit.” You should expect to be quizzed on any material that was covered in class up to the day of the Recitation. In most cases, you will have the words, which you are responsible for, listed on the chapter syllabus. However, you are expected to be proactive in learning the vocabulary as it comes up in the unit. In order to help you deal with learning the words in a more efficient and effective manner, we created sets of vocabulary cards on Quizlet, with links posted on LATTE.

Grammar quizzes may be of several types: fill-in-the-blank, use the words in parenthesis to complete a sentence, supply the missing endings, translate the following
phrases/sentences. In most cases, you will have grammatical concepts, for which you are responsible on a particular quiz, listed on the chapter syllabus. However, you are expected to be proactive in learning grammatical rules as they come up.

There will be a total of 20 quizzes this semester: 2 each week starting in the second week of classes. There are three possible scores you may receive on a quiz:

- **Full credit – 5 points**
  - if your work meets the expectations of being at least 90% correct.

- **Partial credit – 2.5 points**
  - if your work is below expectations (80-89% range of correctness) but still has some substance

- **No credit – 0 points**
  - for missed quizzes or for work that has little substance (e.g. you remembered only 2 words from the list of clothing items or could fill in only 1 out of 5 missing endings)

**Components of Assessment**

*Unit tests (200 points or 20%)*

Thirty to fifty-minute tests will be scheduled at the end of each unit. Sometimes the tests may be take-home. Tests will be graded on a percentage scale (the highest possible score is 100%). You will receive specific instructions on how to prepare for such tests and how to handle a take-home. Each Unit Test will have an **oral component**. The oral part will be administered either during the Recitation hour or outside of class (you will do a video recording). Tests will be graded on a percentage scale (the highest possible score is 100%).

**Important note about unit tests:** your tests will be checked for mistakes. All problems in the learned material will be circled, but not corrected. The next class period you will have 5 minutes to correct your mistakes in a different color ink. If you miss that class, you miss the opportunity to correct mistakes. Your grade will be based on the corrections you made.

Tests are treated as summative assessments: you are receiving grades (rather than score) for them.

*Language Project (120 points or 12%)*

You will be required to work in groups of no more than 3 people to create a film (documentary or artistic) on a topic that we have studied in class. You will need to first prepare a written script (for 5-6 minutes of film) which incorporates as much of the language/culture you will have learned as possible. Each student in the group must have the same amount of speaking. Students cannot read from the script while filming. Just like
in real cinema you can do different takes before your final edit; however, avoid excessive cutting! Be sure the quality of the audio is good (AHEAD of time): do not film outside when it is very windy and avoid noisy places like SCC. You can quote famous Russian/Soviet directors in your films (insert scenes from old and acclaimed movies), and you can make your films as creative as you’d like, using any other means.

**Your films will be due before the end of the semester, by April 15th. Please plan ahead!** We will watch all videos in class and choose one nominee for the all-language competition. In this competition, students of other languages will submit their films. The films will be evaluated by a panel of judges. The winning group of students will receive substantial money prize. **Please note that the International Video Competition will take place on Tuesday, April 16th, 5:00 – 7:00 pm.**

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**Final (150 points or 15%) Integrated Performance Assessments**

There will be a written and oral final at the end of the semester during Finals Week. The format for the final will be Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA). It is a ‘cluster assessment’ featuring three tasks, each of which reflects one of the three modes of communication – interpersonal, interpretive and presentational. The tasks are interrelated and are aligned within a single overarching theme or content area (e.g., Famous Person, Daily Schedules, etc.). You will have opportunities to practice the tasks of the final IPA throughout the semester.

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**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.

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**Extra credit for co-curricular and extra-curricular events**

The Russian language program and other Brandeis programs/departments/ institutes 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 significant extra credit for attending these events. For example, you can cover the “zeros” for up to 4 missed classes or up to 4 missed homeworks or a combination of the two categories. In order to receive this credit, you will need to fill
out a form (see LATTE) and write a summary of the event and a short reflection on what you’ve learned at the event.

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!

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 (Irina Dubinina) during office hours or by appointment, Recitation Hour instructor Hour instructor (Elizaveta Repina) during her office hours, and the BUGS tutor by appointment. You are highly encouraged to practice the language with both of them. They can help with pronunciation practice, homework troubles, vocabulary learning, etc.

Other useful contacts
The Russian program’s Undergraduate Representatives for the 2017-2018 academic year Polina Potochevska (ppotochevska@brandeis.edu). She is majoring in Russian Studies and can be a wonderful resource not only for your questions about major/minor, but also about Russian literature, studying habits, or successful language learning strategies.

Study-Absroad 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.