Современная русская культура и общество
Русский язык 105
Course Description
This course is designed to help you move closer to the Advanced level of language proficiency, defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/public/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.pdf) as the following:

Speakers at the Advanced Mid sublevel are able to handle with ease and confidence a large number of communicative tasks. They participate actively in most informal and some formal exchanges on a variety of concrete topics relating to work, school, home, and leisure activities, as well as topics relating to events of current, public, and personal interest or individual relevance.

Advanced Mid speakers demonstrate the ability to narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future by providing a full account, with good control of aspect. Narration and description tend to be combined and interwoven to relate relevant and supporting facts in connected, paragraph-length discourse.

The speech of Advanced Mid speakers performing Advanced-level tasks is marked by substantial flow. Their vocabulary is fairly extensive although primarily generic in nature, except in the case of a particular area of specialization or interest. Advanced Mid speakers contribute to conversations on a variety of familiar topics, dealt with concretely, with much accuracy, clarity and precision.
The course, therefore, places a special emphasis on developing your narration and description skills as well as the ability to use circumlocution as a communicative strategy, to provide supporting details and arguments in descriptions and narrations, and to speak in well-formed oral paragraphs.

The course also aims to build your competence in Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational communication modes at the Advanced level of language proficiency and to understand the culture of the Russian-speaking world in a more nuanced way.

For Interpretive mode the broad course outcome is the following:
- be able to understand the main message and supporting details on a wide variety of familiar and general interest topics across various time frames from complex, organized texts that are spoken or written.

For Interpersonal mode the broad course outcome is the following:
- be able to maintain spontaneous spoken or written conversations and discussions across various time frames on familiar, as well as unfamiliar, concrete topics, using series of connected sentences and probing questions.

For Presentation mode the broad course outcome is the following:
- deliver detailed and organized presentations on familiar as well as unfamiliar concrete topics, in paragraphs and using various time frames through spoken, written, or signed language.

The course also helps you build the ability to investigate and make comparisons between different cultural products and practices and to understand different cultural perspectives.

The content for this work is contemporary Russian culture and includes themes and issues that are of concern to many Russians today, with some of them being hotly debated in the media.

MATERIALS
The textbook required for this class is "Panorama: Intermediate Russian Language and Culture" accompanied by the companion website (authors Rifkin, Dengub and Nazarova). A copy of the textbook will be on reserve in the library. Depending on your abilities and commitment, we may cover 3 or 4 large topics from this textbook.

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 will also be a copy of the textbook and workbook 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.

**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.

**ПЛАН РАБОТЫ**
You will be given a work plan for each chapter that we cover in the book. The chapter work plan is flexible and may be changed. Therefore, you should always bring the work plan with you to class in order to write in any changes. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out if there were any changes made. If you miss class, you are expected to keep up with the syllabus and come to the next class prepared.
GRADING
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Preparation and Participation (23%):
22 (out of 25 possible) lessons x 10 pts each = 220 points

Homework (18%)
18 (out of 21 possible) homeworks x 10 pts each = 180 points

Weekly Vocabulary/Grammar Quizzes (10%)
10 quizzes x 10 pts each = 100 points

Compositions (150%)
3 essays x 50 pts each = 150 points

Oral Tasks (15%)
3 reports x 50 pts each = 150 points

Personalized Lexical Journal (10%) = 100 points

Final Examination/Symposium (10%) = 100 points
(including interviews with native speakers)

Preparation and Participation (23%)
In a way, this course operates on a “flipped model”: you have to memorize the words, read the text or prepare the retelling of a story at home in order to be able to participate fully in class. Therefore, it is essential that you keep up with the work.

Being unprepared for class means that you cannot participate in a meaningful way and will 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. You will receive a daily participation score based on the following scale:

Full credit (10 points) Well 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

No credit (0 points) Absent or does not participate in a meaningful way

On rare occasions, I may consider giving partial credit (5 points).
You are allowed to miss 3 classes for whatever reason before you start losing points.

**Homework (18%)**
You will be responsible for reading the texts at home, memorizing new words, completing exercises and preparing oral reports. In fact, many homework assignments will involve vocabulary memorization.

You should plan on setting aside some time each day for memorization work.

You must be prepared to discuss the text in class and be able to use all the new vocabulary assigned as homework. You bear the same responsibility for oral homework as for written homework. For oral homework, you will be asked to submit a recording of your speech on LATTE.

Homework must be submitted on the day it is due and will be returned to students at the following class period 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.

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 – 10 points
  if your work meets the expectations outlined above.

- No credit – 0 points
  including homeworks that is late by more than a week.

- Partial credit – 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 (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. Only one re-submission is allowed.
Quizzes (10%)
There will be weekly short quizzes over selected vocabulary items and grammar concepts. You will be given specific directions regarding how to prepare for each quiz.

There are three possible scores you may receive for your quiz:

- Full credit (10 points) your work is at least 90% correct
- Partial credit (5 points) your work is below expectations
- No credit (0 points)

NOTE: you can retake a quiz if you get 0 points, but the maximum you can get on a re-take is 5 points.

Compositions (15%) and Oral Reports (15%)
Usually one composition topic will be assigned per unit. You will have two submissions for each composition: first submission will receive extensive feedback, which will allow you to have an improved second submission, which will be graded. You will have more time to work on your compositions than on regular homework assignments.

You will also be given a chance to present the thoughts expressed in your compositions in class in a variety of formats: presentations, debates, interviews, etc.

Personalized Lexical Journal (10%)
You will keep a paper or electronic Lexical Journal throughout the semester in which you will record all unfamiliar words that come up in your homework, in class or during your independent work (e.g., preparing an oral report at the end of the unit or interviewing a native speaker). You will be utilizing online resources such as the Russian National Corpus and a contextualized online dictionary multitran.ru. You will receive specific instructions on how to keep the Journal.

Final Symposium and Interviews with Native Speakers (10%)
You will have an opportunity to interview a native speaker who either lives in Russia or stays closely connected to the public discourse taking place in Russia on a topic (one of those we will discuss in class). The goal of the interview is to collect opinions held by Russians and to use these opinions in support of your final presentations. You will receive more specific instructions and contact information of a Russian speaker by the middle of the semester.

You will have a final which will be in the format of a symposium where you make presentations on the issues and themes discussed throughout the semester. Each of the presentations will be debated and discussed with everybody participating in the debate.
USEFUL CONTACTS
The Russian Studies program has been chosen to host a Fulbright Teaching Assistant this year again. Tatiana (Tania) Socolova comes from the Moscow region. She will be a valuable resource for you in terms of language and culture. Her e-mail address is tatianasocolova@brandeis.edu, and she will have regular office hours (check her office door in Golding). The BUGS tutor for this academic year is Thuy Ling Nguyen (по-русски Линь). She grew up in Russia in a Vietnamese-speaking family. You can schedule an appointment with her by e-mailing her at nguyentl@brandeis.edu.

The Russian program’s **Undergraduate Representatives** for the 2019-2020 is Polina Potochevska ([p relentless](mailto:p##### potochevska@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.

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.

Удачи!