You are invited to “taste” the Russian literature of the 20th century, to focus on the meaning, to understand differences of style, and to learn to quote freely from famous Russian and Soviet writers.

Я буквоед!

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD
OF READING RUSSIAN LITERATURE IN RUSSIAN!

Русский язык 150 (секция для билингвов)
Oral intensive

Понедельник, среда: 17:00 – 18:20
Shiffman 218
INSTRUCTOR | Irina Dubinina
---|---
OFFICE HOURS: | M, W, Th 1:00 – 2:00 or by appointment

CONTACT INFORMATION | 781-736-3223
| Shiffman 206
| idubinin@brandeis.edu

FULBRIGHT TA | Elizaveta (Liza) Repina
| elizavetarepina@brandeis.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
In this course, we will work with short poems and short stories by some of the prominent 20th-century Russian/Soviet writers and poets. Please note that this course satisfies the Oral Communication Requirement.

This course has several ambitious Goals:
- to help you develop appreciation for reading Russian literature in Russian... for pleasure!
- to help you build confidence in interacting with original works of literature
- to help you bring your language skills and knowledge of the Russian literature closer to the level of an educated Russian speaker who grew up in the metropoly.

Here are a few additional Goals that you may want to choose for yourself:
- to be able to explain to your grandparents what you think about a particular work of Russian literature
- to enjoy taking risks
- to find joy in living in the zone of discomfort
- ... ____________________________________________________________
  add your own goal(s)

The course Objectives include the following three categories:

Skills: throughout the course you will work on ...
- developing close reading skills in Russian (transferrable to/from English)
- increasing lexical repertoire dramatically to be able to discuss literature in Russian
- improving the skill of circumlocation
- delivering an effective presentation that captures the audience’s attention
- improving grammatical accuracy that enables you to formulate meaningful sentences in Russian
- developing a greater ability to suppress the dominant language during conversations

**Fact-based knowledge:** by the end of the course you will learn about important literary figures in the Russian/Soviet literature and develop a great understanding of historical events that shaped the society and public discourse in Russia/USSR

**Metacognitive skills:** throughout the course you will be honing your analytical and inferential that will allow you to read between the lines and to create hypothesis regarding the author’s intent. You will also further develop your ability to focus attention, to identify main ideas and supporting details, to summarize and to organize information.

**MATERIALS**
All class materials will be handed out in class or will be posted on LATTE.

**ПЛАН РАБОТЫ**
You will be given a timeline of readings for each month of the semester. This timeline is flexible and **may be changed**, depending on how much progress you make in your reading pace and how lively our class discussions are. Therefore, you should always bring the syllabus/timeline 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.

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

Preparation and Participation (25%):
25 (out of 26 possible) lessons x 10 pts each = 250 points

Homework (20%)
20 (out of 22 possible) homeworks x 10 pts each = 200 points

Weekly Vocabulary/Grammar Quizzes (20%)
10 quizzes x 20 pts each = 200 points

Short Presentations (15%)
3 presentations x 50 pts each = 150 points

Final Examination (presentations) (20%)
graded on a usual %-based grading scale

Preparation and Participation (25%)
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. 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 2 classes for whatever reason before you start losing points.

Homework (20%)
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 texts in class and be able to use all the new vocabulary assigned as homework. You have 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 when 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 a week after the original submission. 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 partial credit.

Only one re-submission is allowed.

**Quizzes (20%)**
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 (between 80-89% correct)

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.

**Short Presentations (15%)**

In this class you will be required to make three presentations which introduce the writer or poet whose work(s) we are reading to the rest of the class. You will receive specific guidelines on how to prepare for this presentation: what constructions you need, how to make the presentation affective and how to capture and maintain your audience’s attention. Please note that listeners will be required to ask questions and to take notes, which will need to be turned in for feedback to the instructor.

**Final Presentation (20%)**

The final exam in this class will be a 20-30 minute presentation on a topic of interest to you. You will be required to do outside reading and independent research to prepare for the final presentation. The research can be carried out in English; however all presentations must be in Russian.

You will be required to meet with the instructor twice in preparation for the final presentation; the last meeting will be at least once week prior to your scheduled date to discuss strategies for a successful final presentation. You will receive written feedback from peers and the instructor.

Please note that your presentations will be scheduled during the Finals Week. Please plan your travel accordingly.

**GROUP DYNAMICS**

This class relies heavily on all of you working together. Some of you have more Russian and some of you have less. Some are faster at memorizing new vocabulary and reading 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. Very importantly, be respectful to each other by coming to class prepared!

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

The Russian Studies program has been chosen to host a Fulbright Teaching Assistant this year again. Elizaveta Repina comes from Tyumen. She will be a valuable resource for you
in terms of language and culture. Her e-mail address is elizavetarepina@brandeis.edu, and
she will have regular office hours (check her office door in Golding).

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.