

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES (UC 115)
2009-10 (full year)



Russian for Beginners 1030
(Former Russian 1030 and 002)¹

Instructor: **Mykola Polyuha** (mpolyuh@uwo.ca); office hours – by appointment

Course Aims

Russian 1030 is an introductory course for students with no prior knowledge of Russian. Students with OAC Russian, grade 12U or equivalent must consult the department before registering. **The course aims to:**

- develop the ability to comprehend Russian in a variety of social situations
- enable students to express themselves in Russian in different cultural contexts
- develop insights into the culture and history of Russian-speaking countries
- encourage positive attitudes to language learning in general and a deeper understanding of other societies and cultures
- offer a better understanding of Russian (as well as English) sentence structure through a sound overview of basic syntax
- further intellectual and personal development by promoting the student's general communicative capacity
- provide a starting point and linguistic foundation for progression to Russian 2200 (second-year Russian).

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, **students are expected to be able to:**

- pronounce Russian accurately
- communicate using Basic Russian expressions
- express basic ideas and emotions in simple sentences and dialogues, e.g., introducing people, inquiring about their health, asking them about their interests etc.
- write and read simple sentences and paragraphs in Russian
- ask and answer questions on a variety of practical topics, e.g., university programs, the weather, pastimes, jobs, everyday life in the Russian-speaking world, food, entertainment, family life etc.
- describe surroundings and common objects, e.g., clothing, furniture, means of transportation etc.

¹ Former numbers are antirequisites for all courses.

•understand certain differences and similarities between Russian-speaking countries and North America.

Contact Hours

Russian 1030 requires **2 two-hour** class meetings per week.

Time: Monday / Wednesday 1:30-3:30 p.m.; **Location:** University College 137

Texts (UWO Book Store):

Required: *Голоса (Golosa) – A Basic Course in Russian (Book 1)*, 4th ed., (includes a textbook, a student activities manual (workbook) an audio CD and a multimedia CD)

*You will need to **bring the textbook to every class**. The workbook contains assignments which review the contents of each chapter and which are to be handed in to your instructor on the prescribed dates (see below).

Recommended: *501 Russian Verbs*

*You are strongly encouraged to use this book. It contains Russian verbs (with their conjugations and other forms) arranged in alphabetical order. This book will stand you in good stead not only for the purpose of this course, but in the long run.

Other Academic Matters: *UWO Academic Calendar* (see Academic Policies/Regulations).

Mark Breakdown

1. *Midterm I* (2 hours in class) **12%**

2. *Midterm II* (2 hours in class) **17%**

3. *Classroom quizzes* **21%**

There will be seven scheduled chapter quizzes, worth 3% each. The quizzes will be written in the regular class hours.

4. Written assignments **10%**

The written assignment for each chapter will be done in the *Student Activity Manual*. There will be 11 assignments. Each complete assignment will be worth 0.9% of the final grade.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

5. *Attendance* **10%**

6. *Final examination* (3 hours) **25%**

The final examination is *cumulative*, i.e., it covers the entire year. It is timetabled by the Office of the Registrar, without any input from the Department. Since it may be scheduled for any date during the April examination period, and since students must write at a scheduled time, you should not make any plans which might run into conflict with the examination timetable.

7. *Assignments at instructor's discretion* **5%**

Course Calendar (assignments are to be handed in on the day of each quiz/midterm)

N.B. We will *try* to follow this schedule, and students will be notified of any changes.

Sept. 14: 1st class: meet instructor; overview of textbook & Russian phonetics; begin Alphabet chapter in textbook (duration: 2 classes)

Sept. 21: hand in Alphabet assignment; start Lesson 1 (duration: 3 classes)

Sept. 30: hand in Lesson 1 assignment; Quiz on Alphabet and Lesson 1; start Lesson 2 (duration: 3 classes)

Oct. 14: hand in Lesson 2 assignment; Quiz on Lesson 2; start Lesson 3 (duration: 4 classes)

Oct. 28: hand in Lesson 3 assignment; Quiz on Lesson 3; start Lesson 4 (duration: 6 classes)

Nov. 18: hand in Lesson 4 assignment; Midterm on Alphabet to Lesson 4 (no separate quiz on Lesson 4)

Nov. 23: start Lesson 5 (duration: 5 classes)

Dec. 9: hand in Lesson 5 assignment; Quiz on Lesson 5; start Lesson 6 (duration: 6 classes)

Jan. 20: hand in Lesson 6 assignment; Quiz on Lesson 6; start Lesson 7 (duration: 6 classes)

Feb. 10: hand in Lesson 7 assignment; Quiz on Lesson 7; start Lesson 8 (duration: 5 classes)

Feb. 15-19: Conference Week (Reading Week; Slack Week; Catch-up Time)

March 8: hand in Lesson 8 assignment; Midterm on Lesson 5-8 (no separate quiz on Lesson 8)

March 10: start Lesson 9 (duration: 4 classes)

March 24: hand in Lesson 9 assignment; Quiz on Lesson 9; start Lesson 10 (tentative: if time and class progress permit) ²

² Last day of second term classes: April 9, 2010. **N.B.** Please make sure you UWO e-mail account is active.

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's **verbatim** or **paraphrased** text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

- UWO's *Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness*:
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
- Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading