Course description: Welcome to Russian 141, the first course in a four-course sequence in which students will learn the fundamental skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in Russian. Through analysis and active use of the language, students will learn the basic linguistic structures of Russian and become familiar with cultural aspects of Russia, including Russian poetry.

Course objectives: Russian 141 has a three-fold objective: acquisition of knowledge as it relates to the development of communicative and interactional abilities in Russian; acquisition of skills as they relate to the development of analytical competence; and acquisition of cultural awareness.

Course goals: Welcome to Russian 141, the first course in a four-semester sequence that will teach you the basic skills of Russian. At the end of this semester, you will be able to:

• read and write Russian letters, words and sentences
• give and respond with simple greetings
• introduce yourself and make introductions to others
• discuss activities in which you regularly participate
• discuss academic topics, including subjects and languages studied
• tell time on the hour
• talk on the phone
• describe personal possessions and common objects

In short, you will be able to create, participate in, and understand dialogues in Russian about yourself and your surroundings.

Required texts:


Course grading policies:

Exams (6) 30%
Quizzes (9) 15%
Oral exam (1) 10%
Essay set (5) 15%
Homework 15%
Class participation 10%
Skit 5%

Your semester grade will be determined by the following grading scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C−</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>64-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D−</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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</tbody>
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Course requirements:

There will be 5 hour-long take-home exams spread throughout the semester and 1 in-class exam on the alphabet. Each will be roughly the same length, and will consist of sections such as the following: noun declensions, fill-in-the-blank exercises, translation exercises, a reading comprehension passage, and a communicative writing exercise.

There will be nine in-class quizzes, one or two per chapter. Quizzes may not be made up without prior permission.

There will be one oral exam. The oral exam will be a conversation where you will answer questions asked by your instructor.

You will perform a brief skit with fellow classmates during the last week of classes. These will consist of a series of dialogs based on those you have created all semester in class and at home.

The essay set will consist of five out-of-class writing assignments throughout the semester and during the last week of classes. For essays other than those written in the last week you will have the opportunity to correct and edit based on my comments; the entire essay set, new and rewritten, is due no later than Friday, 4 December, in class. You should turn in the original copy of your rewritten essays along with your rewritten versions. Specific essay topics/assignments are available via the course OwlSpace site.
Homework will be graded on a 5-point basis as follows:

Complete/substantially correct: 5 points
Complete/mostly correct: 4 points
Partially complete: 3 points
Mostly incomplete: 2 points
Absent/Not submitted: 0 points

Homework is due the MWF class after it is assigned, unless otherwise specified; no late homework will be accepted. If you know you will be absent on a given date, you are encouraged to submit your homework in advance, or ask a friend or classmate to turn it in for you; thus you may earn up to the total 5 points available for the given assignment, as well as earning 2 points for class participation for that day, rather than 0 points, as described below.

Some homework assignments will include listening comprehension exercises. These are available on the web, as mp3 files, at: http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/golosa/audio/audio1-5e.htm. Video files are found at: http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/golosa/video_5e.htm. You may also reach these links through: http://www.prenhall.com/golosa and via the OwlSpace course site.

Class participation will be graded daily on a 5-point basis as follows:

Present and completely prepared 5 points
Present and partially prepared or late 4 points
Present but unprepared 3 points
Absent but homework submitted on time 2 points
Absent 0 points

The lowest three class participation grades for each student will be dropped in the calculation of the class participation grade for the semester; that means that you are allowed three unexcused absences. Regular class attendance is very important for learning a foreign language, as often the in-class hour is the only time during which you may practice speaking the language; failure to attend class will have an adverse effect on your grade, as will consistent late arrival to class.

On-line Resources: There are two on-line resources that you might find useful, especially at the beginning of your Russian studies:

• Russian writing, a site that will demonstrate how to write each cursive Russian letter:
  https://canvas.brown.edu/courses/370849/files/49395599

• Russian phonetics, a site that will further help you to pronounce Russian letters correctly:
  http://learnrussian.rt.com/phonetics/

Honor Code: Information on Rice’s Honor Code can be found at honor.rice.edu. Information regarding the relevant expectations on each assignment will be given with each assignment.
**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.