RUS 340: Russian Media Culture

Instructor: Alexander (Sasha) Prokhorov
Office hours: Monday, Friday 11-12, and by appointment
Course Meetings: MWF, 12:00-12:50; Washington Hall 312

Required Texts and Materials:

The textbook has a website with recordings of some texts, authentic radio broadcasts and Quia exercises for vocabulary and grammar practice: [http://textbooks.americancouncils.org/politicalrussian](http://textbooks.americancouncils.org/politicalrussian)

Use this site for all listening comprehension and Quia exercises, as well as all exercises marked with “@.” The more you listen to and repeat after the recordings, the more comfortable you will feel with new vocabulary, complex sentences and the rate of speech.


3) Additional media materials provided by the instructor or available as web links on Blackboard

Course Description:
Russian Media Culture is a proficiency-oriented fourth-year Russian language course which prepares students to acquire intermediate high oral, listening and reading comprehension proficiency (ACTFL Oral Proficiency Guidelines) as well as proficiency in Russian culture via discussing Russian and Soviet media texts.

Russian Media Culture introduces students to a variety of contemporary texts coming from print, radio and film. The first part of the course (“Встречи и переговоры”) will focus on understanding print and radio texts via learning reading/listening strategies, oral assignments and vocabulary/grammar practice. The second part is structured around selected texts on socio-cultural topics. In the third part of the course, students will practice discussing cinema, with the focus on narration and description.
Course Methodology & Policies
This course is taught entirely in Russian and all students are expected to start the class at the Intermediate-Mid oral proficiency level on the ACTFL scale. In this course students will learn about major venues of contemporary Russian media and about some political and economic issues discussed in these media, and will strive to achieve Intermediate-High proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Please notice that we will address grammar issues when explanations are necessary for comprehension or correct use. In other words, we will treat grammar as a tool, not a goal in itself. I strongly advise you to read through all grammar explanations in the corresponding Unit and do Quia exercises online. If you have a question please ask it in Russian using grammar terms from the list on BB under “Useful Vocabulary.”

The common objectives for all students in this course are: to expand vocabulary, to improve reading and listening comprehension skills, to learn reading strategies, to understand and use complex sentence structures, and to narrate and describe in Russian on topics not immediately related to one’s own life and experiences. To that end, your attendance and active class participation are mandatory, and you are expected to give extensive and thorough attention to all reading, viewing and written assignments. In addition, in order to get more speaking practice, all students in this class are required to attend and actively participate in at least 5 conversation hours («Русский Чай») at the Russian House.

If you miss a class because of illness, you are responsible for contacting the instructor or a classmate for any homework assigned and materials covered that day. No make-ups will be given without a documented excuse.

Apart from daily homework, tests, quizzes, oral presentations and the final exam, students are responsible for 1) an article for Gazeta on any socio-economic or political topic; 2) attendance of film and television screenings during the semester.

Oral Presentations
There will be three types of oral presentations. The details will be discussed later in class.

News Reports
Starting with week 3, the beginning of every class 1 student will report on current events. In the course of the semester, each student will make at least 3 such mini-reports. Each report should be 3 min long and should use at least some of the vocabulary of the unit and complex syntax. In other words, it should be a well-rehearsed paragraph.

Team Report
In the middle of the semester, students in teams of two will present a 5-7 minute report on a Russian TV channel, a newspaper or a radio station.

Film Presentation
On the last week of classes students will make presentations about the film we’ll be discussing, Prisoner of the Mountains.
Web Sites
These are the sites you will find useful for your news reports and the team report:

Television

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channel Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Первый канал</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ltv.ru/">http://www.ltv.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Канал Россия</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rutv.ru/?d=0">http://www.rutv.ru/?d=0</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>НТВ</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ntv.ru/">http://www.ntv.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTVI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rtvi.ru/">http://www.rtvi.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT (Russian Today)</td>
<td><a href="http://rt.com/">http://rt.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THT</td>
<td><a href="http://tnt-online.ru/">http://tnt-online.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social Networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V Kontakte</td>
<td><a href="http://vk.com/">http://vk.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odnoklassniki</td>
<td><a href="http://www.odnoklassniki.ru/">http://www.odnoklassniki.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Radio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio Station</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Эхо Москвы</td>
<td><a href="http://www.echo.msk.ru/">http://www.echo.msk.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Радио России</td>
<td><a href="http://www.radiorus.ru/">http://www.radiorus.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Радио Свобода</td>
<td><a href="http://www.svobodanews.ru/">http://www.svobodanews.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Радио Маяк</td>
<td><a href="http://www.radiomayak.ru/">http://www.radiomayak.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Newspapers/magazines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper/Magazine</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Новая газета</td>
<td><a href="http://www.novayagazeta.ru/">http://www.novayagazeta.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Независимая газета</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ng.ru/">http://www.ng.ru/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Коммерсант</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kommersant.ru/">http://www.kommersant.ru/</a></td>
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News in Simplified Russian

Новости на упрощённом русском языке    http://nclrc.org/webcasts/russian/

This site has both webcasts and scripts

Cultural Component

You should take advantage of cultural events scheduled during the fall semester, such as film screenings and lectures. Below are the events that you will participate in the Fall semester.

- Student-run film series “Russia: Genders and Sexualities”: Dates and times TBA. You should attend at least two screenings.
- On September 27, 5 pm. in Wash 201, John MacKay, the director of the Film Studies Program at Yale University, will present a public lecture about Dziga Vertov’s role in film history and European cinema’s gender politics.
- On October 26, 3:30 pm., in Wash 301 Erin Alpert (U. of Pittsburgh) will talk about the role of documentary cinema in Russia’s transition to democracy.
**Evaluation:**
Tests 20%
Final Exam 15%
Presentations 15%
Gazeta Article 05%
News Reports 10%
Cultural Events Attendance 05%
Participation 10%
Quizzes 05%
Russian Tea 05%
HW 10%

**ORAL PRESENTATION GRADING:**
Content 30 pts.
(appropriate topic, clear theme, the theme is developed in the report)
Organization 40 pts.
(introduction and conclusion, organized paragraphs, control of complex sentence structure and grammar in each sentence)
Flow of speech 30 pts.
(good speed, pronunciation, proper stress and intonation, easy to follow and understand)

TOTAL: 100 pts.

**MLL Departmental Scoring Guide:**
A = 93-100
A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76
C- = 70-72
D+ = 68-69
D = 66-67
D- = 65
F = 64 and below
Schedule of Assignments
(see detailed schedules of assignments for Units 1, 2 and 3 on the BB)

Aug 29
Введение в курс
Российские Средства массовой информации (СМИ) и язык медиа

UNIT ONE ВСТРЕЧИ И ПЕРЕГОВОРЫ
Weeks 1-5

UNIT TWO МИРОВАЯ ЭКОНОМИКА
Week 5-10

UNIT THREE ИМПЕРИЯ И НАЦИОНАЛЬНОСТЬ
Week 11-15

Final Written Exam – Dec 11, 9-12 noon