

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2020-2021** RUSS 111 A1: BEGINNERS' RUSSIAN I

(Fall Term)

*Note: Remote Delivery*

Instructor: Jelena Pogosjan  
Office: N/A  
E-mail: pogosjan@ualberta.ca  
Personal Website: N/A  
Course Website: eClass

Time: MWF 11:00-11:50  
Place: N/A  
Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00,  
or by appointment

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** Students who have taken Russian in high school or have some native background may be admitted, but they need to consult the instructor, students with too strong a background will not be allowed to receive credit for this class. Native speakers may not enroll in this course. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Technology requirements (minimum):**

You will need regular access to a computer with an internet connection, working microphone, speakers/headset, and webcam. You will also need basic browser plug-ins (PDF reader, video, audio). It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

**Experiential Learning Component**

- this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

- Yes       No, not needed

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>  
 See explanations below  
 Document distributed in class

- Other (please specify)  
 NA

### **Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

RUSS 111 is an introduction to the Russian language and culture. The main goal of this course is to help you develop basic communication skills in Russian. We will focus on listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural literacy. At the end of the course, you will be able to read and understand short texts and engage in brief conversations on everyday topics.

### **Course Format:**

The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of synchronous instruction and online independent study. It is crucial for your success to keep up with the materials on a daily basis.

### **Texts:**

*Между нами* - <http://www.mezhdunami.org>

All elements of *Между Нами* are released under a Creative Commons license, which means that it is absolutely free to use. The website comes with a classroom activities manual (*Работа в аудитории*) and a homework manual (*Домашние задания*). Both manuals can be downloaded from the textbook website.

### **Additional Course Fees**

- Yes       No

### **Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Classes: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Final Exam Date (if applicable): Oral exam (December 21-22, 2020); Written exam (December 21, 2020, 2:00 pm)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): January 15, 2021, 9:00 am. For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see ["I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?"](#)

### **Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

In-class (remote) participation	10%
Online participation	10%
Weekly assignments (oral and written)	16%
Quizzes (oral and written)	10%
Chapter tests (4 x 8%)	24%
Oral exam (December 21-22, 2020)	10%
Final exam (December 21, 2020, 2:00 pm)	20%

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

***Participation in-class 10% and online 10%:*** In-class and online participation is vital to your success in this course. In-class (remote) participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. Online participation includes timely completion of all online components assigned. It is important that you review and study the materials on a daily basis. Plan to spend about two hours every day on practicing Russian (reviewing materials, studying grammar, learning vocabulary, etc.).

***Weekly assignments (oral and written) 16%:*** Every student will be provided with a Google folder shared with the instructor. You will submit (upload) your assignments to this folder according to the instructions given on eClass, and receive the instructor’s feedback.

***Quizzes 10% and Chapter Tests 24%:*** There will be four chapter tests in this course (each worth 8%) and one quiz weekly. These tests are designed to assess a variety of skills, which are practiced during the course of study, including listening comprehension, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar structures, and writing. Tests and quizzes can only be made up if your instructor is informed prior to the test date and decided to excuse your absence.

***Oral Final Exam 10%:*** The oral exam is designed to assess your communicative abilities in Russian. The exam will resemble the oral activities that you have done in class to that point. The oral final exam will be done individually and take place outside of class time. You will receive details about signing up and preparing as we approach the exam.

***Final Written Exam 20%:*** The written final exam is cumulative, and similar in format to the chapter tests. It will assess listening comprehension, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar structures, and writing.

***Use of Russian:*** This is a Russian course; therefore, it will be taught in Russian. The instructor may occasionally use English if it is deemed pedagogically appropriate. To benefit from this course and to acquire a greater understanding of the language, students are expected to speak Russian as much as possible in class.

**Typing in Russian:** Due to remote delivery of this course, students will be expected to learn how to type in Russian during the first two weeks of classes (together with Russian alphabet and cursive writing).

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:**

***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Language and Translation Courses***

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

***Grading:***

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<p><b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p>	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<p><b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<p><b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<p><b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<p><b>Failure.</b></p>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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