



RUSS 316 (6 credits)  
**Intermediate Russian Language (Intensive Track)**  
Fall 2020  
Meeting Times: MWF 12:35–14:25 (online)

Instructor: Dr. Maria Ivanova (Мария Владимировна)

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Office: online Fall 2020

Office Hours: Mondays 3-4 pm, Wednesdays 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, or by appointment

Required materials:

1. *Голоса 2* Textbook – available online for free
2. *Голоса 2* Student Activity Manual – available online for free
3. Resources and handouts posted by the instructor on myCourses – please make sure to access regularly.

Recommended materials:

4. Any reference grammar (links to free e-books available on myCourses).
5. Any Russian-English and English-Russian dictionary.

General information: RUSS 316 covers two regular semesters of Intermediate Russian at McGill. The rationale of this course is to move students from a beginning to an intermediate level of Russian in the four following areas: speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Pre-requisites: This course is designed for students who have successfully completed RUSS 210 and RUSS 211, RUSS 215, or an equivalent course sequence, as demonstrated by the placement test. Heritage speakers may be admitted with instructor's permission.

Course content: RUSS 316 focuses on developing learners' proficiency in speaking, reading, listening, and writing. The content of the course relies on the materials, topics and grammar drills presented in the textbook *Голоса 2*, accompanied by instructor-generated presentations and other materials. The course focuses on assisting students in making significant gains in their Russian oral and written production, as well as oral and written comprehension. Through daily engagement both in and outside the class, students will be better equipped to speak Russian as cleanly and fluently as possible. Additional materials, such as video clips, songs, advertisements, short films and other media will be used throughout the term to expose students to various facets of Russian culture. Detailed schedule of all submissions is available on myCourses.

© *Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. I remind everyone of their responsibility in ensuring that the instructor's materials are not reproduced or placed in the public*

*domain. This means that each of you can use it for your educational (and research) purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it, by putting it up on the Internet or by giving it or selling it to others who may also copy it and make it available. Please refer to McGill's Guidelines for Instructors and Students on Remote Teaching and Learning for further information. Thank you very much for your help with this.*

**Learning outcomes:** By the end of the term students will speak, read, listen, and write at a level equivalent to Intermediate Low (ACTFL Proficiency Scale), CERF: B1, or higher; demonstrate increasing control over basic aspects of Russian grammar, such as case usage, verbal conjugation, tense and aspect in controlled settings. This growing accuracy will allow them to begin narrating personal experiences. Students will also demonstrate a developing awareness of Russian cultural norms in a growing number of contexts within the scope of the learning experience. Specific targets of this course are formulated in terms of the following communicative tasks:

- ask and answer questions on a number of personal and familiar topics, such as one's interests, daily routine, location of residence, academic pursuits, the life of a student, family life, childhood and family, dating and relationships.
- describe the physical appearances of people and places; well-known events and famous figures from Russian and American history;
- discuss important personal experiences and difficult situations; such as, loss, theft, and recovery of items;
- read a variety of authentic texts, including radio broadcasts and interviews, on the topics above and comprehend the main idea and specific details;
- write short essays and formal and informal communications (e.g., emails; letters, notes) incorporating materials introduced in the texts

**Remote delivery:** I understand and acknowledge that the remote learning presents a challenge for every participant, and I am committed to creating a meaningful, comfortable learning environment, which will allow all students to accomplish their goals. In order to help mitigate the effects of the remote learning and address the potential difficulties learners may face in Fall 2020 due to COVID-19, I have introduced the following measures:

- Classwork activities which do not rely significantly on speaking and group/pair work, will be completed asynchronously, rather than during class time. All related materials are available to students who are not able to participate in Zoom sessions.
- Following the Faculty of Arts guidelines, class time will thus be reduced and will be dedicated to developing students' speaking in Russian.
- Attendance will not be taken.
- Tests will be assigned asynchronously.
- Final projects follow a flexible format.

**Instructional method:** The course will be taught almost entirely in Russian, with occasional grammar explanations in English. Online classroom time is optimized for communicative practice and interactive activities. Because classroom time is used for the development of interactive proficiency, it is essential that you spend at least 2 hours per day for each class (as you would need to do for any language course). A thorough study session includes reviewing the material covered in class, writing out homework assignments, reviewing vocabulary and thinking about the material (making attempts to connect new material to old). Class will begin by reviewing items from both the previous class

meeting and answering questions about that class homework. The remainder of class will be spent discussing new material, practicing it in groups or pairs.

Student participation: While attendance will not be taken in Fall 2020, I encourage you to attend our MWF Zoom sessions to practice your speaking and get extra feedback on tricky grammar material. It is my goal as your instructor that each student be given ample opportunity to learn and apply the material. In order for this to happen, it is important that we all work together to make the Zoom learning environment a truly productive one. The classroom atmosphere should be one where all students feel comfortable trying out the language and experimenting with language production without fear of making mistakes. To this end, I will **not** record our Zoom sessions, and I **do not consent** to them being recorded by any participant. Please respect one another, fully participate in all group/pair activities, and come prepared. Your name (or preferred name) may be displayed on screen, and your instructor may call your name during the lecture. As such, this personal information will be disclosed to classmates.

*Technical requirements*. All students are required to have access to a computer, the internet, a microphone, and a webcam. We will use **Zoom** and the link to the meetings is available on myCourses. Before you join the course, please complete the following steps:

- Create a basic account by clicking on the following link: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/> You must sign in with your McGill username/password. Having a Zoom account will help you facilitate virtual meetings for collaborative assignments.
- Read this article on getting started. If the link does not work, go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>
- Students who do not have a webcam and/or a microphone should contact the instructor *in the beginning of the term*.

*Netiquette*.

- The University recognizes the importance of maintaining teaching spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all involved. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in contexts such as the following may be cause for disciplinary action:
  1. Username (use only your legal or preferred name)
  2. Visual backgrounds
  3. "Chat" boxes
- To maintain a clear and uninterrupted learning space for all, you should keep your microphone muted throughout your class period, unless invited by the instructor to speak.
- When logging-in to Zoom, please acknowledge your presence by typing Здравствуйте!
- Please use the wave hand signal or the chat to alert the instructor that you have a question or want to make a comment.
- Feel free to use the chat for the purpose of asking me questions.

*Remote learning resources*. Since learning remotely is a new skill for everyone, I would encourage you to look at the resources that McGill's Teaching and Learning Services compiled: <https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/students/remote-learning-resources>. Consider looking at all the tips, particularly the following points:

- 5 Strategies for Success
- Study Tactics
- Learning Strategies Inventory
- Learning with Zoom

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

Classwork (async/flexible)	15%
Home assignments	15%
Quizzes	15%
Tests	30%
Oral checks	10%
Final project	15%
	100%

Grade	Percentages
A	100%-85%
A-	84%-80%
B+	79%-75%
B	74%-70%
B-	69%-65%
C+	64%/-60%
C	59%-55%
D	54%-50%
F	49%-0%

*Home Assignments*

You will have homework almost every class, from on-line listening exercises to writing assignments. In your textbook, you will be asked to prepare items for review in the following class, in addition to writing on topics from the assigned readings. Write out these exercises on a separate sheet of paper, noting the chapter and theme number (e.g. 1-8, 2-11). Daily homework also includes selected assignments from Student Activities Manual (SAM). Assignments should be submitted by due dates and times. **No late assignments will be accepted.** Homework will be graded for completion. HW completed in full, with answers corrected using a key provided on myCourses – 2 points. Fully completed HW without corrections via the key – 1 point. Late/incomplete/sloppy/absent HW – 0 points.

*Classwork.* Students will complete activities previously scheduled for classroom time, asynchronously. This component uses videos, songs, visual materials, cultural information, etc. Detailed schedule and instructions are available on myCourses.

*Quizzes and Tests*

Vocabulary and grammar quizzes will be given at different points of the term, after a portion of the course material has been covered. Quizzes and tests are announced ahead of time, giving the students the necessary time to review the material and memorize the target vocabulary and grammar. Chapter tests will include sections on vocabulary, grammar topics, and cultural information. Under normal circumstances, quizzes and tests may not be made up or taken at a later date.

*Group projects*

In this project you will work with a team of classmates (group size will depend on the final amount of people enrolled in this course) on finding information about various topics related to Russian culture, lifestyle, history, famous people, etc. For the final project, you will be making either a short film or a class presentation. Detailed information on the group projects is posted on MyCourses.

*Extra credit*

RUSS program at McGill offers plenty of opportunities for extracurricular activities (Conversation Club, Movie Nights, Help Desk, Russian Evening), which also allow to earn extra credit. All relevant information, including the schedule, will be posted on MyCourses, pending funding approval.

**McGill policy statements:**

Language of submission: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights" (The Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities is available here <https://www.mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/rights>)

Academic integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures" (see [McGill's guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Copyright of lectures: All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.

Health and wellness resources at McGill. Student well-being is a priority for the University. All of our health and wellness resources have been integrated into a single Student Wellness Hub, your one-stop shop for everything related to your physical and mental health. If you need to access services or get more information, visit the Virtual Hub at [mcgill.ca/wellness-hub](http://mcgill.ca/wellness-hub) or drop by the Brown Student Services Building (downtown) or Centennial Centre (Macdonald Campus). Within your faculty, you can also connect with your Local Wellness Advisor (to make an appointment, visit [mcgill.ca/lwa](http://mcgill.ca/lwa)).

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

Note that to support academic integrity, your assignments may be submitted to text-matching or other appropriate software.

Land acknowledgment: McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather. L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. Nous reconnaissons et remercions les divers peuples autochtones dont les pas ont marqué ce territoire sur lequel les peuples du monde entier se réunissent maintenant.