Русский язык 052

Весна, 2017
http://www.uvm.edu/~kmckenna/

Приёмные часы
MWF—1:00-2:00

TEXTBOOKS: 1) Making Progress in Russian, Davis/Oprendek
2) Completion of «Станцыйный смотритель» Пушкина
3) «Вы-Стрел» Пушкина (& accompanying questions)
4) 100 Russian Word Roots and Exercises, Prof. K. McKenna
5) Intermediate Grammar Materials, Prof. K. McKenna
6) Newspapers & other materials prepared by Prof. K. McKenna
7) Russian pen-pal correspondence with students at Ekaterinburg University

COURSE GOALS:

As we saw in Russian 051 last semester, the intermediate level of any foreign language curriculum poses a number of challenges and opportunities beyond the conclusion and "fine-tuning" of the language's grammar foundations. As enjoyable as was learning Russian grammatical case endings last year, it must be understood that mastery of Russian grammar is not an end in itself, but merely one of a number of necessary skills assisting students to be able to read, write, speak and comprehend the language. Over the course of this spring semester, we will continue the work done in Russian 051 to address ourselves to a number of content and skill areas which should vastly improve your Russian competence beyond the level of mere grammatical case governance:

I. REFINEMENT OF INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL GRAMMAR SKILLS (Making Progress in Russian: A Second Year Course, Davis & Oprendek). Not intended as a primary or main textbook to be studied "cover-to-cover" this semester, Davis's Making Progress in Russian will assist us in addressing the following select grammar issues that frequently challenge second-year students:

-- verbal adverb/деепри-ЧАСТ-ие (lesson 16)

-- subjunctive and conditional voice in Russian (Lesson 16)

-- imperative/command form in Russian (lesson 3)

-- verbal governance (lessons 6, 7, 8,

-- OVER --
II. FOUNDATIONS OF CONTEXTUAL STRATEGIES FOR EXPOSITORY PROSE READINGS. As we saw last semester in Russian 051, comprehension of written texts and oral discourse poses a serious challenge to students of the Russian language. Partially at issue here is the extreme remoteness of the Russian lexicon from that of the English language. Varied syntactic constructions of the O-V-S and V-O-S varieties likewise create formidable obstacles to American students, who are primarily accustomed only to the Subject-Verb-Object (S-V-O) syntax of their native English. To overcome these obstacles in understanding Russian expository prose, we will continue to utilize a so-called "contextual reading strategy" which is grounded on an initial syntactic (noun-phrase construction) analysis of sentences which, in turn, is followed by a word-root methodology or lexical analysis. This semester, we will continue to use this particular approach to assist us in reading current events articles from Russian news media as well as other expository prose selections; it should prove helpful, as well, in our reading of Russian short stories.

The word-root methodology referred to will assist you to vastly improve and enlarge your Russian vocabulary. Based on a word-root morphological approach, rather than brute memorization of unrelated vocabulary items, you will learn related "clusters" of vocabulary words, for example: СРЕД-а (Wednesday); СЕРД-це (heart); СРЕД-ный (average); СРЕД-ство (news media); по-СРЕД-ник (inter-MED-ary); со-СРЕД- оточивать (to con-CENTR-ate).

III. SELECT READINGS FROM RUSSIAN LITERATURE/CULTURE. While expository prose reading will be the main focus of our reading this semester, we will also continue readings from the graded reading anthology used in the fall semester of Russian 051. This semester we will focus on Pushkin's «ВЫ-СТРЕЛ» as well as complete the reading of his «Станционный СМОТР-итель», which we began in the fall semester. Finally, for our English-language cultural reading, we will read and discuss Russia's greatest epic poem, «Медный в-САД-ник», written by Pushkin. As one of your oral presentations, each of you will memorize and present the first two stanzas from the Introduction to this poem.

IV. Russian Pen-Pal Correspondence with English Majors at Ekaterinburg University.

Finally, I have just arranged with a Russian colleague at Ekaterinburg University for a Russian internet connection for each of you to correspond this semester with a Russian college student. Over the course of the semester, you will write essays and deliver oral presentations about your Russian "pen-pal."
V. Course Goals by the End of the Semester.

By the close of the semester each of you should feel competent to conduct oral and written communication about yourself, your interests, family, personal description of yourself and family (height, color of hair, eyes, etc.) as well as to communicate with a Russian university peer on topics related to current events, their hobbies and interests, information about themselves and their families, their career goals and aspirations. In addition, you should feel comfortable in reading, analyzing, discussing newspaper events covered in the Russian news media as well as in reading relatively short pieces of Russian fiction.

**GRADING:**

- **HOUR EXAMS---** 25%
- Oral PRESENTATIONS--- 15%
- **DAILY WORK, CLASS/PARTICIPATION---** 15%
- **WRITTEN ESSAY(s) ABOUT PEN-PALs** 20%
- **FINAL EXAM (written and oral)** 25%

**ATTENDANCE:**

Class attendance is mandatory. Instructors have a way of feeling abandoned, unloved, and sometimes even suicidal when their students choose to miss a class session. To be sure, days will occur when other demands have left you unprepared to participate in class. Rather than skip a given class session, please merely inform me prior to class that you would prefer not to participate, i.e. "be called upon." The understanding you gain even by "osmosis" will be important. On such occasions when you just cannot attend, please call me before class at 656-1471. I have a voice mail system for you to leave a message in the event that I am out of the office. You may also send me an e-mail message at: kmckenna@uvm.edu. For more information about my research
Interests and work in Russia over the years, please see the “faculty” section of our German/Russian department website: <http://www.uvm.edu/~grdept/> or my web page: http://www.uvm.edu/~kmckenna.

**THE DATE FOR THE FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE IS:** Tuesday, MAY 9th: 4:30-7:15 p.m.