

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2021-2022 RUSS 111 A1: BEGINNERS' RUSSIAN I**

(Fall Term)

Instructor: Jelena Pogosjan

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E-mail: pogosjan@ualberta.ca

Personal Website: N/A

Course Website: eClass

Time: MWF 11:00

Place: HC 1-07

Online Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 pm  
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), printer and scanner. 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 face-to-face 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* textbook 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 Class: September 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Final Exam Date (if applicable): 2:00 p.m. December 13, 2021.

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): January 15, 2022, 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 participation 15%  
Online participation 15%  
Homework (oral and written) 16%  
Chapter tests (3 x 8%) 24%  
Final oral exam 10%  
Final written exam (December 13, 2021, 2:00 p.m.) 20%

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

***Participation in-class 15% and online 15%:*** In-class and online participation is vital to your success in this course. In-class 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.).

***Homework (oral and written)16%:*** You will submit (upload) your assignments according to the instructions given on eClass, and receive the instructor’s feedback.

***Chapter Tests 24%:*** There will be three chapter tests in this course (each worth 8%). 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 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:*** 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).

### ***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.

### **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: delete this section if not applicable***

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](#).

***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).

***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>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[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.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

### **Learning and working environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that 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.

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>

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.

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

### **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	%
<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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>95-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>90-94</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>86-89</b>
<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.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>82-85</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>75-81</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>70-74</b>
<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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>66-69</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>61-65</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>58-60</b>
<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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>55-57</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>50-54</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-49</b>

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