

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2020-2021 RUSS 304: Russian in Context II
(Winter Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

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

Time: MWF 1:00-1:50
Place: REMOTE
Office Hours: TBA,
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>

Course Prerequisite: RUSS 212 or consent of department. 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 304 aims to strengthen all four fundamental language acquisition skills — speaking, listening, reading and writing – while also enhancing students' command of essential vocabulary and grammatical structures. By the end of the course students should be able both to communicate and to comprehend more thoroughly and effectively in Russian; to summarize texts, prepare oral presentations, participate in debates, draft and revise their own writing. Contextualized exercises

and readings throughout the course will also expand their knowledge of contemporary Russian life, history, and culture.

For the experiential learning component, students in this class will take part in the “Прожито: Personal Stories in the Electronic Corpus of Diaries” project conducted by the European University at St. Petersburg (<https://prozhito.org>). Students will work as a group transcribing and annotating a never before published diary written by woman living in Crimea in the 1920s. The annotated transcription of the diary will be published on the “Прожито” website as a part of the Electronic Corpus of Diaries. Upon completion of this project, students will acquire basic skills in working with manuscripts, improve their ability to read cursive Russian, improve their ability to understand Russian showing attention to the meanings generated not only by the grammatical forms and vocabulary, but also the cultural contexts and the types of discourse used. They will be able to identify elements of personal narrative, and interpret them in the historical context.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, assigned readings, discussions, and audiovisual materials.

Texts:

All texts are available from the University of Alberta Library.

Simms, Elena, and Tatiana Romanova. *Russian In a Contemporary World: Textbook for Intermediate Russian*. New York: Routledge, 2019 (selected chapters).

<https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/8895879>

Kudyma, Anna S., and Olga E Kagan. *Russian Through Art: for Intermediate to Advanced Students*. First edition. Boca Raton, FL: Routledge, an imprint of Taylor and Francis, 2019 (selected chapters).

[https://www-taylorfrancis-](https://www-taylorfrancis-com.login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/books/9781315315720/chapters/10.4324/9781315315720-1)

[com.login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/books/9781315315720/chapters/10.4324/9781315315720-1](https://www-taylorfrancis-com.login.ezproxy.library.ualberta.ca/books/9781315315720/chapters/10.4324/9781315315720-1)

Stilman, Leon, and Vera Buxhoeveden Mirsky. *Graded Readings in Russian History*. New York: Folkways Records, 1963 (selected chapters).

<https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5506219>

Princeton University & the European University at St. Petersburg open lectures series (selected lectures)

- <https://eusp.org/en/events/open-lectures-collecting-art-in-imperial-russia>

Wade, Terence Leslie Brian, and David Gillespie. *A Russian Grammar Workbook*. 2nd ed. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2013 (selected chapters).

<https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/7744778>

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: January 11, 2021

Add/Delete Date: January 22, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: February 10, 2021

Winter Term Reading Week: February 16-19, 2021
Withdrawal Date: April 9, 2021
Last Day of Class: April 16, 2021

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

Class Component: 75%

Attendance and class participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Chapter tests (4 x 10%, Feb. 5, Mar. 1, Mar. 26, Apr. 14)	40%
Lecture summaries (3 x 5%)	15%

Project: 25% (obligatory)

Progress reports	5%
Oral Presentation (February – March)	5%
Final submission (Apr. 26)	15%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Class Component: 75%

Attendance and class participation (10%) Participation is vital to students’ success in this course. Participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. During the video conferencing sessions, you are expected to participate just like in a regular classroom: interacting with your classmates and the instructor, doing a variety of activities. You will need a microphone so that everyone can hear you and we also encourage you to switch on your camera (because nobody wants to talk to a black screen).

Quizzes (10%) and Chapter tests (4 x 10%, 40%) There will be four chapter tests in this course (each worth 10%) and approximately 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.

Lecture summaries (3 x 5%, 15%) Students will attend three lectures on Russian culture and history (Princeton University & the European University at St. Petersburg open lectures series - <https://eusp.org/en/events/open-lectures-collecting-art-in-imperial-russia>); “Прожито” online labs and presentations - <https://prozhito.org>, and/or *Graded Readings in Russian History* <https://search.library.ualberta.ca/catalog/5506219>), and submit a short summary of each attended event in Russian (250 words).

Project: 25% (obligatory)

Progress reports (5%) Students will report on their progress (weekly – in January; biweekly – in February and March), presenting to the class transcriptions and annotations of the assigned pages of the diary (one handwritten page per week).

Oral Presentation (February – March, 5%) Students will research and present on one of the aspects of Russian life, culture, language use related to the project, 20 min.

Final submission (15%) Students will submit their transcriptions and annotations of the assigned pages of the diary (April 20, 2021).

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	%
Excellent. 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.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. 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+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. 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.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. 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.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59