

**Tompkins Cortland Community College**  
**Master Course Syllabus**

**Course Discipline and Number: RUSN 101**  
**Course Title: Russian I**

**Year: 2023-2024**  
**Credit Hours: 3**

**Attendance Policy:** *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

**Course Description**

This course is designed to expand and improve the student's ability to speak, read, write, and understand Russian at a beginning level. Substantial outside preparation using audio-visual materials are required. RUSN 101 fulfills the SUNY General Education Foreign Language requirement. Prerequisite: Prior completion or concurrent enrollment in RDNG 116 if required by placement testing. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Fall semester.

**Course Context/Audience**

The course offers current and useful vocabulary with functionally based grammar explanations, integrating small-group and partner/pair activities to encourage students to use Russian in meaningful, communicative situations. Rich video material is integrated to introduce different cultural aspects.

**Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations**

**Writing:** W0 Very limited or no writing skills are required.  
**Math:** M0 Very limited or no math skills are required.  
**Reading:** R0 Very limited or no reading skills are required.

**Course Goals**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to greet and introduce people in formal and casual ways, ask and answer simple questions, make requests, get directions, and keep basic conversations about themselves, their friends and family, pets, and housing. They will also be able to read street signs and addresses and write simple notes.

**Course Objectives/Topics**

Objective/Topic	# Hours
Russian alphabet, basic sounds	3 hours
Greetings and introductions	3 hours
Pronunciation and basic reading	12 hours
Requesting/Giving permission	2 hours

Asking/Giving directions	2 hours
Personal pronouns	2 hours
Possessive pronouns	2 hours
Nouns (singular/plural/irregular plural)	6 hours
Verbs	6 hours
Adjectives	6 hours
Demonstratives	3 hours
Prepositions	3 hours
Formal and informal language	2 hours
Nominative case	6 hours
Prepositional case	12 hours
Poems	2 hours
Movies	3 hours

### General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues.</li> <li>➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information.</li> <li>➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions.</li> <li>➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.</li> </ul>	<p>Studying a foreign language cannot be separated from studying a foreign culture. To understand it better, the students are encouraged to ask questions and explore the new cultural realities.</p> <p>Explanations of cultural issues are dispersed throughout the course and are introduced as needed: the ways people address, greet and introduce each other in formal and informal ways; the logic behind some phrasal expressions; social situations in movie segments and cartoons, etc. are discussed and analyzed.</p> <p>Many times, current events are being discussed in class; students share what they have read on the Internet or seen on TV.</p> <p>Free discussions and analyses of event interpretation in American and Russian sources make it really fascinating and greatly promote critical thinking.</p> <p>Looking at a different grammar, students learn certain structural patterns and learn to recognize and apply them when they analyze or produce new language material.</p> <p>Grammar exercises and situational speaking activities (dialogues, skits), which involve following a pattern; basic reading to recognize familiar patterns in a text are consistently done in class and at home.</p> <p>Studying a foreign language often means getting into an uncouth mindset and facing uncouth realities. This exposure tends to lead to open-mindedness; at the same time, bringing greater self-awareness and awareness of one's own culture.</p> <p>Discussions of cultural issues, comparing and analyzing what the students are accustomed to in their familiar settings and what appears strange or unusual in a foreign society. Organizing a trip to Russia for the Spring break might also work towards this goal.</p>

SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live.</li> <li>➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.</li> </ul>	<p>Studying a foreign language promotes interest in the country where the language is spoken, which, in turn, opens up the world beyond a student's town/county/state or country.</p> <p>Following the current news related to US / Russia relationship, discussing how it affects lives of regular people, the students included.</p> <p>Studying differences in cultures and social behavior and how a wrong move can be misinterpreted from both sides could be really fascinating.</p> <p>Watching video episodes and movie excerpts, analyzing people's behavior and interpreting their intentions can prove very educational.</p>

### Instructional Methods

Considerable oral practice in class individually, as well as in pairs and/or small groups; writing practice at home; checking home work together in class as necessary. Enhancing the learning process by supplementing the textbook with original movies, animation and basic readings relevant to unit topics; engaging students in singing songs, reciting poetry, and performing skits, motivating students by demonstrating photographs and cultural artifacts.

### Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Class participation	20%
Home work	20%
Quizzes	20%
Language lab	10%
Tests	30%

### Text(s)

Lekic, Maria D., Dan E. Davidson, and Kira S. Gor Live from Russia! Russian Stage One. 2nd. ed. Vol. 1 Textbook. Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt, 2008.

Hardman, Inna A., and Kira S. Gor Live from Russia! Russian Stage One. 2nd. ed. Vol. 1 Workbook. Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt, 2008.

### Bibliography

### Other Learning Resources

<b>Audiovisual</b> 7+ DVDs on reserve in the library (Russian movies and animation) Instructional video <i>Nachalo</i> with accompanying exercises
<b>Electronic</b> <i>Rosetta Stone</i> and other software in the Language Lab in the library
<b>Other</b> No resources specified