



# University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

## **RUS 201 – Russian Language and Cultures in Action (formerly Intermediate Russian I)**

Fall 2022 | Section 1 | Credits: 4

### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Natalia Roberts

Office Location: 321B Graff Main Hall

Office hours: via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID 608 785 86 21) T&R 8:55 - 10:50 a.m. and by appointment

Phone: 785-8321

Email: [nroberts@uwlax.edu](mailto:nroberts@uwlax.edu)

### **Course Description and Prerequisites**

The first of two intermediate-level Russian courses, RUS 201 is for students who have completed RUS 101 and RUS 102 in the Department of Global Cultures & Languages or equivalent. It continues to develop students' communicative competence in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It also develops students' cross-cultural awareness and competence while building their communicative strategies.

### **Course Learning Objectives/ Outcomes**

Students will be able to effectively communicate on a variety of topics of a personal and professional nature using written (reading and writing) and oral (speaking and listening) language skills at an **Intermediate-Low level** on the [ACTFL proficiency scale](#). Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of cultural practices, products, and perspectives encountered in a variety of spoken, written, and visual forms.

After successfully completing this course students will be able to:

- Describe weather and prepare for travel to a resort or summer home
- Understand patterns of city and rural living and recognize cultural significance of summer homes in Russian society
- Talk about movies, television programs, books, authors, genres
- Conduct a search on the internet of television schedules and showings at the movie theaters in different cities in Russia
- Talk about holidays, celebrations, and traditions in America
- Make and respond to invitations for a holiday
- Greet hosts and guests, apply rules of etiquette when offered food at the celebration
- Identify meals and beverages traditionally served for various holidays
- Extend holiday greetings/congratulations and wishes to write a postcard
- Reflect on cultural significance of Russian traditions and historic influence on their development



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## Materials & Tools

- All materials (readings, videos, links, etc.) will be uploaded to or linked in Canvas.
- Textbook Голоса / Golosa (Book 2, Fifth Edition, 2012). Richard Robin, Karen Evans-Romaine, Galina Shatalina and Joanna Robin. (Available at the University Textbook Rental).

## Course Structure

This is a **distance education** course taught in a **hybrid** format. You will have online asynchronous work and in-person synchronous work to complete. Students will be joining **synchronous** meetings each Monday and Wednesday from 9:55-10:50 a.m. During these **synchronous** sessions, we will focus on oral communication. In preparation for these oral communication sessions, you will complete **pre-synchronous** meeting activities on Canvas, which will include learning vocabulary via Quizlet with recordings of your instructor's pronunciation, practicing pronunciation in H5P Speak the Word Set assignments, watching videos or interactive presentations in H5P, completing concept checks built in H5P explanations, preparing written drafts of discussion answers. Each Tuesday and Thursday students will have flexibility to complete online learning asynchronously on Canvas with deadlines set for 11:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted on course calendar.

## Conversation Partners

Each student in RUS 201 will be required to meet with a Conversation Partner once a week. The Conversation Partner schedule will be posted to Canvas on the second week of class.

## Grading Calculations

Your overall grade consists of the following assessments, arranged by type and value.

Category	Total % of Final Grade
Homework and Synchronous Class Assignments	55%
Conversation Partners	5%
Video Presentations	20%
Oral Assessments and Written Exams	20%

## Grading Scale

La Crosse	Stevens Point
93 % - 100% = A	92.5 and higher = A
89 % - 92 % = AB	90 % - 92.49 % = A-
83 % - 88 % = B	87.5 % - 89.99 % = B+
79 % - 82 % = BC	82.5 % - 87.49 % = B
70% - 78% = C	80%-82.49% =B-
60% - 69 % = D	77.5 % - 79.99 % = C+



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59% - below = F	70%- 77.49% = C 60 % - 69.99 % = D 59.99 % and lower = F
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## Synchronous Class Discussions and Role-play

Language proficiency is achieved only through regular and active contact with the target language. You are expected participate in both synchronous and asynchronous activities on a regular basis. As you can see from the grading scheme, your homework and in class assignments makes up 55% of the final grade. If you are unable to attend a synchronous session via Zoom, please contact Natalia Roberts via email at [nroberts@uwlax.edu](mailto:nroberts@uwlax.edu) prior to the class session. Regarding attendance, both absences and tardiness will result in loss of points during synchronous meetings. A large portion of the assignments will be completed in class.

## Online Translator Policy

There are many places where you can find help if you need it this semester. These are my top three recommendations:

1. ReversoContext <https://context.reverso.net/translation/english-russian/>
2. Multitran <https://www.multitran.com/c/m.exe?a=1>
3. Word Reference <https://www.wordreference.com/enru/>
4. I am always happy to help with any questions! Please, use my office hours via Zoom or email me so we can find a time to meet.

However, the use of Google or Yandex Translate and other similar online/machine translators is not accepted for work that is evaluated in our course. Although these sites may give you quick answers when you find yourself pressed for time, they are problematic for many reasons. The most serious reason is that they are not an accurate representation of your work, meaning that their use constitutes academic misrepresentation, a violation of the UW-L Honor Code. Any use of Google Translate, Yandex Translate or similar machine translation sites for any part of our class will be processed following the UW System's procedure for academic misrepresentation.

## Course Policies and Expectations

Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule. For extenuating circumstances that impact your ability to meet deadlines or participate in class activities, you are responsible for alerting me as soon as possible.

**Make-up Policy:** Since online homework is accessible at any time and from anywhere with Internet access, you **will not be allowed to make up any online homework** that you miss due to an absence (unless due to extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19). It is in your best interest to plan ahead, if possible, to complete any online homework that is due when you will be missing class. As for activities in class, please consult with your professor regarding your absence ahead of time.

**NOTE: Homework assignments are independent of online, asynchronous class hours!**



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## COVID-19 health statement

All UWL students are encouraged to be vaccinated/boosted against COVID-19. Campus-wide mask policy will be communicated centrally by UWL leadership and the guidance may change during the term. Students who are ill or engaging in quarantine/isolation due to COVID-19 at the direction of a health professional should not attend class and should be in direct communication with each of their instructors regarding coursework. Instructors have an obligation to make sure students have access to course materials associated with missed days due to COVID-19.

## Expectations for Graded Work

I provide students feedback and/or scores on assignments that require individualized grading before a further assignment of a similar format is due. Generally, I return work that requires individual feedback within two weeks from the date the work was due. I will notify you if I am unable to grade the work within the two-week timeframe and will identify a revised return date.

Your graded coursework will be returned in compliance with FERPA regulations, such as in class, during my office hours, or via the course management system through which only you will have access to your grades. After you have completed the course, any copies or records of your graded material that I retain will be accessible up to 7 weeks into the next academic term.

## UWL Policies & Supports

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### Academic Integrity & Misconduct

Academic misconduct is a violation of the UWL [Student Honor Code](#) and is unacceptable. I expect you to submit your own original work and participate in the course with integrity and high standards of academic honesty. When appropriate, cite original sources, following the style rules of our discipline.

Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment or the entire course and may include harsher sanctions. Refer to the [Student Handbook](#) for a detailed definition of academic misconduct.

For helpful information on how to avoid plagiarism, go to "[Avoiding Plagiarism](#)" on the [Murphy Library website](#). You may also visit the [Office of Student Life](#) if you have questions about plagiarism or cheating incidents. Failure to understand what constitutes plagiarism or cheating is not a valid excuse for engaging in academic misconduct. For a light-hearted tutorial on avoiding plagiarism I encourage you to review a ten-minute interactive tutorial from Acadia University: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>.

### Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances

#### Informal Complaints

If a student has a concern or a complaint about a faculty member or course, the general process for making **informal complaints** is outlined in steps 1-3 below. Students are welcome to bring a friend or a UWL staff member with them during the following steps. Students who report



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concerns/complaints/grievances, whether informally or formally, will be protected from **retaliation** and have the right to expect an **investigation** and the option to have regular updates on the investigation:

1. The student should speak directly to the **instructor**.
2. If the student is uncomfortable speaking with the instructor, or they are unsatisfied with the solution, they should go to the **chair** of the faculty member's home department.
3. If the student is uncomfortable speaking with the department chair, or the chair is the faculty member in question, the student should speak with their **college dean**.

Depending on the specifics of the student's concern, it may be helpful for them to reach out to additional offices:

- Complaints/concerns/grievances about **grades, teaching performance, course requirements, course content, incivility, or professional ethics** should follow the process outlined above. Students may also wish to seek support from the [Student Life Office](#).
- Complaints/concerns/grievances related to **bias** and/or **discrimination** may follow the process outlined above, and in addition or instead students may contact the [Center for Transformative Justice](#) office and/or submit a [bias incident report](#).
- Complaints/concerns/grievances related to **sexual misconduct** may begin with the process outlined above, but will need to also involve the [Office of Title IX](#). Students should know that faculty members are [mandatory reporters](#) of sexual misconduct, but that [confidential resources](#), including [Violence Prevention](#), are available to them.

## Formal Complaints

If the student is unsatisfied with the solution of their informal complaint, they have the right to file a formal institutional complaint with the Student Life office, as described in the [Student Handbook](#).

## Sexual Harassment

As an employee of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, I am a mandated reporter of sexual harassment and sexual violence that takes place on campus or otherwise affects the campus community. This means that if I receive detailed or specific information about an incident such as the date, time, location, or identity of the people involved, I am obligated to share this with UWL's [Title IX Coordinator](#) in order to enable the university to take appropriate action to ensure the safety and rights of all involved. For students not wishing to make an official report, there are confidential resources available to provide support and discuss the available options. The contact in Student Life is Ingrid Peterson, Violence Prevention Specialist, (608) 785-8062, [ipeterson@uwlax.edu](mailto:ipeterson@uwlax.edu). Please see <http://www.uwlax.edu/violence-prevention> for more resources or to file a report.

## Religious Accommodations

Per the UWL Undergraduate and Graduate [Catalogs](#), "any student with a conflict between an academic requirement and any religious observance must be given an alternative means of meeting the academic requirement. The student must notify the instructor within the first three



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weeks of class (within the first week of summer session and short courses) of specific days/dates for which the student will request an accommodation. Instructors may schedule a make-up examination or other academic requirement before or after the regularly scheduled examination or other academic requirement.”

## **Communication about Class Interruptions**

In the event of a campus incident that impacts the availability of teaching spaces, any changes or cancellations will be communicated to you via your university email account. Depending on the incident, some or all of the information might be posted on the UW-L home page.

## **Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI)**

UWL conducts student evaluations electronically. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the conclusion of a course, you will receive an email at your UWL email address directing you to complete an evaluation for each of your courses. In-class time will be provided for students to complete the evaluation in class. Electronic reminders will be sent if you do not complete the evaluation. The evaluation will include numerical ratings and, depending on the department, may provide options for comments. The university takes student feedback very seriously and the information gathered from student evaluations is more valuable when a larger percentage of students complete the evaluation. Please be especially mindful to complete the surveys.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Acquired Brain Injury, PTSD, Physical, Sensory, Psychological, or Learning Disability) who needs to arrange academic accommodations must contact The ACCESS Center (165 Murphy Library, 608-785-6900, [ACCESSCenter@uwlax.edu](mailto:ACCESSCenter@uwlax.edu)) and meet with an advisor to register and develop an accommodation plan. In addition to registering with The ACCESS Center, it is the student's responsibility to discuss their academic needs with their instructors. Students are ultimately responsible to communicate their needs with the instructor in a timely manner. Review the ACCESS Center website at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/access-center/>

## **Veterans and Active Military Personnel**

Veterans and active military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to me. For additional information and assistance, contact the [Veterans Services Office](#). Students who need to withdraw from class or from the university due to military orders should be aware of the [military duty withdrawal policy](#).

## **Academic Services and Resources at UWL**

Below are several student services available to students taking online courses:

- Academic Advising Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/advising/>
- ACCESS Center (formerly Disability Resources): <http://www.uwlax.edu/access-center/>
- Career Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/careerservices/>
- Counseling and Testing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/counseling/>
- Financial Information: <http://www.uwlax.edu/financial-information/>
- Murphy Library: <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/>





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- Multicultural Student Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mss/>
- Public Speaking Center: <https://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/public-speaking-center/>
- Records and Registration: <http://www.uwlax.edu/records/>
- Student Handbook: <http://www.uwlax.edu/Student-Life/Student-handbook/>
- Student Support Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/sss/>
- Tutoring (Murphy Learning Center): <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/>
- Veteran Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/veteran-services/>
- Writing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/writingcenter/>

## **Progress Report Online via Navigate**

If I notice that you are experiencing difficulties early in the semester (e.g., low assignment scores or limited participation), I may provide you feedback through Navigate, UWL's success system, and you will receive notification indicating that I have entered feedback. I encourage you to meet with me and/or utilize helpful campus resources listed on [UWL's Student Success website](#).

## **Technical Support**

You can also contact the ITS Support Center at (608) 785-8774 or email them at [helpdesk@uwlax.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uwlax.edu) for questions. The hours for ITS are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, and Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Central Time.

## **Course Outline & Schedule**

The course schedule and general outline of assessment dates will be published on Canvas.