



University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

RUS 351 – Russian Identity through Film (formerly Intermediate Russian I)

Fall 2020 | Section 1 | Credits: 3

Instructor Information

Instructor: Natalia Roberts

Office Location: 321B Graff Main Hall

Office hours: via [Collaborate Ultra](#) T&R 10:00-11:00 a.m. and by appointment

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Course Description and Prerequisites

Russian 351 is an intermediate-language course exploring the topic of Russian identity through contemporary Russian films. Adhering to the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages (produced by ACTFL), the course will allow students to develop cultural competences and make connections with other disciplines such as political science and history. Students will further develop language skills by practicing grammatical structures and lexical items required to narrate plots, summarize films, describe characters, and analyze film themes.

Course Learning Objectives/ Outcomes

Upon completing this course:

The course provides intermediate language learners with opportunities to strengthen their writing and speaking skills, as well as increase their analytical skills. Over the course of the semester students will:

- Identify Russian cultural products, practices, and perspectives as they relate to basic socio-historic contexts.
- Compare and contrast concepts of Russian identity as they develop in the XX century with similar and/or different ideas held in the United States.
- Gain a better understanding of the relationships between historical, social, or political events and Russian films.
- Analyze the interstices of socio-historical events as they inform Russian identity development and are portrayed in films.
- Move from an Intermediate-Low to an Intermediate-Mid language proficiency according to the ACTFL guidelines.

Materials & Tools

- All materials (readings, videos, links, etc.) will be uploaded to or linked in Canvas.
- Cinema for Russian Conversation Book II by Olga Kagan and Yuliya Morozova



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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 from UW-La Crosse and UW-Stevens Point will be joining **synchronous** meetings via [Collaborate Ultra](#) on Canvas each Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. During these live **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, watching films, reviewing grammar concepts with checks built in H5P explanations, preparing written drafts of discussion answers. During the week students will have flexibility to complete online learning asynchronously on Canvas with deadlines set for 11:00 a.m. each Tuesday in preparation for synchronous session on Wednesday, unless otherwise noted on the course calendar.

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%
Compositions	25%
Written Exams	20%

Grading Scale

La Crosse	Stevens Point and Stout
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+
59% - below = F	70%- 77.49% = C
	60 % - 69.99 % = D
	59.99 % and lower = F

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 Collaborate Ultra, please contact Natalia Roberts via email at nroberts@uwlax.edu prior to the class session. Regarding attendance, both absences and tardiness will result in loss of points



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during synchronous meetings. A large portion of the assignments will be completed in class. *However, if you become ill due to COVID-19 or must quarantine, you will need to follow the steps outlined in this syllabus for notifying me, and these absences will not count against your total.*

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 [Collaborate Ultra](#) 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.

COVID-19 Health Statement

Students with COVID-19 symptoms or reason to believe they were in contact with COVID-19 should call and consult with a health professional, such as the UWL Student Health Center (608-785-8558). Students who are ill or engaging in self-quarantine at the direction of a health professional should not attend class. Students in this situation will not be required to provide formal documentation and will not be penalized for absences. However, students should:

- notify instructors in advance of the absence and provide the instructor with an idea of how long the absence may last, if possible
- keep up with classwork if able.
- submit assignments electronically.
- work with instructors to either reschedule or electronically/remotely complete exams,



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labs, and other academic activities.

- consistently communicate their status to the instructor during the absence.

Instructors have an obligation to provide reasonable accommodation for completing course requirements to students adversely effected by COVID-19. This policy relies on honor, honesty, and mutual respect between instructors and students. Students are expected to report the reason for absence truthfully and instructors are expected to trust the word of their students. UWL codes of conduct and rules for academic integrity apply to COVID-19 situations. Students may be advised by their instructor or academic advisor to consider a medical withdrawal depending on the course as well as timing and severity of illness and students should work with the Office of Student Life if pursuing a medical withdrawal.

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 (either Spring after Fall or J-term; or Fall after Spring or Summer).

UWL Policies & Supports

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/>.



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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 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, or they are unsatisfied with the solution, 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 **hate/bias** and **discrimination** may follow the process outlined above, and in addition or instead students may contact the [Campus Climate](#) office and/or submit a [hate/bias incident report](#).
- Complaints/concerns/grievances related to **sexual misconduct** may begin with the process outlined above, but will need to also involve the [Equity & Affirmative Action](#) and [Violence Prevention](#) offices, and/or the [Title IX Team](#). Students should know that faculty members are [mandatory reporters](#) of sexual misconduct, but that [confidential resources](#) 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. 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



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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 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.

Eagle Alert System

This class will be participating in the [Eagle Alert System](#) through WINGS. The system is designed to promote student success. If I notice that you are experiencing difficulties early in the semester (e.g., low assignment scores or limited participation), I may note this information and you will receive an email indicating that I have entered feedback. I may also enter positive feedback encouraging you to consider additional learning opportunities. The link in the email will take you to WINGS where you can login to see the feedback. I encourage you to meet with me and/or refer to the helpful campus resources listed on UWL’s [Student Success](#) 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) 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/>



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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/>
- 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/>

Technical Support

For tips and information about D2L visit the Information Technology Services (ITS) student support page, at <http://www.uwlax.edu/D2L/Help-for-students/>.

Need help making sure your computer is set up correctly for online coursework? D2L's [System Check](#) ensures that your computer and web browser are configured to properly access their system.

You can also contact the ITS Support Center at (608) 785-8774 or email them at helpdesk@uwlax.edu for questions about D2L or any other technological difficulties. 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 is below. More information regarding timelines, etc., will be provided via Canvas.