

Русский язык 325
Грамматика
Tulane University, Fall 2006

G. Cummins, Slavic and Germanic Studies
gcummins@tulane.edu, www.tulane.edu/~gcummins
865-5276; office hours to be announced

As of 5 Sep 06 our meeting time is tentatively M 4:30-6:00, N 305 C. *Subject to change!*

1. Resources

Text:

Charles E. Townsend. *Continuing with Russian*. Slavica Publishers, Columbus, OH.

[on order from the publisher; if you can't get a copy see me]

Internet resources:

I recommend Voice of America and the BBC in Russian. The best news site is gazeta.ru, though it is sensationalist in tone.

Dictionaries:

Ozhegov, S. I. Slovar' russkogo jazyka. You may order this from kniga.com.

Other handbooks: Bring in what you like to show to me. A first-year text will have paradigms and basic information. Do not use 1000 Russian Verbs, 500 Russian Verbs, etc.

2. Course Description.

This course is open to advanced students of Russian language by application to the chair. The goal of the course is to refine and develop grammatical knowledge and writing skills in Russian. The first two weeks present an introduction to Russian morphophonemics and the analysis of Russian words, with an overview of the structure of the Russian verb. This introduction will be followed by a thematically based investigation of central topics in Russian grammar (using Townsend) with translation into Russian and composition in Russian. Some English in class will be necessary in the morphophonemics sessions; all that follows will be held exclusively in Russian.

3. Course Requirements

Attendance is essential for success in this course. Unexplained absences will be reflected in the participation grade (see below); after two such absences, the final course grade will be reduced by one full point (A > B, A- > B-, B+ > C+, etc.) for each absence. Students are encouraged to attend as often as possible, even if they have not completed the week's assignment, and in return they have the instructor's word that they will not be grilled, badgered, or punished for incomplete work. All students who attend this class are sure to learn a good deal of Russian and will be treated with gentleness and respect.

Note: "Instructors are not authorized to excuse absences that extend calendar holidays. Only the student's dean may excuse such absences. A student who has excessive unexcused absences or ceases to attend a course without an authorized withdrawal will, at the instructor's request and with the approval of the associate dean, be withdrawn from the course and receive a grade of WF." (University Policy).

I ask you to do written and oral assignments on time as much as possible, to participate in class recitation and discussion, to ask questions when I am unclear, to take quizzes and tests with good humor and equanimity. The key to learning is good, steady work, work that is goal-directed toward real results. Be prepared to enjoy what you are doing and to do it regularly.

A further note on attendance: if you cannot be on time for some reason, let me know and I will understand. During class you may leave, of course, for an emergency, but, please, come back another day — going in and out disrupts the train of discussion.

4. Tests

I will offer weekly or bi-weekly quizzes on material covered in class. There will be no mid term examination, and a final examination only by request of the class.

5. Grades

The final grade will be computed based on **homework and class presentations, 40%, quizzes 40%, other 20%.**

Scale:

93-100	A	72-76	C
89-92	A-	69-71	C-
86-88	B+	67-68	D+
82-85	B	62-66	D
79-81	B-	58-61	D-
77-78	C+	x-57	F

6. Disabilities

If you have special needs relating to a disability that may affect your performance in the course, please speak to the instructor after class or arrange an appointment to discuss your needs privately. This should be done as early as possible in the semester.

Schedule of Work

Calendar:

11 Sept	Townsend, Introduction. Spelling system, structure of the inflected form. Basic ě. Jot. Verb system.	1
18 Sept	The verb system. Continuation. Quiz.	2
25 Sept		3
2 Oct	Yom Kippur holiday.	
9 Oct		4
16 Oct		5
23 Oct		6
30 Oct		7
6 Nov		8
13 Nov		9

20 Nov		10
27 Nov		11
4 Dec		12
11 Dec	(Study period, but I'd like to meet)	13
18 Dec	конец (мы соберемся? — не знаю)	14