

Descriptions of Target Student Abilities: First-Year Russian

Russian Language Objectives, 2017

IINTERPERSONAL ABILITIES	Intercultural Competency in the Interpersonal Mode	SLAVLANG 1 (First-Year Russian, 1st quarter)	SLAVLANG 2 (First-Year Russian, 2nd quarter)	SLAVLANG 3 (First-Year Russian, 3rd quarter)
<p>Students in First-Year Russian are able to function in an authentic cultural environment. at a survival level Using basic grammatical structures and appropriate, mostly memorized formulae and lexical forms students can engage in simple conversation with their instructor, classmates and sympathetic native speakers accustomed to dealing with learners of Russian. Students can personalize and adapt memorized information to a limited degree and can operate in the most common informal settings.</p>	<p>Students will be able to show an awareness of Russian social norms and learn to imitate culturally-appropriate behaviors in the most common daily life contexts. They will demonstrate understanding of some basic cultural beliefs and values. They will start using their language skills to investigate the world beyond their immediate environment, and begin to recognize and understand others' ways of thinking as well as their own.</p>	<p>During the first quarter, students interact with members of their class and their instructor. They are able to participate in simple exchanges of personal information and conversation on daily activities, using isolated words, lists of words, and phrases.</p> <p>Students begin to use the Russian language to explore some of the most common products and practices of Russian culture related to family, school, home, and community life.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet, greet and introduce themselves using culturally appropriate formal and informal greetings based on age, gender, social standing. • Identify and name various objects and products of Russian culture such as Russian first, last and patronymic names, places and objects of everyday life at home, school and city. • Give simple descriptions of the above items using gender- and number- appropriate grammatical structures of the nominative, prepositional and accusative cases of nouns. 	<p>During the second quarter, students continue to interact with classmates and their instructor as they expand their range of topics and interactions in Russian. They are able to perform more complex tasks using newly acquired linguistic structures, such as accusative, genitive and dative cases of nouns and adjectives. Communication consists principally of short formulaic utterances, with occasional recombinations of vocabulary and stock phrases. Students are able to reproduce some common Russian cultural practices related to home and community life.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the functions of the previous quarter at a higher level while demonstrating greater familiarity with Russian cultural products, practices and social norms. • Express quantity using appropriate linguistic structures and forms of numerals, and replicate Russian cultural practices of using money and talking about age. • Express time and date as it is expressed in Russian cultural setting. 	<p>During the third quarter, students interact primarily with classmates and their instructors, and begin to engage with members of the local Russian-speaking community in limited settings. Students expand their repertoire of tasks and topics in Russian, using structures such as the instrumental case and perfective verb forms. They continue to operate mostly with rehearsed material, but begin to recombine elements effectively into sentences and create with the language in order to adapt it to their needs in order to function at a survival level in an authentic cultural context.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the functions of the previous quarter at a higher level and with more accuracy and display understanding of basic Russian cultural products, norms and practices to interact in a cultural context of authentic environment. • Use memorized language and very basic knowledge of Russian culture to accomplish simple, routine tasks. • Participate in a conversation, ask and answer questions or make simple comments in a familiar cultural context such as a family or social event.

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<i>continued</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and reproduce socially acceptable simple patterns of behavior in familiar settings in Russian culture in order to express requests, gratitude, apology, agreement and disagreement. Recognize the difference in expression and use culturally appropriate “impersonal” constructions in Russian to express possession, existence and availability of things. Recognize and use acceptable forms of expression in Russian culture to speak about objects, humans and pets and distinguish between interrogatives “who” and “what”. Identify places to have a meal, purchase a ticket, or buy something. Ask and answer simple questions e.g. “yes – no”, “which”, “where” about products and locations. List their classroom and daily activities, including interests and hobbies, using imperfective verbs in the present and past forms Participate effectively in highly structured simulated conversations in situations such as: asking for directions, speaking about their family, home, city and university.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize some similarities and differences between daily schedules and social activities of Russian culture. Express obligation using the Russian equivalent of “must” and “have to” in the present, past and future. Recognize and reproduce culturally-appropriate Russian behaviors in a restaurant or other public place and express requests using verb imperative and dative case. Express negation and absence of things using the Russian equivalent of “to have” in a culturally and socially acceptable way. Recognize some traditional and popular products of Russian culture such as food items, movies, songs, books, landmarks and express opinion or commentary using Russian constructions with the verbs “to like”, “love”, “dislike” in the present, past and future tenses. Have better control of adjective forms and cases. List in greater detail recreational and everyday activities in the present and past (e.g. vacations, trips, places of interest). Be aware of similarities and differences of these activities in their own and Russian culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate understanding of the Russian culture of gift-giving and celebrations and what is culturally appropriate to say at events such as a birthday party, New Year’s, a wedding, etc. Recognize differences in expression and use culturally appropriate language to express regret, sympathy, condolences; extend and decline invitations; make and deny requests or permission. Use new grammatical structures such as the instrumental case and comparison degree to speak about their immediate world in greater detail and gradation. Begin to make simple descriptions of abstract notions such as art, music, literature. Demonstrate better understanding of cultural products and cultural perspectives, and make simple comparisons of general cultural references, such as popular cartoons, songs, movies etc. Exchange information about future activities, duration of actions, and intentions. State attitudes, preferences, and emotions by using the Russian equivalent of “I’d love to” and begin to use conditional phrases.

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<i>continued</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask/answer questions or make simple comments in familiar cultural contexts such a family event or a social event with peers, using idiomatic phrases (e.g. what a surprise; oh really, how nice). • Participate effectively in structured simulated conversations in a wider range of contexts, e.g. asking and giving directions, shopping for food/clothing, ordering a meal, discussing the weather, past trips, vacations, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate effectively in simulated conversations and role-plays such as: renting an apartment, inviting someone to a party, making arrangements for a trip, planning the weekend, going to the movies, etc.

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INTERPRETIVE ABILITIES	Intercultural Competency in the Interpretive Mode	SLAVLANG 1 (First-Year Russian, 1st quarter)	SLAVLANG 2 (First-Year Russian, 2nd quarter)	SLAVLANG 3 (First-Year Russian, 3rd quarter)
<p>Students of the first year of study will be able to understand syntactically and lexically unsophisticated spoken and written Russian, texts of 100-400 words on mostly familiar topics and in familiar cultural settings. They will be able to read, identify general meaning and extract concrete information in dealing with authentic materials.</p>	<p>Students begin to develop intercultural competence by using the language to explore the authentic products and practices of Russian culture. They will use their interpretive skills to investigate the world beyond their immediate environment through texts and products such as newspaper ads, schedules, posters and signs; selected poems, songs, Russian cartoons and stories of modern Russian writers. By the end of the sequence, they are able to interpret basic information and start gaining perspectives on Russian beliefs and ideas</p>	<p>During the first quarter, students will demonstrate comprehension of simple Russian conversations (consisting of short utterances) that are linguistically familiar. They are able to read the Russian alphabet with full control and understand simplified study texts containing cognates such as “student”, “kampus”, “viza”, turist” etc. Students begin to explore Russian culture by reading short authentic texts containing information on Russian cultural products and practices such as short advertising, maps, signs etc. They will confirm their understanding in English.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate understanding of Russian interrogative intonation and distinguish between statements and questions in conversation. • Demonstrate understanding of some unique features of informal Russian speech like using “yes” and “no” in negation, set phrases, and some conversational formulas. • Recognize and understand some non-verbal means of communication like gestures specific to Russian culture. • Understand simplified passages on lexically and linguistically familiar material. 	<p>During the second quarter, students will demonstrate comprehension, sometimes using visual support, of lengthier but linguistically simple Russian conversations drawn from familiar material. Students will be able to read simplified texts and confirm basic understanding in Russian, using English for a more detailed account. They continue to explore products and practices of Russian culture by reading select Russian authentic materials containing cultural information, as well as abridged and adapted stories by modern writers.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a better control and understanding of phonetic conventions such as consonant devoicing and assimilation of prepositions. • Recognize and understand a greater number and variety of Russian cultural conversational formulas, sayings, and typically Russian non-verbal means of communication. • Read and discuss simplified short (150-250 words) texts on lexically and linguistically familiar material. • Understand more structurally and linguistically complex passages related to course material by, e.g., recognizing cognates that share the same root, identifying parts of speech, etc. 	<p>During the third quarter, students demonstrate comprehension of more extended conversations and narrations on linguistically familiar material. They understand the gist of short oral presentations (2 minutes) on less familiar topics, built on known grammatical structures. Students read longer simplified and confirm understanding primarily in Russian. They are able to read for general meaning from a variety of culturally authentic sources on many topics, including their immediate environment and a broader range of Russian cultural contexts.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the functions of previous quarters at a higher level. • Begin to perceive intonational nuances in speech such as irony, sarcasm, anger or irritation, humor. • Understand a broad range of Russian conversational formulas, stock phrases and idioms and Russian non-verbal means of communication. • Understand the main idea and characters of Russian short stories, media clips, cartoons and videos.

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<i>continued</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In short study texts (100-150 words), read for general meaning and pick out specific information based on cognates. • Read for general meaning and pick out information in culturally authentic simple materials such as: Russian maps, signs, schedules, theater listings, movie titles etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the main ideas and some details of longer culturally authentic texts, e.g. newspaper ads, schedules, posters and signs, as well as abridged and adapted stories by Russian writers. • Recognize some textual and cultural features of written texts and genre differences. • State their opinion on selected readings using mainly Russian, with some English to convey more complex ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize references to a number of Russian works of art, landmarks etc. as well as names of famous Russian writers, composers and historical figures • Identify text structure and demonstrate general understanding of content in a wider variety of readings, including selected poems and songs and abridged literary texts by modern writers. • Summarize and retell information in their own words using synonymous expressions in Russian.

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PRESENTATIONAL ABILITIES	Intercultural Competency in the Presentational Mode	SLAVLANG 1 (First-Year Russian, 1st quarter)	SLAVLANG 2 (First-Year Russian, 2nd quarter)	SLAVLANG 3 (First-Year Russian, 3rd quarter)
<p>By the end of the First-Year Russian sequence, students will be able to give a short (2- to 3- minute) oral presentation and write a structured composition (of 12-15 short sentences) related to course material.</p>	<p>Students learn to present oral and written information related to common products and practices of Russian culture. They will be able to convey some simple information and concepts about their own culture to an audience of sympathetic listeners or readers in a culturally appropriate context. They will be able to present some basic facts about beliefs and values of Russian culture as well as of their own.</p>	<p>During the first quarter, students present memorized and rehearsed information orally or in writing about themselves, their families and some activities. They will also demonstrate awareness of very basic concepts and social norms related to products and practices of Russian culture.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a short, structured, rehearsed presentation related to Russian cultural products on family, friends, university, city etc. • Answer mostly “yes – no” questions about their prepared presentation topic. • Ask their classmates basic questions to gather more information on the presentation topics. • Write 4-5 short sentences (totaling approximately 12-15 words) on the above mentioned topics. 	<p>During the second quarter, students present memorized and rehearsed information orally or in writing on a wider range of topics (e.g. university activities, places of interests, family events, etc.). Presentations are lengthier in scope and about actions in the past as well as present. Students demonstrate in their oral and written reports a basic knowledge of Russian cultural and social norms and some facts, ideas and concepts relevant to Russian cultural products and community life.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present more formal, prepared and rehearsed oral reports (1-2 minutes) on course material topics and related to a variety of Russian cultural products and practices. • Make presentations on topics of personal interest while demonstrating awareness of Russian cultural norms and rules • Answer various types of questions related to the topic of their presentations, including “why” questions. • Ask longer and more questions (including follow-up questions) for more information on class presentation topics. 	<p>During the third quarter, students demonstrate the ability to create and reformulate material in rehearsed presentations. Students will give socially and culturally appropriate presentations and write essays on a variety of topics related to Russian products and practices. They will be able to present basic facts and ideas related to some beliefs and values of Russian culture and convey information about their own practices, beliefs and values.</p> <p>At the end of the quarter, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present rehearsed oral reports (2-3 minutes) related to their own experience and relevant in the Russian cultural context on most common everyday topics. • Answer and ask a wider variety of questions about their presentation topics, as well as expand on comments and opinions expressed in Russian. • Write a short composition (10-15 sentences) on one of the topics related to personal information and/or class material (e.g. past or future event or celebration; cultural outing; profession choice; past or future trip to Russia, etc.)

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<i>continued</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express opinions and reactions to reports using appropriate Russian formulaic phrases and idiomatic expressions Write a short structured composition (8-10 sentences) on one of the topics related to personal information such as: family events, vacations, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a composition, a letter or an essay (10-15 sentences) related to cultural products, practices and ideas of the Russian-speaking world and of their own culture.