



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Central, Eastern & Northern European Studies  
(CENES)

# RUSSIAN LANGUAGE FOUNDATIONS

**RUSS  
101**

## First-semester Russian

Students are taught Russian in a vibrant and energizing way, where linguistic practices and vocabulary-learning are intertwined with an appreciation of the broader Slavic world and the culture of Russophone people, in and beyond Russia. The course will also devote attention to Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine.

**RUSS  
102**

## Second-semester Russian

As students continue discovering Russian, they expand their vocabulary, learning new ways to enjoy pronouncing new sounds and meanings through engagement with contemporary and classical writers, songs, films, folklore, behaviours and etiquette customary in Russian-speaking contexts.

## Third-semester Russian

This course is where students really become conversationalists in Russian. It fosters intermediate and advanced use of Russian language about students' free time activities, the arts and music, relationships, leisure and travel, and personal background. By now, students are equipped with more than 800 words and phrases to use confidently in diverse conversational settings.

## Fourth-semester Russian

In preparation for upper-level courses, students learn about the broader Slavic world, including the Soviet-era influence, Russophone speakers in other countries, and tensions between Russia and the West, where old-world assumptions collide with the ideas of modern rights and freedoms. Students will be able to read basic literary texts, communicate on complex topics, and make their way confidently in Russophone settings!

**RUSS  
201**

**RUSS  
202**

- No traditional, high-stakes tests or long, tedious, scary exams
- Focus on spoken language, using various video media for assessment and practice
- Portfolio-building helps you see how far you've come and what your own personal goals and horizons are
- Learning materials are interactive, easy to use, frequently online, multimedia, accessible, and focused on diverse real-world experiences

**How are you  
marked (graded)?  
What course  
materials do we  
use?**

**Learning  
language is  
about joy,  
meaning &  
community.**

Get to know Russian and Russophone cultures using a variety of learning strategies, in a low-stress environment. Develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Step by step, improve your ability to express your own ideas, and enjoy interacting with others meaningfully in real-life contexts. Explore diverse ethnic, social, gender and regional experiences of today's Russophone cultures, together with other students, in a small, friendly and inclusive class.