



## RUS 351 – Russian Identity through Film

Fall 2023 | Section 1 | Credits: 3

### Instructor Information

Instructor: Natalia Roberts

Office Location: 321B Graff Main Hall

Office/Student hours: via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID 608 785 86 21)

T&R: 5:55 - 10:50 a.m. and by appointment

Phone: 785-8321

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

### 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

The course provides intermediate language learners with opportunities to strengthen their writing and speaking skills, as well as increase their analytical skills. Upon completing this course students will be able to:

- 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 to Canvas.

### Course Format

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 via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID 608 785 86 21) each Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. - 11:55 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 p.m. each Monday in preparation for synchronous session on Wednesday, unless otherwise noted on the course calendar.

### Conversation Partners

Each RUS 351 student will be required to meet with a Conversation Partner. The Conversation Partner schedule will be posted to Canvas.



## 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 and Written Exams	45%

## 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+
59% - below = F	70%- 77.49% = C
	60 % - 69.99 % = D
	59.99 % and lower = F

## Late or Missed Assignments

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. If assignment is submitted late, **5% deduction per day** will be automatically taken by Canvas. 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). It is in your best interest to plan ahead, if possible, to complete any online homework that is due when you miss class. As for activities in class, please consult with your professor regarding your absence ahead of time.

## Attendance and Participation

### Synchronous Class Discussions and Role-play

Language proficiency is achieved only through regular and active contact with the target language. You are expected to 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 make up 55% of the final grade. If you are unable to attend a synchronous session, 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. I am always happy to help with any questions! Please, use my office hours 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

### 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 21 days from the date the work was due. I will notify you if I am unable to grade the work within the 21-day timeframe and will identify a revised return date. If you submit work after the due date, it may not be returned within 21 days.

The grades for any work that is graded electronically, such as scanned examinations, will be accessible to you within 7 days of the due date for the work. If you submit electronically graded work after the due date, it may not be accessible within 7 days.

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.

### Course Outline and Schedule

Please note that the timing of activities and topics listed will be posted on Canvas. I will give you timely notice of any major changes in the syllabus by email or Canvas announcement. [Extended Wellness Weekend](#): October 13-15, 2023 --- Friday, October 13 class meetings are to be canceled. No due dates for exams, papers, and other assignments on any of the three days.

Date	Assessment
12/18/2023	Final Exam

## UWL Syllabus Policy Information & Statements

UWL encourages students to know the campus' important policies and statements which can be found on the [Syllabus Information website](#).

- [Academic integrity and misconduct](#)
- [Classes during inclement weather](#)
- [Religious accommodations](#)
- [Sexual misconduct](#)
- [Student course and faculty-related concerns, complaints, and grievances](#)
- [Student survey on instruction \(LENS\)](#)
- [Students with accommodation needs](#)
- [University class attendance policy](#)
- [Veterans, active military, and military-connected](#)

Individual instructors will articulate course requirements and any additional policies in the course syllabus and/or on a Canvas site associated with the course. UWL also encourages students to take advantage of the campus' many and varied [student success resources](#).

### UWL Policies & Supports



### PRO@UWL (Progress Report Online via Navigate)/Student Success Policy

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](#).

## Course Access

Access to course materials in Canvas may cease after the term ends. If you wish to archive materials for your personal records or portfolio you should do so as you progress through the course. As a general rule, you should always save local copies of course-related work. To avoid disasters, you should also save important files to external media or cloud storage.

## Inclusive Excellence

[UWL's core values include](#) "Diversity, equity, and the inclusion and engagement of all people in a safe campus climate that embraces and respects the innumerable different perspectives found within an increasingly integrated and culturally diverse global community." If you are not experiencing my class in this manner, please come talk to me about your experiences so I can try to adjust the course if possible.

## Name/Pronouns

I will do my best to address you by a preferred name or gender pronoun that you have identified. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. UWL has a [preferred name policy](#) and [UWL's Pride Center](#) is available for additional assistance.

## Academic Success and Overall Health

At UWL, we support your academic success and overall health. We know that students often experience a range of stressors that can impact learning and well-being. If you or someone you know is experiencing mental health concerns, or could benefit from effective academic strategies, there are free and confidential resources available to enrolled students through the Counseling & Testing Center (CTC). To learn more, visit [CTC's website](#) or call 608-785-8073.

## Technical Support

For tips and information about Canvas visit the [UWL Canvas Guide for students](#); this site also links to the 24/7 Canvas support. Check your [browser compatibility with Canvas](#). If you are having Canvas login issues or need general computer assistance, contact the [Eagle Help Desk](#).