Class time and location: MTWRF 10am-1pm **Room 16-668**

Instructors: Dr. Anna Summers (course instructor, asummers@mit.edu)
Dr. Maria Khotimsky (course head, khotimsk@mit.edu)

ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ! WELCOME!

Course Website: http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/21G/ia17/21G.611/

Textbook Website: http://www.mezhdunami.org

Course Description

Welcome to 21G.611! In this course, you will learn the Cyrillic alphabet, study the basics of Russian grammar and vocabulary necessary for daily communication, and get acquainted with many aspects of Russian culture. Taught during the IAP, 21G.611 is the intensive version of the first-semester Russian. This course is part of the two-semester Introductory Russian Course for students with no prior knowledge of Russian.
The course emphasizes the development of communicative and cultural competence, as well as mastering the foundations of Russian grammar and vocabulary. Using the online textbook program and additional materials (such as songs and videos), we will work on developing speaking, reading, and writing skills. By the end of the academic year, you will have a working vocabulary of about one thousand words, familiarity with a number of conversational topics, a systematic understanding of the elementary Russian grammar, knowledge of cultural traditions and communicative norms. The course combines instruction in Russian and in English.

The IAP Term will cover Lessons 1-4 in the Textbook. You will learn how to introduce yourself and your family, to describe where you live and study, to talk about your school and your daily life, to discuss hobbies and interests. You will also learn basic dialogue models (introduction, greetings, asking for directions, talking about location, asking for information, and getting to know your interlocutor). Grammar content of the course covers the system of Russian nouns, adjectives and pronouns, including Nominative, Prepositional, Accusative and Genitive singular cases, and some basic verb conjugation patterns.

21G.611 is a team-taught course. Dr. Anna Summers is the primary instructor in this course. Dr. Maria Khotimsky, Russian program head, will conduct several class sessions, as well as weekly individual 15-minute conversation sessions with each student.

Course Materials

1) Между нами (Between You and Me): An Online Learning Resource for Russian (deBenedette, Comer, Smyslova & Perkins, 2013) – **Free online textbook**. https://mezhdunami.org

2) Между нами. Работа в Аудитории. Classroom Activities. Units 1-5 ($12.50, available at the COOP) – Please bring the book to class!

3) Между нами: Домашние Задания. Homework Activities. Units 1-5. ($15.00, available at the COOP or on STELLAR as a PDF to be printed out)

4) Additional Handouts with grammar review, vocabulary lists. Please get a binder!

Course Requirements and Grading:

1) Regular attendance and class participation, completion of individual reading and speaking practice sessions (15 minutes, once per week) (20%)
2) Completion of homework assignments, including online exercises (20%)
3) 2 Quizzes (5% each) and 2 Tests (20% each) (50%)
4) Speaking evaluation: brief oral presentation and dialogue activities during the last day of classes (10%)

Grading Criteria:

1) **Attendance and participation**: Student attendance and active participation in classes and speaking practice is essential for success in the course. More than two unexcused absences will lower your grade by half a point**.**
   Each student is expected to sign up for an individual reading and speaking practice session, to get additional practice during this fast-paced course.
2) **Homework** includes some written exercises, and, most importantly, work with the online textbook resources: reading the dialogues and repeating after the speaker, and completing online exercises. You should plan to devote 2 hours or more to your homework.
3) We will have **2 quizzes (January 12 and January 25)** and **2 tests** (**January 18** and **February 1**)
4) **Speaking evaluation**: during the last day of classes, each student will take part in a brief presentation (2-3 minutes), talking about yourself, your family, your interests, and your studies. Students will also participate in dialogues and interactive activities.

Classroom Policies:

- Please be on time; repeated tardiness will affect your class participation grade.
- No cell phone use or texting in class.
- You are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment. This class relies heavily on all of you working together, and it will include a variety of small group and pair exercises. Please be patient and understanding of each other's learning styles and pace.

Academic Integrity: Please familiarize yourself with the MIT Statement on Academic Integrity (http://integrity.mit.edu/)

Enrollment Cap Policy: Enrollment limited to 20 due to pedagogical reasons. Students planning to take Russian II in the Spring semester, as well as students planning to pursue Russian and Eurasian Studies concentration or MISTI-Russia Internship receive priority. In case of over-enrollment, preference will be given in the following order: concentrators and internship participants, students taking Russian II, pre-registered students (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students).

CONTACT INFORMATION: Maria Khotimsky khotimsk@mit.edu
Anna Summers: asummers@mit.edu

IAP OFFICE HOURS: Anna Summers – Office – 16-675, Tuesdays, 1-2pm + by appointment
Maria Khotimsky – Office – 16-657, Fridays 9 am-10 am + by appointment