

MTRF 12-1 p.m., 1-379

Instructor: Maria Khotimsky

## ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТЬ! WELCOME!

### Course Website:

<http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/21G/sp18/21G.614/>

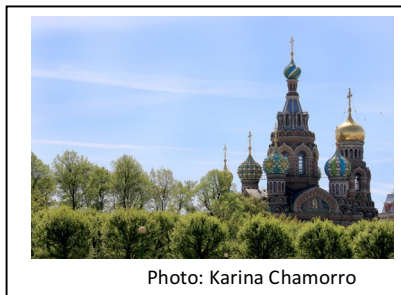


Photo: Karina Chamorro

Our main course content will be hosted on Canvas (linked to Stellar)

### Course Description

21G.614 is part of the two-semester intermediate Russian language course that offers a comprehensive review and expansion of grammar and vocabulary, and emphasizes the development of speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will work on developing communicative skills necessary for personal and professional interaction in a Russian-language environment. Class materials will include additional readings of authentic and adapted literary and non-fiction texts, as well as some films. Grammar topics for Spring semester include the usage of participles and gerunds; prefixed and unprefixed motion verbs; comparatives; conjunctions. Conversation topics cover travel, geography, health and wellness, culture, food, traditions, etc.

Pre-requisites: Russian III or permission of instructor.

Enrollment Criteria: Enrollment limited to 18 due to pedagogical reasons. Continuing students, concentrators in Russian and Eurasian studies, as well as pre-registered students receive priority enrollment. In case of limited class space, priority.

### Course Materials

1) **Course Reader and Lesson Packets** (class and h/w activities). Please, get a folder, and keep your materials together. We will use Lesson Packets daily, and the Reader on some days.

2) **Textbook: *Russian Motion Verbs for Intermediate Students***. William J. Mahota. We'll use this textbook starting with Week 3 of the course. Scans of part 1 of the Textbook pages are available on *Stellar*.

### Course Requirements and Grading:

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|---|--------|
| 1. Regular attendance and class participation, including homework | (30 %) |
| 2. Mid-semester interview   | (10 %) |
| 3. Vocabulary checks (lowest grade will be dropped)               | (20 %) |
| 4. 2 Tests (March, 22 and May, 14)                                | (30 %) |
| 5. Interview project (Due 5/16 or before; description below)      | (10 %) |

NO FINAL EXAM

## **Class Policies and Grading Criteria:**

- 1.) **Attendance and Participation:** Student attendance is essential for success in the course. **More than four** unexcused absences will result in the 5% lowering of grade for attendance and participation. In case if you have to miss a class due to illness; professional conferences or lab activities, you are responsible for completing the assignments and going over class material. **Excuse notes are accepted only in Russian.**
- 2.) **Homework:** Homework must be handed in class on the day that it is due. In addition, homework assignments will include online quizzes and voice recording to be submitted via Canvas. Homework submitted **more than 4 class days late** will receive partial credit.

**Homework grading system:** a point for written submission; a point for audio recording; online quizzes will be a regular part of h/w; they are designed as practice quizzes, and you can take multiple attempts. These are for your study/ review purposes. Questions on Vocabulary checks will be based on quizzes + written H/W.

- 3.) **Mid-semester interview:** scheduled in the week before the Spring break, the interview will cover main vocabulary and grammar topics, as well as communication strategies. The interview will include a role-play activity (asking for clarification, asking for directions). Additional guidelines and questions will be circulated in class ahead of the interview.
- 4.) **Tests: Two in-class tests.** If you know in advance that you have to be absent due to a legitimate reason (conference, lab, research group meetings), please let me know ahead of time in order to arrange date and time for a make-up test date.
- 5.) **Interview Project:** This project is designed to encourage you to practice your Russian skills outside the classroom. Each student will design a set of questions for a native speaker of Russian, conduct a brief interview, and then write up a short report about the conversation in Russian. You can interview a colleague, a classmate, a family member, or a friend. Please, let me know if you need help finding a person to interview. We will devote a class session to designing the questions. Please submit a link to your recording (via Google Drive or DropBox), and your reflection on the interview on or before 5/16.

**Classroom Policies:** please, be on time; be respectful of other students' learning styles and language levels. No cell phone or texting.

**Academic Integrity:** Please familiarize yourself with the MIT Statement on Academic Integrity (<http://integrity.mit.edu/academic-integrity-mit/what-academic-integrity>).

## **INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Maria Khotimsky ([khotimsk@mit.edu](mailto:khotimsk@mit.edu)) 14N-224, Mondays, 1 – 2 p.m. and by appointment.

## **Additional Resources and Contacts:**

**MIT Russian Program Head:** Professor Elizabeth Wood, History Department ([elizwood@mit.edu](mailto:elizwood@mit.edu))

## **MISTI-EURASIA**

**Industry and research internships in Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and more:**

<http://web.mit.edu/misti/mit-russia/students/index.html>

Please contact MISTI Russia program coordinator Ekaterina Zabrovskaya ([zabroves@mit.edu](mailto:zabroves@mit.edu)) for additional information