Winter 2012
RUSS 4120

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor

Dr. Marina Sabanadze
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Email: marina_sabanadze@carleton.ca

Office hours

Tuesday 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm
Wednesday 10.30 am – 11.30 am

Teaching Assistant

Office: DT
Tel.: 520-2600, ext.
Email:

Office hours

TBA

Times and Locations

Wednesday 11.30 am – 2.30 pm, EURUS seminar room 1304 DT

Texts

1. Marina Sabanadze Theory and Practice of Translation from Russian (WEBCT)(will be used in discussions of the theoretical and practical points of translation from Russian into English)
2. Russian-English dictionary (such as Akhmanova, Muller or Oxford) (will be used as a reference for determining the meanings of unknown words during classes, tests and while preparing home assignments)

Course Description

This course is aimed at the development of Russian language skills for reading comprehension and applied purposes of translation into English of modern authentic history, social science and some general interest texts, written in Russian. The development of these skills includes an important task of understanding the Russian text in depth and rendering it into English, accurately and in full, without losing or adding any information. In order to tackle these tasks in an effective and efficient way, students need to be knowledgeable in the basic vocabulary, morphology and syntax of the Russian language, as well as reading comprehension strategies, which will allow them to productively analyse the authentic Russian text, understand its structure, style, expressive means used by author, and derive a general idea of its contents. Students also need to be well-versed in techniques of translation and particular area, about which the SL text is written (politics, economics, history etc.). The basic vocabulary and morphology are mastered in the sequence of the first three Russian language courses, offered at Carleton U. (RUSS 1010/1020, 2010/2020, 3010/3020), while syntax is the focal point of RUSS 4115, usually offered in the Fall semester. In RUSS 4120 students will proceed to learning the theoretical points of translation and performing a wide range of practical translation exercises based on authentic texts and documents from Russian websites (such for example as www.gazeta.ru; www.trud.ru; www.strana.ru), newspapers, magazines, history, political science and economy textbooks etc.. During the course, each student will have an opportunity to present and translate in class one text of his/her choice, usually pertaining to the area, in which a student may have a particular interest.

The theoretical translation topics covered during the course will include:

WEEK 1 Definition of translation and general types.

WEEK 2 Prerequisites for good translation.

WEEK 3 Lexico-semantic issues of translation.

Translation of proper names. Transliteration. Transcription.

WEEK 4 Translation of terminology.

Translation of abbreviations and acronyms.

WEEK 5 Translation of phraseological combinations.

“False friends” of a translator.
WEEK 6 Structural (grammatical) issues of translation.
Translation of participles and participle constructions.

WEEK 7 Translation of verbal adverbs and verbal adverb constructions.

WEEK 8 Translation of sentences with predicates expressed by the verbs in Hypothetical Mood.

WEEK 9 Translation of constructions with a double negation.

Attendance at all class meetings is compulsory. Absences (of any kind – including medical and employment-related absences) and cumulative late arrivals will reduce the in-class participation. A student must attend a minimum 80% of classes per term in order to qualify for a passing grade for the course. Failure to meet this requirement will automatically result in a failing grade.

There will be bi-WEEKLY written and WEEKLY oral assignments (all of them - translations of texts) and readings in the theory of translation. In addition to that, each participant will be expected to present one text of his/her choice, with an extensive vocabulary list attached to the text. The order of text presentations will be discussed during the first week of the Winter term. Late written assignments will not be usually accepted.

At the end of the course there will be a 3 hour in-class examination.

Evaluation:

The evaluation scheme will be as follows:

1. Class participation (based on oral home assignments and material covered in class etc.) - 30%
2. Written assignments – 20%
3. Topic presentation – 15%
4. Final in-class 3-hour (dictionaries allowed) examination - 35%

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Total: 100%
Plagiarism and cheating are considered serious instructional offenses and result in penalties and centrally maintained record of offenses. In all written work, students must avoid plagiarism, i.e. presenting the work or ideas of another as one's own. Forms of plagiarism include copying from the work of another author without proper use of footnotes and quotation marks, using the ideas of others without acknowledging the source, extensive paraphrasing, or submitting the work of another as one's own.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: http://www2.carleton.ca/PMC/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/