



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

*Russian 551*

***Independent Study: Translating Academic Writing***

*Fall 2022*

*Thursdays 9:00-9:50, Web-Based*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Dr. Olga M. Mladenova

**OFFICE HOURS:** by appointment in Zoom; please e-mail to schedule consultation

**E-MAIL:** [omladeno@ucalgary.ca](mailto:omladeno@ucalgary.ca) (*e-mail policy: I will respond to e-mails within 48 hrs during weekdays.*)

**DESCRIPTION**

An independent research project on a topic that is not normally a part of the program's course offerings.

There are significant differences between the conventions of the Russian and the English academic writing styles. This course will familiarize students with the characteristics of Russian academic writing and Russian bibliographic standards. Through the exploration of published English-language translations of Russian academic papers in conjunction with their originals, students will be able to identify the challenges that a translator of Russian academic prose faces in the twenty-first century and the pros and cons of automatic translation tools such as Google Translate. At the next stage of the course, students will work independently on a piece of Russian academic writing that has not been translated into English, keep a diary of their independent work on their translation project, discuss with the instructor their ongoing translation efforts, and present to the class their reflections on the first-hand translation experience.

Prerequisites: Consent of the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures. Permission to enrol in this course depends on a faculty member's agreement to sponsor the project.

This course may be repeated for credit.

**OBJECTIVES**

Students are expected to improve their proficiency in Russian, broaden their understanding of the range of Russian stylistic variation and gain experience with reading, interpreting and critically assessing relevant academic literature in an area of interest to them.

**OUTCOMES**

The end result will be a significantly increased confidence in the use of the Russian language, a deeper understanding of the importance of context for the interpretation of a text and an improved capacity of academic writing in English.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Available through the University of Calgary library.

**COURSE NOTES**

In order to participate in this course, students need (1) a computer with a supported operating system and the latest security and malware updates that is equipped with (2) a microphone and (3) a webcam as well as (4) a reliable broadband internet connection. In terms of software, they need a current and updated web browser and an enabled current antivirus and/or firewall software.



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Please refer to the syllabus for detailed course-related information:

- important dates including class schedule and assignment due dates
- guidelines for submitting assignments

**CLASS ETIQUETTE**

Take responsibility for your learning. Whether you learn depends on your willingness to listen, ask appropriate questions and do the work necessary to pass the course.

Turn in your work on time. Plan ahead. If you wait until the last minute to do your work, you will probably get lower grades and miss deadlines. The only way to study a language is by doing your assignments every day. Any extensions of deadlines must be negotiated with the instructor ahead of time, otherwise students receive zero points for that component of the course. It is the responsibility of students to motivate why they should receive an extension of a deadline.

Your classmates and your instructor deserve your respect and support. Others may have ideas and opinions that differ from yours, but everyone deserves the same level of respect from you as you wish to receive from them.

Be there. Attend every class. Students who missed the first class are more likely later to withdraw or fail. If you have an emergency or illness, contact the instructor to let her know that you will be absent. Your full participation in class discussions is assumed and expected. It is worth 30% of your final grade.

Get to class on time. Students who come to class late distract other students in the learning environment and miss important information.

Come to class prepared so that you can make the most out of the course.

Let us create together an online classroom environment that will be rewarding and productive for all. Below, I list some tips that will help us achieve this goal.

Before the course begins, get acquainted with Zoom at <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/getting-started-with-zoom/> if you need to refresh your memory.

When attending an online class, carefully choose a physical space that will allow you to focus on the class and participate without distracting your classmates and instructor. Work in a quiet room, with minimal background noise and distractions.

Our synchronous classes will not be recorded.

To make it easier for everyone to focus, do not have private conversations during class time. Turn off all notifications and make sure your cell phone is on silent. Only post chat messages relevant to the ongoing class.

You will retain the discussion much better if you refrain from replying to emails or text messages during the class and wait to work on your homework until after the class ends.

You might want to use a noise-cancelling headset with an external microphone for best hearing and speaking capabilities. Mute your microphone if you are not talking. In this way you will help keep background noise and distractions to the class to a minimum.

Video policy. Position your camera properly. Be sure your web camera is in a stable position and focused at eye level. Be mindful of your background lighting. If you are sitting in front of a window, you may be completely darkened by the light coming through the window. Your overhead light also might need to be turned off or dimmed. Turning off your video helps preserve bandwidth and may be inevitable at certain



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points. There also may be technical issues preventing you from keeping your video on. Still, **your camera should by default be on**. Close unneeded applications on your computer to keep the video optimally functioning. Teaching and learning are the two sides of the same process. You are more likely to get much more from a class – and especially an interactive class like this one – if you are visually present in the classroom. The instructor is there for you and talking to you. Be there for her and it will make it easier for her to tailor the information she is imparting to your specific needs.

**ASSESSMENT**

Participation in weekly class discussions	30%
Translation diary and notes (handwritten). Due date: December 6	10%
Presentation on November 3	30%
Written translation (typed). Due date: December 8	30%

Students' final grades consist of the sum of all the graded work they completed during the course.

**GRADING SCALE**

A+: 97-100 (98.5)	B+: 80-84 (82)	C+: 65-69 (67)	D+: 52-54 (53)
A: 90-96 (94)	B: 75-79 (77)	C: 60-64 (62)	D: 50-51 (50.5)
A-: 85-89 (87)	B-: 70-74 (72)	C-: 55-59 (57)	F: 0-49

Note: The average value in brackets will be used when letter grades are transformed into percentages.

**INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

**Academic misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for



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confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations> .

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Tower.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops and tablets are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.