

**UNST 421 EFFECTING CHANGE – Russian  
Restricted To – RUSSIAN FLAGSHIP PROGRAM**

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**Office hours:** by appointment

**Countries:** Russia, the U.S.A.  
**Cities:** St. Petersburg, Portland

**Eligibility:** Students should be enrolled in the PSU Russian Language Flagship Partner Program  
<http://flagship.americancouncils.org/russian/>  
<http://www.pdx.edu/russian-flagship/>

**Credits:** 2 credits per term (total 6 credits for an academic year)

<b>Language:</b> Russian
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**Course Description:** *Intercultural competence* is an important skill that one needs to acquire to be a successful and contributing member of modern global society. This course is the concluding component of the Portland State University Russian Language Flagship Partner Program that focuses on the preparation of global professionals. The course provides students the opportunity to explore working environments related to their professional interests particularly in Russia. While in Russia, students will participate in internships in different types of the organizations (internships set up through the Overseas Russian Flagship Program based in St. Petersburg State University). Students taking the course in Portland will do internships in the organizations oriented toward Russian-speaking community in Portland area. Discussions, reading, writing assignments, and final projects (all will be done in Russian) will be arranged to help students explore the meaning of cross-cultural communication and the position of the professions that students selected in the modern society. The final assignment will be a collective project(s) integrating students' internship experiences and related to American-Russian cross-cultural communication. The projects are intended to serve both the Russian-speaking community in Portland and Russian language learners in the U.S.A.

**Course Materials:** The syllabus, course resources, and the tasks will be available and provided online in D2L. <https://d2l.pdx.edu/> Students must have a PSU "odin" account to log in. Note that online communication will be done either through **Skype** or **Google software**.

**The course objectives** address both course content and the Universities Studies' goals: *critical thinking, communication, respect for the diversity of human experience and social responsibility*, and are as follows:

- to foster the ability to apply classroom knowledge and skills to real-world settings, to new and unusual life and working conditions;
- to encourage students to help build functional relationships within social-cultural differences between Russia and America and to identify the skills needed to make effective change in the relationship between the two countries;
- to develop teamwork skills;
- to develop communication skills (orally and in writing);
- to enhance students understanding of Russian culture, as well as current social, political, economic and environmental issues in order to develop a comparative approach to the socio-cultural situation in Russia and America;
- to support students in achieving a superior level of fluency in Russian.

**Course Outcomes:** Students have to create a project that integrates students' internship experience and relates to American-Russian cross-cultural communication; by the end of this course, the project has to be completed.

**Community Partner (Internship Sites):** The sites for internship are arranged through the Overseas Russian Flagship Program (St. Petersburg State University, <http://eng.spbu.ru/>), and Portland State University. Cooperating organizations are based in St. Petersburg (Russian) include Russian government institutions, businesses and NGO, Russian-American organizations. **Russian language is the main language of operation.**

**Students with Disabilities:** Students requiring accommodations for disabilities should contact the instructor during the first week of class. The instructor will work with the Disability Resource Center to arrange support (e-mail: [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu)).

**PSU Code of Conduct:** Students are strongly encouraged to read the Student Conduct Code (<http://www.pdx.edu/dos/conduct.html>). It details individual rights and responsibilities as a student and as a member of the Portland State Community.

**Course Expectations:** Since students will be enrolled in the Russian language overseas program and the main venue for class commutation will be the online space it will be necessary to create between all parties of the course a positive, cooperative learning environment. Students must understand that the achievement of the course objectives and outcomes will require their active participation and a high level of responsibility. **A cooperative approach to class work is the key component for this course's success.** Communication with the instructor, participation in online discussions and group activities, and completion of assignments should be done at scheduled time (note the 12 hour time difference between Portland and the western time zone of Russia).

**Course Assignments:** A grade in the course will be based on student work as an individual, and as a team/class member.

**Work for Fall semester (24 September – 1 December 2012)**

Class participation – 20 points.

Online discussion (question + summary – 10 points; answer – 10 points) – total 100 points (10 points for leading discussion and 90 points for answers in other discussions).

Reading and answering questions (2 chapters, 1 chapter – 10 points) – total 20 points (reading due is 30 November, 2012).

**Your goal: 140 points.**

**Work for Winter/Spring semester (7 January – 8 June 2013)**

Class participation – 20 points.

Online discussion (question + summary – 10 points; answer – 10 points) – total 100 points (10 points for leading discussion and 90 points for answers in other discussions)

Reading and answering questions (2 chapters, 1 chapter – 10 points) – 20 points (reading due is April 22, 2013).

Final project participation/completion – 60 points

**Your goal: 200 points.**

The following grading scale will be used for grading:

*FALL*

A = 140 – 130      C = 100 – 90  
B = 120 – 110      D = less than 90

*WINTER/SPRING*

A = 200 – 190      C = 160 – 150  
B = 180 – 170      D = less than 150

**Class attendance (through the web)** is an essential part of the course. **It is important not to miss the scheduled dates/time for class-work.**

**Online discussions:**

Each student will lead one online discussion per term. A student posts a question, gives classmates three days to answer, and then summarizes the answers and winds up discussion. The questions and responses should be posted online in **Gmail Blog Format – link:** <http://russiancapstone2012.blogspot.com/2012/08/blog-post.html?zx=a6d080791c75e68f>

Monday is the day for posting a question, and Friday is the day for posting a response summary. All should be done in Russian. There will be total 10 discussions.

Each post will be evaluated on the following bases:

- 1) Posting (question and response) is clear and substantial (you really have something to say).
- 2) Posting is original.
- 3) Posting demonstrates connection with other course components (internship/life experience, readings, class discussions).
- 4) Post (text) should be well-structured.

**Reading:**

Reading material (relating to the cross-cultural issues) will be provided online in **Google Docs**, which is accessible through your gmail account and in D2L (after September 24). There are 7 chapters: each of them includes pre-reading questions, texts, post-reading questions, and some chapters have video-clips. However students according to personal/professional interests will select only 2 chapters per term and work with them.

Note: Reader will be available from September 17.

**Final (class) project:**

The goal of class project is to develop a product that will benefit both students and Russian-speaking/Russian-learning community and will promote positive change for the community. At the course beginning, students will be organized into small groups to take on certain responsibilities. Nearer to the course's end, the small groups will work together towards completing the project. During the course there will be Project Brainstorm, Project Decision Making and Project Progress Review sessions.

**Schedule:** During the term the level of work and the assignments are subject to revision.

**Weekly Schedule**

Week	Class Content / Assignment Due
Week 0 <b>Skype</b>	<b>Monday, September 10</b> Skype session (20:00 St. Petersburg / 7:00 Portland). Review syllabus. Logistics. <u>Reader is available.</u>
Week 1	<b>Monday, September 24</b> Post # 1 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, September 27</b> Due for the answers. <b>Friday, September 28</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.
Week 2	<b>Monday, October 1</b> Post # 2 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, October 4</b> Due for the answers. <b>Friday, October 5</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.
Week 3	<b>Monday, October 8</b> Post # 3 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, October 11</b> Due for the answers. <b>Friday, October 12</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.
Week 4 <b>Skype</b>	<b>Monday, October 15</b> <b>SKYPE Session (20:00 St. Petersburg)</b> Post # 4 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, October 18</b> Due for the answers. <b>Friday, October 19</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.
Week 5	<b>Monday, October 22</b> Post # 5 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, October 25</b> Due for the answers. <b>Friday, October 25</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.
Week 6	<b>Monday, October 29</b> Post # 5 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, November 1</b> Due for the answers. <b>Friday, November 2</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.
Week 7	<b>Monday, November 5 – Friday, November – Fall break in St.Petersburg</b> No assignments
Week 8	<b>Monday, November 12</b> Post # 7 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, November 15</b>

	Due for the answers. <b>Friday, November 16</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.
Week 9	<b>November 19 – 23, Thanksgiving week in Portland</b> No assignments
Week 10 <i>Skype</i>	<b>Monday, November 26</b> <b>SKYPE Session (20:00 St. Petersburg)</b> Post # 8 question for online discussion. <b>Thursday, November 29</b> Due for the answers. <b>Friday, November 30</b> Summarize the answers and wind up discussion.  <b>DUE FOR READING (2 selected by you chapters)</b>
Week 11	Review of the term. Planning for next term/semester.