

**RUSSIAN 316 / 616 / RCLANG 333
RUSSIAN SERVICE LEARNING
IN ACTION NETWORK
(RUSLAN); TTH 2:30-4;
3 CREDITS**

- Looking for ways to apply and improve your Russian language skills or your knowledge of Russian history, literature or culture?
- Looking for ways to engage in community service?
- Would like to study/intern in Russia but cannot fit it in your academic schedule?
- Would like to get credit for your volunteer service?

Then we have an opportunity and a course for you!

Course description:

The RUSLAN project will focus on providing language, living and socio-cultural shift assistance to the Washtenaw County Russophone community through translation and interpreting, language exchange partnerships, bilingual and biliteracy tutoring for children, help with household chores and companionship, exercise and walking program for seniors, computer literacy tutorials, citizenship preparation, patient advocacy and other activities. We will also provide Russian cultural education and lessons to American children in the local schools within the global studies and world history curriculum.

This course is oriented towards all learners of Russian language, history and culture who want to apply and improve their newly acquired language skills and area-studies knowledge by directly and personally engaging with the local Russophone community, and with Anglophones interested in Russia. **All levels of Russian proficiency are accommodated, while some activities require no knowledge of Russian.** Based on their academic and language backgrounds, students will be invited to select a regular service activity (e.g., tutoring, companionship, translation) and/or sign up for one or more occasional ones (e.g., the quarterly county job distribution program, senior trips to concerts, etc.).

Course requirements:

- 2-3 hrs/wk of **community service**
- 2 **class meetings/wk** to receive training, discuss assigned articles, debrief on specific service situations and debate on the issues dealing with service experiences
- a weekly structured academic/civic **reflection journal**
- a **final report** on experiences/challenges of service performed
- regular **performance evaluations** (self and by community partners)



RUSLAN CONTACT INFO:

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Course info: Russian 316 (undergraduate)/Russian 616 (graduate)/RC Lang 333 (all RC students); TTh 2:30-4, 3 credits. **Experiential Credit, CR/NCR grading scheme, \$80 lab fee**
Prerequisites: 1 course in Russian language, history, or culture or native proficiency in Russian; no knowledge of Russian is required for some activities
Pre-course info: info meeting April 6 4-5:30, 3rd floor conf. room, MLB; on-line survey https://lessons.ummumich.edu/2k/ruslan_student_survey/survey_001_01