



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Conversation, Advanced I
Course number:	RUSI 3031 RLPR
Programs offering course:	St. Petersburg Russian Language Program
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. Semester Credits:	4
Contact Hours:	65 U.S. 50-minute contact hours / 78 Russian 45-minute contact hours
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

The course includes practical structural patterns in conversation that aid discussions on topical issues in Russian life. Lessons include: reading authentic and adapted texts, exercises, and meaningful tasks, narrating stories and events, describing people, places, and objects in detail, and developing and defending a point of view. Students will also participate in role plays imitating survival situations with complications. The topics will include both high frequency and abstract vocabulary and will stimulate the production of complex sentences.

Learning Objectives

This course aims to improve students' conversational skills by improving typical practical structural patterns in conversation such as initiating and maintaining predictable conversations on familiar topics such as family, occupation, recreation, travel, and education, as well as narrating events in detail in past, present, and future timeframes. At the completion of this course, students will have expanded their vocabulary and will be able to produce more complex sentences connected in paragraphs. While studying a variety of topics, the students will also be able to handle practical conversational situations, narration, and description, while improving their grammar and listening comprehension skills.

Course Prerequisites

This conversation course builds on skills acquired after completing typically a basic level course of instruction in a U.S. university, and furthers the development of communication skills through conversation. The topics of discussion include topics from current life and other topics of interest taken from a variety of resources. Students need to possess basic vocabulary that is necessary to develop their communicative and comprehension skills. Students' placement is contingent upon a written and an oral exam.

Methods of Instruction

Classes mainly take the form of discussions centered on a specific topic and grammatical subject. The communicative nature of this course will allow for the integration of all skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Pair and group work will be highly encouraged. A task-based approach will be used to engage students in various forms of verbal collaboration. Moreover, students will be given texts from the media and taught vocabulary that will strengthen their ability to discuss social (and other) matters that are different from everyday life topics. Vocabulary games and exercises will be part of the instruction. Grammar exercises will be assigned to build connectors typically used in complex utterances. Role-plays will constitute an essential part of improving speaking. Survival role-plays and situations with complication scenarios will be conducted on a regular basis. Teaching methods will be adjusted to individual learning styles represented in class (typically determined by a cognitive test at the beginning of each semester). Error correction techniques are in accordance with the linguistic research in the field.



Assessment and Final Grade

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Class participation	10%
Quizzes	25% (5% each)
Homework	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Course requirements

Class participation. Students are expected to take part in activities, conversations and dialogues offered by the instructor during course sessions. Please, come to class having done your homework, as topics for the discussions will be based on the vocabulary you've learned at home.

There will be different types of **homework** during the semester, from textbook exercises to written essays. It is important that you do your work at home and by the assigned date. Although not all home assignments are graded in class, the quality of your homework will be noted and evaluated accordingly.

There will be five short vocabulary **quizzes** during the semester. These quizzes will test your mastery of the vocabulary for the topics, covered in this class. Quizzes will involve multiple-choice questions and exercises, asking you to identify the root for a particular word, as well as synonyms and antonyms, when appropriate.

Both Midterm and Final exams are held in the form of an oral exam. It will include a 20-minute one-on-one conversation on the course topics (refer to the Weekly schedule) and a small dialogue with the instructor. Students are expected to demonstrate their mastery of the vocabulary of the weekly topics (synonyms, antonyms), words that contain the same roots, use verbs with prefixes and in general be active participants of the conversation during the exam.

Class Attendance

Attendance is crucial for successful completion of the class. Students are allowed to have two unexcused absences for each course for the whole semester program. These allowed unexcused absences should be used for situations such as minor illnesses without a doctor's note or personal situations that prevent the student from attending the class. Allowed unexcused absences should not be used in a planned way for travel or other activities.

Unexcused absences beyond the limit of two will lower a student's grade by 2 points on the 100-point scale each. For example, if your overall score in the class is 90 (an equivalent of A-) and you have had three unexcused absences, your final score will be 88 (B+).

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1. Topic: Acquaintance. Tell about yourself

Class 2. My family. Vocabulary.

Class 3. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

Week 2

Class 1. Education. Verbs сдать / окончить / поступить / подать

Class 2. Read: Поступление в университет

Vocabulary.

Class 3. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

❖ **Quiz 1**

Week 3

Class 1. Professions.

Class 2. How to tell about your future profession.

Vocabulary.

Class 3. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

Week 4

Class 1. Discussing Russian TV.

Class 2. Construction o + Participle. How to talk about a movie.

Class 3 Reading. Vocabulary.. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

❖ **Quiz 2**

Week 5

Class 1. Topic: In a restaurant. How to book a table? How to order a meal?

Class 2-3. Vocabulary.

Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

Week 6

Class 1. How to tell about your apartment.

Class 2. Verbs стоять / лежать / висеть

Class 3 Vocabulary.. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

❖ **Quiz 3**

Week 7

Class 1. St. Petersburg: Orientation in the city. Public transportation.

Vocabulary.

Class 2. Speech patterns: How to ask for direction

Class 3. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

Week 8

Class 1. Revision for exam

Class 2

❖ **Midterm exam**

Week 9

Class 1. People's characters.

Class 2. National character. Vocabulary.

Class 3. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

❖ **Quiz 4**

Week 10

Class 1. How to describe a person.

Thematic vocabulary (appearance of a person: face, figure, typical appearance)



Class 2. How will I know you? Expression: *похож на*
Vocabulary.

Class 3. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

Week 11

Class 1. Young people and society.

Class 2. Vocabulary.

Class 3. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

❖ **Quiz 5**

Week 12

Class 1. Topic: Travelling.

Class 2. Living in the city vs. living in the village (discussion)

Class 3. Vocabulary. Lexical exercises. Dialogues.

Week 13.

Class 1. Review for final exam

Class 2.

❖ **Final exam**

Course materials

Readings

E.L. Korchagina, N.D. Litvinovs. *Priglasenie v Rossiju*. Moscow: Russky Yazyk, 2014.

Rodimkina, Alla, and Neil Landsman. *Russia Day by Day*. St. Petersburg: Zlatoust, 2009.

Olga E. Kagan, Anna S. Kudyma, Frank J. Miller. *Russian. From intermediate to advanced*.
Routledge. 2015

Authentic video materials