



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Conversation, Advanced II
Course number:	RUSI 3032 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

This course includes practical conversation-based classes in which topics actual to contemporary Russia are discussed. Lessons include the following types of work: reading texts, completing exercises to reinforce lexical and grammatical material introduced during the class, work with conversational constructions, the creation of monologue statements on class topics, and participation in discussions.

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 also contingent upon a written and an oral exam, as well as a mandatory ACTFL oral proficiency interview.

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 repre-



sented 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	15%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	20% (5% each)
Essays	20% (4% each)
Midterm exam	10 %
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL:	100%

Course Requirements

Class participation. Students are expected to take part in the 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 various types of homework, 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.

Quizzes. There will be two short vocabulary quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will involve multiple-choice questions and exercises.

Both Midterm and Final exams are held in the form of an oral exam. They will test your mastery of the vocabulary from the topics studied in the course, your ability to identify the root word, to use verbs with different prefixes and participate in a conversation on these topics.

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. Introduction to the course. Introducing oneself

Class 2.

Study vocabulary at Olga E. Kagan, Anna S. Kudyma, and Frank J. Miller. Russian from Intermediate to Advanced (Kagan) p. 1, 6, 10

Class 3. Genitive case (review)

Kagan, Exercises 1-21; 1-22

Week 2.

Class 1. My day. Vocabulary review Kagan p. 36

Read: Как найти работу p. 36-37

Class 2. Using aspect in the infinitive. Dialogues p. 42

❖ **Essay 1 is due**

Class 3. Real and unreal conditional sentences

Ex. 2-37; 2-39

❖ **Quiz 1**

Week 3.

Class 1. The city. Vocabulary review Kagan p.145

Class 2. Review of the dative case. Read: О Томске, p. 147. Dialogues p. 146

Class 3. Communicative models: expressing assumption and approval.

Week 4.

Class 1. Public transportation. Vocabulary review

Class 2. Read: Урбанизация (Kagan, p. 160)

Class 3. Communicative models: making requests, offering suggestions

❖ **Quiz 2**

Week 5.

Class 1. Russian cuisine. Vocabulary review

Class 2. Read: Русская кухня (Course pack, Week 5)

Dialogues: Винегрет

❖ **Essay 2 is due**

Class 3. Communicative models: rating your meal and service

Homework: Write a recipe of your favorite dish

Week 6.

Class 1. Free time and lifestyle. Vocabulary review Kagan p.75

Read: Свободное время и образ жизни (Kagan p. 76)

Class 2. Communicative models: giving positive feedback

Class 3. Noun formation: diminutive, endearment, and augmentative suffixes

The accusative case.

❖ **Quiz 3**



Week 7.

Class 1. Free time and lifestyle (continued).

Communicative models: giving negative feedback

Read: “Новые технологии в Музее Пушкина,” (Kagan, p. 83)

Class 2. The verb читать with prefixes

Выражение уступки. Expressing “although”

❖ **Essay 3 is due**

Class 3. Review of the material. Preparing for Midterm exam

❖ **Midterm exam**

Week 8.

Class 1. Youth in Russian society

Read: Молодежь Москвы Kagan p. 196-197

Class 2. Dialogues: Проблемы молодежи

The verb сказать with prefixes

Class 3. Communicative models: giving neutral feedback

❖ **Essay 4 is due**

Week 9.

Class 1. Youth in Russian society (cont.)

Read: Моя история Kagan p. 211

Class 2. Dialogues: Преступность

The dative case (review)

Class 3. Communicative models: expressing agreement

Kagan Ex. 6-49

Week 10.

Class 1. Politics and society

Read: Разговоры о политике Kagan p. 276

Class 2. Vocabulary p. 276; 280

The verb “говорить” with prefixes

Class 3. Communicative models: expressing denial

Dialogues p. 278

❖ **Essay 5 is due**

Week 11.

Class 1. Review of Instrumental case

❖ **Quiz 4**

Class 2. Global problems

Read: Зеленая экономика Kagan p. 355

Class 3. Global problems (continued)

Kagan Ex. 10-23; 10-24



Week 12.

Class 1. Review for final exam

Class 2.

❖ **Final exam**

Course materials

Readings

Olga E. Kagan, Anna S. Kudyma, and Frank J. Miller. *Russian from Intermediate to Advanced*. New York, 2015.

Course pack prepared by the instructor