



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Russian Conversation Advanced I
Course number:	RUSI 3031 RLP
Programs offering course:	Summer Russian Language
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. Semester Credits:	3 semesters
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2017

Course Description

This course develops communicative proficiency in monologues and dialogs, builds one's vocabulary, and integrates skills, in turn developing listening comprehension. Students will participate in role-play activities imitating survival situations with complications. The topics will include high frequency and some 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 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. Students will be able to build portfolios with materials preparing them for both their final achievement exam and their final oral proficiency interview. 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

Class Attendance

Attendance is an important part of the final grade. Students must bring their textbooks and/or course packet every day. Three instances of tardiness will be equated to a one-hour absence. One unexcused absence is allowed throughout the semester. Any additional undocumented absences will result in a notification from CIEE staff and a lower grade. It is the student's responsibility to complete and submit all missed assignments and tests.

Students' progress is evaluated through achievement exams. It is imperative that all students actively participate in the discussion sessions and do their homework.

The final grade is composed of:

Class participation:	30%
Homework:	30%
Quizzes:	20%
Final exam:	20%
TOTAL	100%

Weekly Schedule

Week	Theme	Constructions
1	Russian names. Talking about self. Hobbies.	verbs <i>нравится, интересоваться, увлекаться</i> ; constructions <i>о + prep. case; в + prep. case</i> ; unprefixed verbs of motion
2	My house is my fortress	Prepositions <i>под, над, между, перед, рядом с</i> ; verbs of placement
3	Purchases	Questioning, request, explanation of a reason, constructions of refusal; <i>-то, -нибудь, -кое</i>
4	At the doctor's. At the pharmacy	Giving advice
5	"The beauty will save the world"	Describing appearance; конструкции одобрения и неодобрения
6	Personality. Studies. Professions.	Comparative degrees of adjectives. Short form adjectives
7	Trips. Immigration. Global world problems. Children's world	Prefixed verbs of motion Questions with "ли" Negation constructions

8	Preparation for the exam. FINAL EXAM	Review exercises
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Course Materials

Authentic video and audio materials

Chernyshov, Stanislav, and Alla Chernyshova. *Poekhali!* Bazovyi kurs. Sankt-Peterburg: "Zlatoust", 2008.

Ermachenkova, V. S. *Slovo: posobie po leksike i razgovornoj praktike*. Sankt-Peterburg: Zlatoust, 2006.

Slushaite, *Sprashivaite, otvechaite: posobie po govoreniu: Dialogicheskaia rech'*. Moskva, 2004.