CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course title: Conversation, Advanced III
Course code: RUSI 3033 RLPR
Programs offering course: Russian Language
Language of instruction: Russian
U.S. semester credits: 4
Contact hours: 65
Term: Fall 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

By completing this course, students will:

Students will learn to use lexical units and conversational constructions encountered in the course in their speech, as well as participate in discussion in Russian, and defend their point of view.

Course Prerequisites

Students should possess a vocabulary, which allows them to read adapted newspaper texts, and should have a mastery of basic grammatical forms.

Methods of Instruction

Classes are held in the genre of discussion on selected topics together with the completion of lexico-grammatical exercises.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Homework 30%
2. Quizzes 20%
Course Requirements

Homework

There will be various types of homework, from textbook exercises to learning vocabulary for each topic. 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

10% each

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

Final Oral Exam

The final oral exams is held in the form of a 20 minute one-on-one conversation with the instructor on the course topics (refer to the weekly schedule) and a small dialogue. Students should master the vocabulary of weekly topics (synonyms, antonyms), words that contain the same roots, use verbs with prefixes and be active during the exam.

Class Participation

Students are expected to take part in the activities, conversations and dialogues conducted 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.

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+).

Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1.1

Russian names

Communicative models: expressing agreement and disagreement.
Lexical exercises.
Class 1.2 .

Climate in Russia. Lexical exercises.

Class 1.3 .

Communicative models: expressing relation.

Week 2
Class 2.1 .

Churches and cathedrals in Saint Petersburg

Class 2.2 .

Read: Соборы Санкт-Петербурга (CP, Week 2). Sentences with что, чтобы

Class 2.3 .

Communicative models: expressing intentions: advice, hesitation

Week 3
Class 3.1 .

Health and healthy lifestyle

Read: Задумайтесь о своем здоровье (CP, Week 3)

Class 3.2 .

Dialogue: Зачем заниматься спортом

Homework: learn vocabulary lexical exercises (CP Week 3)

Class 3.3 .
Communicative models: congratulating someone

Quiz #1

Week 4
Class 4.1.

Russian banya
Read: “Русская баня” (Родимкина, p. 26)

Class 4.2.

Communicative models: expressing interest, indifference, comparison

Class 4.3.

Holidays in Russia. Lexical exercises
Communicative models: expressing desire, approval, affirmation
Read: “Национальные праздники в России” (Rodimkina)
Homework: vocabulary, lexical exercises (CP Week 4)

Week 5
Class 5.1.

Cost of living
Read: “Дешевая Москва и очень дешевый Петербург” (Rodimkina)

Class 5.2.

Word formation: making adjectives from nouns

Class 5.3.

5 of 9
Communicative models: expressing disappointment, preference

Week 6
Class 6.1 .

Cost of living (continued)

Read: “Как я жила на прожиточный минимум” (Rodimkina)

Class 6.2 .

Communicative models: expressing irritation, curiosity. Re-questing something. Communicative models: expressing disappointment, preference

Class 6.3 .

Climate in Russia

Read: “Климат в России не самый худший” (Rodimkina)

Quiz #2

Week 7
Class 7.1 .

Love, marriage

Read: “Нынешнее поколение” (CP)

Class 7.2 .

Communicative models: expressing hesitation, sadness, happiness, regret, surprise.

Class 7.3 .
Read: “Статистика браков и разводов в России” (CP)

Reflective verbs (review)

Week 8
Class 8.1  

Family finance

Read: “Мои финансы” (CP)

Class 8.2  

Verbs with prefixes: работать, давать / дать

Class 8.3  

Your dream apartment.

Read: “Город, пригород и деревня» (CP)

Communicative models: expressing aim, condition, reason.

Week 9
Class 9.1  

Education in Russia

Read: “За ночь до последнего экзамена” (CP)

Class 9.2  

Verbs: -ключать / -ключить with prefixes.

Communicative models: expressing agreement and disagreement

Class 9.3  

Schools in Saint Petersburg.
Read: Национальные традиции начинаются в школе
Communicative models: planning and recommending.

Week 10
Class 10.1.

Youth of Saint Petersburg
Read: “Современное лицо молодёжи Санкт-Петербурга”

Class 10.2.

Communicative models: expressing approval

Class 10.3.

The problem of drugs. Read: “Drugs in Russia” (CP)
Communicative models: expressing concern, fear, blame, judgment, dissatisfaction
Synonyms: навещать, посещать, бывать.

Week 11
Class 11.1.

The Internet in our life
Constructions: aim, condition, reason. Lexical exercises. Discussion.

Class 11.2.

Conditional sentences

Class 11.3.
Russian cuisine

Read: “Русский блин накроет хот-доги” (Rodimkina)

Communicative models: expressing suggestions, opportunity

Week 12
Class 12.1.

Images of the future.

Read: “Что бы вы стали делать накануне конца света” (Rodimkina)

Class 12.2.

Communicative models: expressing encouragement, empathy

Week 13
Class 13.1.

Review for the Final exam

Class 13.2.

Final exam

Course Materials
Readings


Course pack: handouts and materials developed by the instructor (CP)