CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

**Course title:** Intermediate Russian Conversation II  
**Course code:** RUSI 2004 RASP  
**Programs offering course:** Russian Area Studies  
**Language of instruction:** Russian  
**U.S. semester credits:** 4.00  
**Contact hours:** 65.00  
**Term:** Spring 2021

**Course Description**

This course develops communicative proficiency in monologues and dialogues, builds one’s vocabulary and integrates communicative skills, while at the same time developing listening comprehension. Students will participate in role-play activities imitating real-life situations. The topics will include high frequency and some abstract vocabulary and will stimulate the production of complex sentences.

**Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will:

- be able to initiate conversation in social situations, to maintain dialogues on a variety of topics, including themselves, their families, friends, studies, work, leisure time, native city, health, weather, etc.;
- be able to summarize a text in their own words;
- learn to modify phrases by changing the forms of lexical units, word order in a sentence, using synonyms and synonymous constructs;
- acquire strategies for entering, extending and ending a conversation in various communicative situations;
- implement linguistic tools allowing to participate in a discussion and to express one’s opinion, attitude, hesitation, agreement and other intentions in Russian.

**Course Prerequisites**

Typically this course is for students who have completed two or three semesters of U.S. college instruction. However, the final determination of the students participating in this course is contingent upon a placement test administered at the beginning of the program.

**Methods of Instruction**

This conversation class includes discussion of articles, concrete themes, and involves working in groups and pairs, asking and answering questions, role plays, and such projects as discussions, round tables, and debates. New vocabulary is introduced explicitly and implicitly.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Homework 15%  
2. Quizzes 20%  
3. Essays 20%  
4. Midterm Exam 15%  
5. Final Exam 20%  
6. Class Participation 10%  
TOTAL 100%

**Course Requirements**

**Homework**

Homework (written and/or oral) will be assigned for every class meeting. Do your homework
each day and be prepared to turn it in. Please, use a dictionary when you do your homework. Every unknown word should be looked up at the dictionary.

**Quizzes**

5% each

You will be tested on your mastery of the vocabulary from the covered units. The dates for the quizzes are indicated in the attached Week Schedule. They will be administered during class time, in class room.

**Essays**

5% each

Essays should be not less than 12 sentences. The dates for the essays are indicated in the attached Week Schedule. They will be administered during class time, in class room.

**Midterm Exam**

**Final Exam**

These two exams will consist of a 5-7 minute oral interview with the instructor. During oral exam you will engage in conversation covering topics that we have dealt in class. Students will receive information on how to prepare for the oral midterm/ final well before the midterm/ final exam time. Regular and careful preparation for class is the best way to prepare for the midterm and the Final.

**Class Participation**

This part of the grade reflects your overall preparedness and participation in class. You are expected to attend class regularly, to prepare assigned materials for each class, and to participate with reasonable accuracy and enthusiasm.

**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+).

*N.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 Introduction. Making Acquaintances. You and Your Family

"History of Russian family" (Kagan, p. 119)

Class: 1.2

Speech patterns: how to express surprise and regret

Class: 1.3

Lexico-grammatical exercises

Kagan, Ex. 2-25
Week 2

Class: 2.1 My Lifestyle

Reading: “Новые технологии в Музее имени А.С. Пушкина” (Kagan, p. 83)

Learn words: Kagan, p. 70

Class: 2.2

Lexico-grammatical exercises Kagan, ex. 3-1; 3-5
Ex. 3-21; 3-23

Class: 2.3

Quiz 1

Week 3

Class: 3.1 City and Suburbs

Reading: “О городе Томске” (Kagan, p. 147-178);
“Что происходит с российской деревней?” (ex. 5-44)

Class: 3.2

Learn words Kagan, p. 143 (ex. 5-1)
Lexico-grammatical exercises

Class: 3.3

Speech patterns: how to express assumption and approval
Kagan, ex. 5-2, 5-12

Essay 2

Week 4

Class: 4.1 Public Transportation

Reading: “Проблемы большого города” (Kagan, p.182)

Class: 4.2

Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 5-66

Class: 4.3

Speech patterns: how to express request, suggestion.

Quiz 2

Week 5

Class: 5.1 Russian Cuisine

Reading: “В ресторане”
Speech patterns: how to assess the quality of food and of service

Essay 3
**Week 6**

Class: 6.1 Education

Reading: «За ночь до последнего экзамена».

Dialogues Kagan, Ex. 1-42; 1-47; 1-48

Class: 6.2

Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 1-1; 1-18

Class: 6.3

Speech patterns: how to express appreciation.

**Quiz 3**

**Week 7**

Class: 7.1 Looking for a Job

The verb “работать” with prefixes Kagan, p. 46

Class: 7.2

Dialogues: Ex. 2-39
Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 1-1; 1-18

Class: 7.3

Reading: “Работа и кризис” (Kagan, 2-28)
Speech patterns: how to express negative assessment
Kagan, Ex. 2-25; 2-26

**Week 8**

Class: 8.1 Review for the Exam

Class: 8.2 Midterm Exam

**Week 9**

Class: 9.1 Leisure Time

Vocabulary Kagan p. 71, 77

Class: 9.2

Reading: “Рецензия на фильм” p. 97-98
Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 3-33.

Class: 9.3

Speech patterns expressing neutral opinion
Kagan, Ex. 3-36; 3-37

**Week 10**

Class: 10.1 Leisure Time (continued)

The verb “читать” with prefixes
Class: 10.2
Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 3-17; 3-18

Class: 10.3
Speech patterns: how to express agreement
Kagan, Ex. 3-22; 3-33

**Week 11**

Class: 11.1 Youth and Society
Reading: «Современное лицо молодёжной тусовки», p.196

Class: 11.2
Dialogues Kagan, p. 205
Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 6-33, 6-36

Class: 11.3
Speech patterns: how to express disagreement
Kagan, Ex. 6-20; 6-48; 6-49

**Quiz 4**

**Week 12**

Class: 12.1 The Internet
Vocabulary p. 270

Class: 12.2
Reading: “Главные социальные проблемы” p. 277
Kagan, Ex. 8-39, 8-40, 8-42

Class: 12.3
Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 8-12; 8-14
Speech patterns: how to express singularity (uniqueness, individuality) and uniformity (diversity)

**Essay 4**

**Week 13**

Class: 13.1 Russia and the Global Problems
Vocabulary: Kagan, p. 350
Reading: “Глобальные проблемы: миграция” p. 366-367
Kagan, Ex. 10-21 – 10-24

Class: 13.2
Lexico-grammatical exercises Ex. 10-46, 10-47
Review for the exam

Class: 13.3 Final Exam
Course Materials
Readings