Course title: Intermediate Russian Conversation I
Course code: RUSI 2003 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 focuses on developing intermediate spoken and grammar language skills. The course includes practical structural patterns in conversation that facilitate discussions on everyday topics and topical issues in Russian life. Lessons include: reading adapted texts, exercises narrating stories and events, describing people, places, and objects in detail, and developing and defending one’s point of view. Students will also participate in role plays imitating real-life situations. The topics will include both high frequency and abstract vocabulary and will stimulate the production of simple sentences as well as the production of complex sentences.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- be able to communicate in predictable, simple situations, to maintain conversation on familiar topics, such as themselves, their families, their daily routine, interests, 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.

Course Prerequisites

This course is intended for beginner to low-intermediate Russian language students. Student placement is contingent upon a written and an oral test administered at the beginning of the program.

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. 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

1. Homework 30%
2. Quizzes 10%
3. Essays 10%
4. Midterm Exam 10%
5. Final Exam 10%
6. Class Participation 30%
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

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

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 Getting to Know Each Other

How to tell about yourself.

How to tell about your free time.

Class: 1.2

How to invite somebody.

How to refuse doing something

Class: 1.3
Week 2
Class: 2.1 Your Family
How to tell about your family.
Verbs пожениться, родиться, случиться, познакомиться.

Class: 2.2
How to say goodbye in different ways.
How to congratulate, to wish something.

Class: 2.3
How to express surprise.

Vocabulary.
Lexical exercises.

Week 3
Class: 3.1 Purchases at the Market
How to buy things.

Class: 3.2
How to say the time.

Vocabulary. Lexical exercises.

Class: 3.3
How to tell the time. How to express frustration.
Lexical exercises.

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Purchases at a Department Store
How to explain something.

Class: 4.2
The difference between "bigger" and "big"

Vocabulary. Lexical exercises.

Class: 4.3
The difference between одинаковый and такой же; разный and другой

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Getting Prepared to a Vacation
How to book a hotel.

Class: 5.2
At a hotel. How to change the booking date.

Class: 5.3

Vocabulary. Lexical exercises.

**Quiz 1**

**Week 6**

Class: 6.1 Plans for Vacation

How to tell about your plans.

Class: 6.2

How to offer to do something together. How to agree reluctantly. Construction “I want you to do”

Class: 6.3

Read and discuss the text “Problemy bolshogo goroda” (Kagan, 182)

**Week 7**

Class: 7.1 At Home

Describe your dream house.

Class: 7.2

How to express indignation.

Vocabulary. Lexical exercises.

**Essay 1 is due**

Class: 7.3

Read and discuss the text: “Nuzhno li imet spisok knig, kotorye vse chitayut?” (Kagan, 94)

**Week 8**

Class: 8.1 Cleaning your House

Class: 8.2

How to tell about different belongings in your house.

The verb пользоваться + instrumental case.

Vocabulary. Lexical exercises.

Class: 8.3

Prepare for exam. Review.

**Midterm exam**

**Week 9**

Class: 9.1 At Work

How to tell about your profession.

Class: 9.2
Verbs быть, работать, стать + instrumental case.

Class: 9.3.

At job interview. Lexical exercises.

**Week 10**

Class: 10.1 Placing a Phone Call

How to make a phone call: to order, to book, to sign up, to make an appointment

Class: 10.2.

Verbs извиниться, поблагодарить.

Class: 10.3.

How to write emails. The structure of a letter.

**Week 11**

Class: 11.1 Spare Time

How to tell about your hobbies; how to ask about other person’s hobby

Class: 11.2.

Verb нравиться. Verbs зовут, называется. Lexical exercises.

Class: 11.3.

Read and discuss the text "Problemy molodezhi" (Kagan, 205)

**Essay 2 is due**

**Week 12**

Class: 12.1 Spare Time

How to describe a book

Class: 12.2.

Where to go.

Vocabulary.

Class: 12.3.

Read and discuss: "Kuda poiti" (Kagan, 74)

Lexical exercises.

**Quiz 2**

**Week 13**

Class: 13.1 Cities

How to tell about tourist attraction.

Class: 13.2.

How to cheer a person up. How to sympathize.

Review for final exam
**Final exam.**

**Course Materials**

**Readings**

Mozelova I. New souvenir 3. Moscow, 2018


 Authentic materials prepared by the instructor.