CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course title: Elementary Russian Conversation I
Course code: RUSI 1003 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 is a beginner course of the Russian language and involves learning grammatical and lexical material at the elementary level. This course is taught in tandem with RUSI 1005 Elementary Russian Grammar I, using similar teaching methods and drawing on the knowledge of Russian grammar, which student have acquired in that class.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- learn the Cyrillic alphabet
- acquire basic vocabulary and of the forms and syntax essential for reading and oral comprehension
- demonstrate her/his knowledge of Russian by selecting correct response to oral or written statements
- be able to make statements and answer simple questions in Russian in such common situations as greetings and introductions and on such topics as sports, family, food, meals, daily routine, travel and work

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The instruction will employ communicative methods. Permanent error correction and progress check will be exercised. Exercises targeting writing skills will be completed on a regular basis. Pronunciation correction and intonation will constitute part of listening comprehension skills and will be done on an everyday basis.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 20%
2. Final Exam 30%
3. Quizzes 20%
4. Homework 20%
5. Class Participation 10%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

Final Exam

Midterm and Final exams will be two 1.5-hour exams. Both will include grammar and oral parts. In the oral part, you will be expected to produce a 1-2 minute monologue on a topic studied during the course and be able to respond to the instructor's questions on that topic. The written parts will include exercises on grammar topics studied during the semester.

Quizzes

Every week you will have a 15-minute quiz that will consist of the grammar topics and vocabulary covered during a week, in total 11 quizzes.
Homework

Homework assignments will be discussed in class, typically at the beginning of each class. I will collect your home assignments and grade your homework once a week.

Class Participation

Active participation is one of the keys to successful learning. Participation will be graded based on your effort to use Russian, your daily preparation for class, completion of all home assignments and the quality and quantity of your inputs in class discussions and group activities.

Students are strongly encouraged to use class time to practice the language therefore please try to avoid using English in class. If you do have any questions you can meet me after class or email me to make an appointment.

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

Russian alphabet (русский алфавит);

Construction меня зовут

Homework: Phonetics exercises. Textbook Poekhali! Russkiy yazyk dlya vsroslykh, p.13, 18

Class: 1.2

Gender of nouns p.14

Class: 1.3

Dialogues “Acquaintance“ (p.23)

Construction у меня есть.

Homework: Textbook, Ex.29, p.33

Week 2

Class: 2.1

My Family. Describe your own family

Phonetics

Possessive pronouns: мой, твой, его, её

Plural forms, Verbs, Vocabulary

Quiz 1

Class: 2.2


Seasons and months. Weather & temperature
Homework: Tell us about your family
Textbook, Ex.52, p.49

Class: 2.3

My Family, p. 42, 43
Seasons and months, p.58

Quiz 2

Week 3
Class: 3.1

Constructions: у меня есть, p.39
Homework: exercises pp. 32, 36

Class: 3.2

Countries and states.

Quiz 3
Homework: Tell us about your family

Week 4
Class: 4.1

Travel
Homework: Tell us about your travels

Class: 4.2

Your regular day
Homework: Tell us about your day

Quiz 4

Week 5
Class: 5.1

Colors, p.78.
Homework: Tell about an acquaintance’s appearance

Class: 5.2

People’s appearances
At a store: dialogues, p.85

Quiz 5

Week 6
Class: 6.1

Ethnicities, nationalities, p.90

Class: 6.2
Week 7

Class: 7.1

Your house and your apartment p. 109 -114

Class: 7.2

Tell us about your home
Homework: Dialogues in a store.

Week 8

Class: 8.1

Days of the week
Verbs МОГУ and УМЕЮ.

Class: 8.2

Повторение. Review

Midterm Exam

Week 9

Class: 9.1

How did you spend your free time? p.133
At a book store and a ticket booth: dialogues (p.138-139)
Homework: Text about your break.
Questions from the text “Home” (p.140)

Class: 9.2

Pronoun СВОЙ.
ПОТОМУ ЧТО И ПОЭТОМУ.
Review for the exam, pp. 180-190

Quiz 7

Week 10

Class: 10.1

At a grocery store / магазин “Продукты”.
World cuisines, restaurants / Кухня, рестораны, p. 181 – 187

Quiz 8

Homework: Ex.190-93, p. 188-192

Class: 10.2

At a hotel / «В гостинице», p.178
Verb ЖДАТЬ. Pronoun КОТОРЫЙ, p. 193-196
Homework: Book a hotel on the phone Ex.223 p.173

Quiz 9

Week 11
Class: 11.1

Read the text: What have you got in your bag?

Class: 11.2

What is in your bag?

Quiz 10

Week 12
Class: 12.1

Review for the exam

Class: 12.2

Final test

Course Materials
Readings