



# RUSS 3333-001

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## CONVERSATION AND TOPICS IN RUSSIAN CULTURE

*Spring 2012, T/Th 12:30-13:50*

*The University of Texas at Arlington  
Department of Modern Languages*

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Office hours: T/TH 2:00-3:30pm

<http://www.uta.edu/modl/russian/index.html>

### Course goals

This course gives the opportunity to practice spoken and written Russian with the aid of cultural media while continuing to master core grammar and syntactical structures. Students use print, visual and audio materials to build vocabulary, especially those cultural references that make up much of colloquial speech in Russian. A major aim of the course is to develop oral proficiency and gain a strong foundation of Russian grammar and active vocabulary for use in everyday situations and interactions.

### Course format and expectations

The course meets twice weekly for 80 mins per session. Attendance is mandatory and vital to your success in the course. See attendance policy, below.

Readings and preparation should be done prior to the class for which they are assigned. Students should be prepared to use the assigned material in practice and discussion. The primary aim of classroom interaction is to work new words, phrases, concepts and structures into your active speech and writing.

## Evaluation

Course work includes in-class activities, homework assignments, quizzes, short presentations and exams.

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Class participation (attendance, preparation, activities)	15%
Quizzes	10%
Homework assignments	15%
Mid-term oral quiz	5%
Final oral quiz	10%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	25%

## Textbooks

**Please purchase the following required textbook and lab manual, available at the UTA bookstore:**

Kagan, Olga et al. *B nymu: Russian Grammar in Context*. Second Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc., 2006.

**Other texts will be referenced throughout the course, which are recommended but not required for purchase, including:**

Wade, Terence. *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. Third Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

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Eloise M. Boyle & Genevra Gerhart, eds. *The Russian Context: The Culture Behind the Language*. Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers, 2002. Includes media on CD-Rom.

### Other recommended resources:

A comprehensive Russian-English / English-Russian dictionary.

*501 Russian Verbs* (Barron's Foreign Language Guides), edited by Thomas R. Beyer (or similar verb book).

*Roots of the Russian Language: An Elementary Guide to Wordbuilding*, by George Z. Patrick. Chicago: Passport Books, 1989.

## Course blog <http://russ3333.wordpress.com>

The course blog will be used to keep you abreast of course topics, readings, assignments and links.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will show a demonstrative improvement in active spoken and written Russian. Above all, a dynamic increase in active vocabulary is expected on a wide variety of topics

from practical, everyday language to specialized knowledge of traditional and contemporary Russian cultural life. Overall, active mastery of grammatical and syntactical structures is a major target for oral and written proficiency at an intermediate level.

## Regulations and Guidelines

### Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is mandatory and essential for satisfying course requirements. Should you need to miss a class owing to extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor prior to your absence. All other absences will be considered unexcused and will impact your participation grade in the course.

### Regulations and Guidelines

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources) for more information.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@uta.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uta.edu).