

RUSS 3333-001

CONVERSATION AND TOPICS IN RUSSIAN CULTURE



The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Modern Languages
Fall 2015

MWF 11:00-11:50pm
Trimble Hall 209
and
Language Acquisition Center (LAC), 3rd floor, Trimble Hall

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Office hours: MWF 1-2pm
www.uta.edu/modl/russian

Course goals

This course gives the opportunity to practice spoken and written Russian with the aid of multimedia 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 focus of this special topics seminar is the use of technology and media tools for practicing and mastering Russian language skills and cultural knowledge.

Course format and expectations

The course meets three times weekly for 50 mins per session. Attendance is mandatory and is 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 conversation practice and other class activities. The primary aim of classroom interaction is to work new words, phrases, concepts and structures into your active speech and writing.

Use of multimedia technology and collaboration with Russian native speakers make up a vital component of this course. Two of the three class sessions per week will be spent in virtual meetings with students and faculty at Omsk State University (OSU) in Omsk, Russia, for active language practice. The third session will be spent preparing for the virtual meeting by studying cultural topics, language structures, and vocabulary. For some assignments, you will work with partners at OSU and communicate with them outside of formal class sessions.

Evaluation

Course work includes in-class activities, homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and a course project.

The distribution of grades is as follows:

Class participation (attendance, preparation, activities)	10%
Weekly quizzes and homework assignments	30%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final project	20%
Final exam	20%

Textbook

Please purchase the following required textbook, 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.

NB: The textbook comes with a Workbook/Lab Manual, also required.

Course blog

www.webilang.com

This language networking site, as well as the course Blackboard page, will be used for blogging and interaction with classmates, instructors, and native Russian speakers on course topics, readings, assignments, and links to additional media.

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. In addition, active mastery of grammatical and syntactical structures of an intermediate level will be achieved.

Regulations and Guidelines

Attendance: Regular classroom attendance is expected of all students. All assignments and evaluations are based upon that assumption. You are responsible for acquiring class notes if you have to miss. Ultimately you will find that regular attendance is essential for successful completion of the assignments and satisfactory grade performance.

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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

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 or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers,

developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

Course Topics and Schedule

NB: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students. –L. Harrison

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
		Introduction: August 28
History: August 31	September 2	September 4
September 7 Labor Day	September 9	September 11
September 14	September 16	September 18
September 21	September 23	September 25
Business: September 28	September 30	October 2
October 5	October 7	October 9
October 12	October 14	October 16
October 19	October 21 Midterm Exam	Education: October 23
October 26	October 28	October 30
November 2	November 4	November 6
November 9	November 11	November 13
November 16	Communication: November 18	November 20
November 23	November 25	November 27 Thanksgiving
November 30	December 2	December 4
December 7	December 9	December 16 Final Exam