

RUSSIAN 302

Oral and Written Expression II (Conversation and Composition II)

Professor: Ona Renner-Fahey
Spring 2019
Time: MWF 2-9250
Location: Liberal Arts 334
Credits: 3

Office hours: Mondays 11:00-11:50
Wednesdays 3:00-3:50
Fridays 9:00-9:50
and by appt.
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Course description:

This course is structured around readings that are geared toward stimulating reflection and discussion. Vocabulary and grammar will be introduced *in context* through the readings and then activated through the writing of compositions about the readings. Once the students have familiarized themselves with the topic in the target language, they will be tested on the material in a written format. Each unit will then culminate in an in-class discussion. The course is similar to 301 in structure; however, we will be adding more focus on Russian culture by incorporating two films (instead of one) in addition to several Russian songs. The prerequisite for this course is Russian 301 or equivalent.

Goals and outcomes:

In this course students will increase their familiarity with and comfort in the target language. More specifically, they will advance their vocabulary; improve their reading and writing skills; and gain ability and confidence in their oral proficiency. Particular emphasis will be placed upon interpersonal communication and the exchange of commentary, upon learning to express opinions and defend viewpoints. Finally, through the readings, films, and songs, students will further their knowledge of the target culture.

Classroom expectations:

It is essential to the learning process that students treat each other and the instructor with respect. Under the Student Conduct Code, students who are found to be disruptive may be asked to leave the classroom.

Disruptive behaviors may include but are not limited to:

Using electronic communication devices, including cell phones and laptops for purposes unrelated to ongoing class activities.

Carrying on side conversations that are distracting to the instructor and other students.

Verbally interrupting the class with comments or questions not relevant to the course or to the current discussion.

Failure to participate in assigned group activities.

Arguing about elements of the syllabus, such as course structure and grading methods.

Significantly interfering with the instructor's work activities during or outside of class.

Disability accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable accommodation in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program accommodations. If you are already working with Disability Services, then you should arrange to meet with your instructor during her office hours to discuss accommodations that may be necessary.

Percentage distribution of final course grade:

Class participation: 20%

Pen pal participation: 8%

One-on-one conversations: 8%

Quizzes (5 @ 4%): 20%

Unit compositions (5 @ 5%): 25%

Film composition: 9%

Final exam: 10%

Grading scale:

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| 93-100 A | 88-89 B+ | 78-79 C+ | 68-69 D+ |
| 90-92 A- | 83-87 B | 73-77 C | 65-67 D |
| | 80-82 B- | 70-72 C- | 64 & below E |

Required materials:

1. Selected readings from Kul'kova's *Я хочу тебя спросить [I Want to Ask You]* will be provided through Moodle.
2. A good English-Russian/Russian-English dictionary is required (Katzner or Oxford is recommended) and a book of verb conjugations is highly suggested.

Assessment:

Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required: The students will receive participation grades of 0-3: 0 for being absent, 1 for present without contributing to the discussion (letter grade of C), 2 for adequate participation (letter grade of B), 3 for high quality (not just quantity) of participation (letter grade of A). Other factors figured into participation grades are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. On scheduled discussion days students will receive a grade out of 100 percentage points. The grade will be based not only on how much students speak but whether they prove that they have learned vocabulary and phrases from the unit. ***Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade.*** If a student is going to miss a discussion day, s/he must let the professor know before class and then must arrange to make it up within one week. Each missed discussion day that is not made up will result in a one-point deduction from the final course grade.

Pen pals: Each student will again have a Russian pen pal in Vladimir through the program American Home. This program will be administered by American Home via e-mail. ***It is the student's responsibility to write to her/his pen pal on time. When a student sends an essay or set of corrections late, one percentage point will be deducted from the pen pal participation grade. Each time the communication appears to be done sloppily or with too much dependence on the Internet, a point will be deducted.***

One-on-one conversations: Each student will be required to have 8 online conversations with a native speaker of Russian who has a tutoring business out of Helena. Your conversations should be done after you have turned in the first draft of your essay and by the day the syllabus states they are due. ***It is the student's responsibility to work out a schedule with the tutor. If a student misses a conversation entirely, one percentage point will be deducted from the 10% of the course grade dedicated to this project. Additionally, if a student does not seem willing to speak in Russian or seems sorely unprepared for the conversation, one half to an entire point might be deducted. There is no required textbook to purchase for this class; instead, students will pay this professional tutor in order to obtain one-on-one additional language practice with a native speaker they've never met. More details regarding this course requirement will be discussed in class.***

Compositions: must be neatly handwritten, skipping lines. Please use both sides of the paper but avoid dark pens that bleed through. Because the sizes of paper and of handwriting vary so much, a specific number of pages is not assigned. Students will be told once in a while how the word count of their essays compares to their classmates'. ***The most important requirement is that you cover all the questions brought up in the readings and actively use a lot of the new vocabulary.*** Dictionaries and reference books may be used when writing the essays; the Internet, however, should be avoided as much as possible. If the Internet is used at all, it must be limited to standard on-line dictionaries (no Google translate or anything comparable). If the language of an essay seems to be too advanced, I will meet with the student to discuss the writing process and content and may require the essay to be rewritten. ***Inappropriate use of the Internet has been increasing the last few years and will not be tolerated.*** Finally, if essays are handed in late, they will be marked down 2 points per day, 4 points per class day, 6 points over a weekend. After class on the same day will result in a 1-point reduction. The compositions on the films should be approximately twice as long as the unit compositions and are weighted more heavily. They should incorporate vocabulary and grammar from *all* the related units, as well as from the film. The same grading rubric will be used on these compositions. The first draft will comprise 70% of the final/revised composition grade. The grading rubric (out of 70%) is as follows:

Significant use of new vocabulary: 30%

Grammatical Accuracy: 30%

Organization (introduction, conclusion, cohesive paragraphs): 20%

Stylistics (varied word choice, good transitions): 10%

Mechanics (Handwriting, punctuation, capitalization): 10%

COURSE SCHEDULE (* Schedule is subject to change.)

M 8/26 Introduction

UNIT 1: NAMES

W 8/28 First reading due;
email Katya Grover before class

F 8/30 Second reading due

M 9/2 LABOR DAY: No classes

W 9/4 Composition due

F 9/6 Quiz on readings

M 9/9 In-class pen pal work;
Russian convo completed

W 9/11 Discussion day; Revised comp. due

UNIT 2: APPEARANCE

F 9/13 First reading due

M 9/16 Second reading due

W 9/18 Composition due

F 9/20 Quiz on readings

M 9/23 In-class pen pal work;
Russian convo completed

W 9/25 Discussion day; Revised comp. due

UNIT 3: HEALTH

F 9/27 First reading due

M 9/30 Second reading due

W 10/2 Composition due

F 10/4 Quiz on readings

M 10/7 In-class pen pal work;
Russian convo completed

W 10/9 Discussion day; Revised comp. due

UNIT 4: EMOTIONS

F 10/11 First reading due

M 10/14 Second reading due

W 10/16 Composition due

F 10/18 Quiz on readings

M 10/21 In-class pen pal work;
Russian convo completed

W 10/23 Discussion day, Revised comp. due

UNIT 5: LOVE

F 10/25 First reading due

M 10/28 Second reading due

W 10/30 Composition due

F 11/1 Quiz on readings

M 11/4 In-class pen pal work;
Russian convo completed

W 11/6 Discussion day; Revised comp. due

Unit 6: Film

F 11/8 Intro to film

M 11/11 VETERANS' DAY: No classes

W 11/13 Film; homework TBA

F 11/15 Film; homework TBA

M 11/18 Film; Zoom conference report

W 11/20 Film; homework TBA

F 11/22 Review/Outline of composition due

M 11/25 Film composition due

W 11/27 Thanksgiving Break

F 11/29 Thanksgiving break

M 12/2 Review; Russian convo completed

W 12/4 Review

F 12/6 Discussion day / Revised comp. due

Final exam: Tuesday, December 10th @ 1:10
Final Russian convo this week

Attendance / Participation Policy: Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required. The students will periodically receive participation grades of 0-3: 0 for being absent, 1 for present without contributing to the discussion (letter grade of C), 2 for adequate participation (letter grade of B), 3 for high quality (not just quantity) of participation (letter grade of A). (Students will always receive a grade for a scheduled discussion day, which will be calculated differently.) Such days are considered the most important of the semester. Other factors figured into participation grades are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade. If a student is going to miss a discussion day, s/he must let the professor know before class and then must arrange to make it up within one week. Tardiness may also have an effect upon participation grades. For example, if your course grade averages to a 91% but you were absent 3 times, your course grade would be changed to an 89%. If you were absent 4 times, your course grade would be changed to an 87%. If a student does not miss any classes (and was not regularly tardy) over the course of the semester, two percentage points will be added to her/his final course grade. If a student is late and marked absent, it is his/her responsibility to make sure that absence is removed.

Absences will only be excused for serious illnesses or university-sponsored events that have been approved ahead of time by your Russian instructor. Scheduled doctors' appointments, weddings, colds, etc., will not be excused. It is up to your instructor to determine whether your absence can be excused.

I have read and understand the above attendance policy for third-year Russian at the University of Montana.

Signature

Date
