

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Fall 2012 Third-year Russian I



## RUS 324 (45010)



**Class meetings:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in Mezes 1.118

**Instructor:** Elena Liskova  
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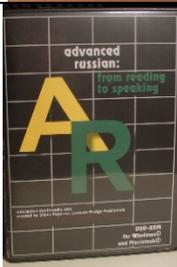
**Office hours:** Monday/Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and by appointment (let me know in class or by e-mail when you'd like to meet and we'll arrange something very soon).

### Texts (all will be used in the continuation of this course in the Spring):

- *Grammatika v kontekste: Russian Grammar in Literary Contexts*. Benjamin Rifkin, published by McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0070528314. Softcover book.
- *Workbook/Lab Manual to Accompany Grammatika v kontekste: Russian Grammar in Literary Contexts*, published by McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0070528345. Softcover book.



- *Advanced Russian: From Reading to Speaking, (Om teksta k rechu)* by Slava Paperno (with Sophia Lubensky and Irina Odintsova), published by Lexicon Bridge. ISBN: 1-58269-055-3. DVDs compatible with Mac or PC.



**Text availability.** The two Rifkin textbooks are out of print. There may be copies available on the internet, but they will be made available to you locally. The DVD course *Advanced Russian* will be ordered in class after the semester has started.

**Useful supplementary reference sources (not required):**

- Katzner, Kenneth. *English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (John Wiley & Sons, 1994). ISBN: 978-0-471-01707-3.
- Wade, Terence. *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. 3rd ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010). 978-1405136396.
- Gerhart, Geneva. *The Russian's World: Life and Language*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Slavica Publishers, 2001). ISBN: 978-0-893-57293-8.

## I. GENERAL

*Course Content:* This course is the fifth semester of Russian language instruction. It is a practical advanced all-round language course, based on the communicative-functional approach to language learning. We have two goals.

- Develop functional linguistic proficiency in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Acquire practical linguo-cultural competence, encompassing both high and popular culture.

The textbook by Rifkin, a systematic review of Russian grammar, serves as a skeleton for the course structure. It will be supplemented by Paperno's DVD course, with a plethora of multimedia materials, along with various other authentic materials determined by student interest, to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Special attention will be paid to the contemporary mass media not only as linguistic material, but also as a point of access to Russian culture in its various forms. The course is conducted in Russian. At the end of the year (after this course and its successor Russian 325), most students should have achieved a proficiency level of 2 on the ILR scale (comparable to Advanced on the ACTFL scale).

The textbook has 25 chapters. We will cover chapters 1-12 in the fall semester, spending more time on some than on others.

*Prerequisites:* Grade C or higher in Russian 412L here at UT Austin or the equivalent: two years (four semesters) of formal study or a demonstrated proficiency level of 1 on the ILR scale (equivalent to Intermediate-low or Intermediate-mid on the ACTFL scale).

*Department policy:* Before enrolling for the first time in any Russian language course, a student with any knowledge of the language, however acquired, must take a placement test to determine the course for which they should register. Information on placement tests is available on the Center for Teaching and Learning website ([http://www.utexas.edu/academic/ctl/assessment/credit\\_exam\\_cp](http://www.utexas.edu/academic/ctl/assessment/credit_exam_cp)). Contact your instructor for further information.

*Course Requirements:* You are expected to attend classes regularly, participate actively in class, do all assigned coursework (written, oral, and preparatory), and take all quizzes and exams. Your daily assignments will be distributed in advance over the course of the semester.

If you miss a class, it is **your** responsibility to:

- contact your instructor or another student
- find out what was covered
- make up the missed work
- obtain any handouts distributed in a class

In order to do well in this (or any) language class, you must:

- Read this syllabus and conform to the guidelines described here!
- Read all assignment handouts so that you see what is expected of you, both in terms of preparation for the next class and for the near future. Prepare for each class in advance and on time.
- Spend at least **two hours** of preparation for each hour in the classroom.
- Attend class regularly and participate actively. In class, take notes and review them before the next class.
- Take all quizzes and exams and give all class presentations as scheduled.
- Learn all of the words and expressions which appear in the vocabulary sections of each unit and in lists at the end of each unit covered (both in the Workbook); these words are utilized in the chapter material and are assumed in the examinations.

There will be many handouts, so you should have a loose-leaf three-holed binder to collect those handouts, homeworks, and other course materials in a convenient and easily-accessible fashion.

*Accommodations for disabilities:* Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

*Religious holidays:* By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

*Course policy on electronic devices:*

- Please ensure that your cell phone and any other electronic communication devices are **OFF** and **OUT-OF-SIGHT** throughout the class period.
- Laptop computers may be utilized during class, but **EXCLUSIVELY** for purposes related to the activities of the class that day and **ONLY** with the permission of the instructor.
- Failure to observe these courtesies will be reflected in your class participation grade.

*Scholastic dishonesty:* Students are expected to maintain the standards of academic integrity. At a minimum, this means the following ([http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)):

- Acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- Complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- Follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- Avoid engaging in any form of scholastic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

Scholastic dishonesty includes unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, and multiple submission of the same work. The consequences of scholastic dishonesty can be severe, and may include grade-related penalties (possibly a failing grade), suspension, or even expulsion, from the University. Academic dishonesty violations can be resolved by the individual faculty member through a “faculty disposition” process or be referred to Student Judicial Services (SJS) in the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. For more information on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty, see the Student Judicial Services website (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>).

#### *Internet*

- In this class we will use *Blackboard*, a web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>, to distribute course materials and information. Help in using Blackboard is available at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- According to the University policy, it is every student's responsibility to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, including coursework. Certain communications may be time-critical. E-mail should be checked daily, but no less frequently than twice per week. It is further the student's responsibility to keep the University and instructor informed as to changes in e-mail address. The policy is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

*Counseling Services:* Student life can be stressful. You should be aware of the many services offered to all of us in the UT community by the University's *Counseling and Mental Health Center* (CMHC). See their website for further information: <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>. Two particular resources of importance are available at all times:

- The CMHC offers a telephone counseling line: 471-2255.  
<http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/24hourcounseling.html>
- If you are concerned about the behavior or well-being of someone else on campus, the Behavior Concerns Advice Line provides a central resource for us to share our concerns: 232-5050 or <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

*Errors and mistakes:* Errors and mistakes are inevitable. I foster a classroom atmosphere in which mistakes will be treated respectfully. Language learning requires risk-taking, and it is important for you to feel safe and relaxed so that you can speak up in front of the class without any anxiety, even if you are not certain that your contribution is correct. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything in the classroom that prevents you from speaking in class.

## II. GRADING. These rules will be strictly observed by your instructor.

The components of the course grade and their relative weights are:

- Three in-class exams (контрольные работы): 45%. These exams will be on the following dates:
  - October 1 (14<sup>th</sup> class day)
  - November 5 (29<sup>th</sup> class day)
  - December 7 (last day of classes)
- Vocabulary quizzes (словарные тесты): 15%. For each lesson (*тема*) there will be a brief (~10 minutes) quiz on the vocabulary of the lesson, including that of the vocabulary section(s) in the workbook and the vocabulary lists at the end of the lesson (also in the workbook).
- Homework assignments (домашние задания): 15%
  - Homework assignments should be submitted on the day they are due. There is a one class day grace period. Beyond that, assignments may be submitted, but credit will not be given.
  - In order to receive credit, you must submit each written assignment in its entirety on a separate full-size sheet of paper (8.5"x11") identified by the date on which it was assigned.
  - Written assignments should be submitted in typed form (although we will transition to this gradually); it is in your interests to have a permanent copy of your work on your computer. If this presents an inconvenience to you, please speak with the instructor. While you must be able to write legibly and correctly in Cyrillic script, learning to type Russian at a keyboard is an essential skill in these times. Both are required for the course.
  - Exercises must be written out in full (or submitted on the workbook sheet itself), not just by providing a single word, even if that is all that is asked for in the exercise. I have to be able to grade the assignment by reading your work without checking back in the textbook for the context of an isolated word. It is in your interests to view the assignment holistically and in context, especially for review purposes, rather than just as a one-word output.
- Class participation (работа на занятии): 15%. Participation is based on attendance and active involvement in class activities.
- Course report (курсовой проект), comprising composition (сочинение, with draft and final versions) and oral presentation (доклад): 10%

There is no final in the course.

The result of these calculations will be on a number on a scale of 0-100. Plus/minus grading will apply. This numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

93	≤	A	<	100	73	≤	C	<	76
90	≤	A-	<	93	70	≤	C-	<	73
86	≤	B+	<	90	66	≤	D+	<	70
83	≤	B	<	86	63	≤	D	<	66
80	≤	B-	<	83	60	≤	D-	<	63
76	≤	C+	<	80			F	<	60

In-class quizzes and exams cannot be rescheduled or delayed, nor make-ups be offered. An Incomplete in the course (grade of X) will be granted only under the direst of circumstances (e.g., an unexpected family or health crisis preventing you from continuing your academic work) and you will be asked to substantiate any such circumstances.

*Attendance policy.* Regular attendance and active participation in class are expected. Your attendance will be recorded by the instructor. You may miss 3 classes (out of the 28 class meetings) without a direct, automatic penalty. After those three, each absence without documented and proper justification will result in a penalty of 1.5 points (out of 100) on your course grade. You should make class attendance a high priority.

### III. LEARNING RESOURCES

The Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and Audio-Visual Library of the General Libraries have extensive collections of recordings which may be checked out for home viewing.

There are vast resources on the Web. Consult your instructor for suggestions.

### IV. DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is a good faith statement of the instructor's plans and objectives at the beginning of the semester. The details here are subject to change. Such changes will be communicated in class and in writing by e-mail in a timely fashion.

