ADVANCED RUSSIAN COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION

RUS 380C #44850/ RUS 326 #44810

Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Bella Bychkova Jordan **e-mail**: belka@mail.utexas.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00 and by appointment in Calhoun 3

Course description: This course is designed to teach advanced writing and oral communication skills in the Russian language based on both traditional approach to grammatical and lexical studies of the language and innovative use of current Russian media, including newspaper and magazine articles, news programs, DVD clips and short films. The goal of the course is to help students learn how to master both formal and informal knowledge of contemporary Russian and ability to discuss the most important issues of the Russian society. These will include Russian current political issues, socio-economic development, demographic and health problems, ecological challenges, and everyday life.

Course requirements: students will be given assignments on a weakly basis, including:

1) Writing assignments on topics given by the instructor – double-spaces 12 font typed assignments for graduate students – 2 page long, for the undergraduates – 1 page long;
2) Oral assignments allowing discussion during class time – once a week;
3) By the end of the semester students will give one final oral paper on a topic chosen by a student and approved by the instructor.

Course grading:

1. 12 take home written assignments – 60% of the final grade, each worth 5 points.
2. Participation and discussion in the class – 24%.
3. Final oral presentation – 16%.

Required textbook: *Russian in Use: An Interactive Approach to Advanced Communicative Competence***,** by Sandra Freels Rosengrant, New Haven: Yale University Press.

Course prerequisite: 3 years of advanced level Russian courses.

Course schedule

Aug 29 Topic 1: **Grammar:** Sentences without a Stated Subject (Generalized-Personal, Indefinite-Personal and Impersonal Sentences);

Discussion: Sports and London Olympics

Sep 5 Topic 2: **Grammar:** Conjunctions and Paired Conjunctions;

Discussion: Geography and Demographics / Assignment # 1 due

Sep 12 Topic 3: **Grammar:** Expressing Temporal Relations**;**

Discussion: Education system in Russia /Assignment #2 due

Sep 19 Topic 4: **Grammar:** Ways of Expressing *try*; Unprefixed Motion Verbs;

Discussion: Politics and Opposition in Russia/ Assignment # 3 due

Sep 26 Topic 5: **Grammar**: Prefixed Motion Verbs;

Discussion: Ecological Problems in Russia / Assignment # 4 due

Oct 3 Topic 6: **Grammar:** Expressing Causal Relations;

Discussion: Nature Parks and Reserves/ Assignment # 5 due

Oct 10 Topic 7: **Grammar:** Ways of Expressing *for;* other motion verbs;

Discussion: The Sense of Place and Home / Assignment # 6 due

Oct 17 Topic 8: **Grammar:** Expressing Conditional Relationships;

Discussion: Traveling in Russia/ Assignment # 7 due

Oct 24 Topic 9: **Grammar:** Active Participles

Discussion: Russian Cinema/ Assignment# 8 due

Oct 31 Topic 9: **Grammar:** Past Passive Participles

Discussion: Analysis of a Favorite Painting/ Assignment # 9 due

Nov 7 Topic 10: **Grammar:** Adverbial Participles

Discussion: Stylistic Analysis of Russian poems / Assignment # 10

Nov 14 Topic 11: **Grammar:** Formation of Ordinal Numerals

Discussion: Russian folklore/ Assignment # 11 due

Nov 21 Topic 12: **Grammar:** Revision

Discussion: The Art and Science of Translation/ Assignment # 12 due

Nov 28 Students presentations and discussions

Dec 5 Students presentations and discussions

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!