



Third-year Russian II RUS 325 (45155)



Class meetings: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 – 2:00pm Mezes 1.108

Instructor: Keith Livers (Кит Лайверс)
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Office: Calhoun 5 (basement)

Office hours: Wed.: 2:00 – 5:00pm.

Texts (same as for RUS 234 in the Fall):

- *Grammatika v kontekste: Russian Grammar in Literary Contexts*. Benjamin Rifkin, published by McGraw-Hill (Textbook and Workbook/Lab Manual).
- *Advanced Russian: From Reading to Speaking, (От текста к речи)* by Slava Paperno (with Sophia Lubensky and Irina Odintsova), published by Lexicon Bridge. 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*. 2nd ed. (John Wiley & Sons, 1994).
- Wade, Terence. *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. 3rd ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).
- Gerhart, Geneva. *The Russian's World: Life and Language*. 3rd ed. (Slavica Publishers, 2001).

I. GENERAL

Course Content: This course is the sixth 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 multi-

media 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, most students should have achieved a proficiency level of 2 on the ILR scale (comparable to Advanced on the ACTFL scale).

Prerequisites: Grade C or higher in Russian 324 here at UT Austin or the equivalent: two-and-a-half years (five semesters) of formal study or a demonstrated proficiency level of 1+ on the ILR scale (equivalent to Intermediate-high on the ACTFL scale).

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.

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 descriptions carefully so that you see what is expected of you for the next class. Prepare for each class 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.
- If you have any problems with the assignments or the material, *please* come talk to me. I'm happy to work with everyone on an individual level to make sure we all meet the objectives of the course.

Course policy on electronic devices:

- Laptop computers or other electronic communication devices 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 this rule will be reflected in your class participation grade.

Internet

- In this class we will use *Blackboard* to distribute course materials and information. Homework assignments will be posted regularly on the Assignments section of *Blackboard* and students should make it a habit to check it in preparation for each class.
- 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. The policy is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

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.

Scholastic dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain the standards of academic integrity. Scholastic dishonesty includes unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, and multiple submission of the same work.

- Always acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts.
- I encourage you to form study groups and work together on your assignments. However, ***each student must write up and turn in his or her own assignments alone.*** Do not share your write-ups with one another.
- You may not work together at all on exams.

Any academic dishonesty of any sort will be handled according to the procedures of the office of Student Judicial Services (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/index.php>). 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.

If you have any problems with the assignments or the material, ***please*** come talk to me. I'm happy to work with everyone on an individual level to make sure we all meet the objectives of the course.

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 holy days: 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.

II. GRADING

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

- 4 in-class exams (контрольные работы): 50%
- Vocabulary quizzes (словарные тесты): 10%
- Homework assignments (домашние задания): 15%
 - Homework assignments should be submitted on the day they are due. No late assignments will be accepted. I will only grant extensions for family or medical emergencies, with my explicit advance permission.
 - In order to receive credit, you must submit each written assignment in its entirety on a separate full-size sheet of paper identified by the date for which it was assigned (e.g., *Домашнее задание на 15 января*).
- Reading project (*дополнительное чтение*): 5%
- Class participation (работа на занятии): 10%. Participation is based on attendance, **active** involvement in class activities, and preparedness (which includes familiarity with grammar explanations assigned for reading at home).
- Oral proficiency exam (устный экзамен) at the end of the semester: 10%

There is no final in the course. In-class quizzes and exams cannot be rescheduled or delayed, nor make-ups be offered. I will only give quizzes and exams at alternative times under very rare, exceptional circumstances, and this must be worked out in advance.

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

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 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. DISCLAIMER

This syllabus and the course outline below are 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.