ADVANCED RUSSIAN COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION

REE 385 #44620/ RUS 326 #44910

Fall 2010

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

Office hours: Monday 11:00-5:00 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 the use of the 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 political challenges, socio-economic development, demographic and health problems, everyday life, religion and art.

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 in 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. 10 take home written assignments – 60% of the final grade.
2. Participation and discussion in the class – 24%.
3. Final oral presentation – 16%.

Course materials: all course materials will be provided by the instructor before the assignments in advance.

Course prerequisite: 3 years of advanced level Russian courses.

Course schedule

Aug 26	**Introduction to the course**
Aug 31	Topic 1: **Grammar: Genitive, Dative and Accusative Cases of Nouns**
Sep 2	Topic 2: **Grammar: Instrumental and Prepositional Cases of Nouns**
Sep 7	Topic 3: **Grammar: Russian Verb Subjugations**/ Assignment # 1 due
Sep 9	Topic 4: **Grammar: Subjunctive and Conditional**
Sep 14	Topic 5: **"Polarization of the Russian Society and Splitting of National Identity"**/ Assignment # 2 due
Sep 16	Topic 5: discussion and exercises
Sep 21	Topic 6: **"Instability in North Caucasus"**/ Assignment # 3 due
Sep 23	Topic 6: discussion and exercises
Sep 28	Topic 7: **"Demography and Health in Russia"**/ Assignment # 4 due
Sep 30	Topic 7: discussion and exercises
Oct 5	Topic 8: "**Russian Religious Culture"** /Assignment # 5 due
Oct 7	Topic 8: discussion and exercises
Oct 12	Topic 9: **"Russian Education System"** /Assignment # 6 due
Oct 14	Topic 9: discussion and exercises
Oct 19	Topic 10: **"Russian Classical Literature (Chekhov)"**/ Assignment # 7 due
Oct 21	Topic 10: discussion and exercises

Oct 26	Topic 11: **"Soviet Revolutionary Poetry (Mayakovsky**)/ Assignment # 8 due
Oct 28	Topic 11: discussion and exercises
Nov 2	Topic 12: "**Russian 'Cult' Films"**/ Assignment # 9 due
Nov 4	Topic 12: discussion and exercises
Nov 9	Topic 12 (continuation): **"Russian 'Cult' Films" (Vysotsky)**
Nov 11	Graduate student presentations and discussion/ Assignment # 10 due
Nov 16	Graduate student presentations and discussion
Nov 18	Graduate student presentations and discussion
Nov 23	Undergraduate student presentations and discussion
Nov 25	**Thanksgiving – No class**
Nov 30	Undergraduate student presentations and discussion
Dec 2	Undergraduate student presentations and discussion

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!