ADVANCED RUSSIAN COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION

RUS 327/ REE 385/ RUS 380D

Spring 2013

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

Office hours: Wednesday 12 :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-spaced 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%.

Course materials: textbook by Sandra Freels Rosengrant "Russian in Use: An Interactive Approach to Advanced Communicative Competence", 2007, Yale University Press. The instructor will also provide additional reading materials: all the materials will be provided before the assignments in advance.

Course prerequisite: 3 years of advanced level Russian language courses.

Course schedule

Jan 16 **Grammar:** Expressing Spatial Relationships/ Textbook: 71-81

Topic 1**: «Поэты Серебряного века: Anna Akhmatova"**

Jan 23 **Grammar:** Imperatives / Textbook: 124-127

Topic 1**: Poetry of Marina Zvetaeva** / Assignment # 1 due

Jan 30 **Grammar**: Expressing Temporal Relationships/ Textbook: 133-144

Topic 2: **Pushkin and the Russian Folk Tales**/ Assignment #2 due

Feb 6 **Grammar**: Relative Time, Projected Duration, Concurrent and Repeated Time/ Textbook: 144-151

Topic 3: **Anton Chekhov's "Дама с собачкой»: Story and Film** /Assignment #3

Feb 13 **Grammar**: Ways of Expressing *to use*/ Textbook: 237-241

Topic 4: **Классика советского киноматографа**/Assignment #4 due

Feb 20 **Grammar:** Expanding sentences with *что* and *чтобы/* Textbook: 258-267

Topic 5: **Классика советского киноматографа** - продолжение/ Assign #5

Feb 27 Grammar: Expressing Causal Relations/ textbook: 267-275

Topic 6: **Peoples and Languages of Russia**/Assignment #6 due

March 6 **Grammar:** Ways of Expressing for/ Textbook: 309-314

Topic 7: **Religious Landscapes of Russia**/ Assignment #7 due

March 11-16 Spring break

March 20 **Grammar**: Expressing Conditional relationships/ Textbook: 322-327

Topic 8: **Russian Environment: Lake Baikal/**Assignment #8 due

March 27 Topic 9: **Valentin Rasputin's «Уроки французского»**/ Assignment #9 due

Apr 3 Topic 10: **Varlaam Shalamov's «Колымские рассказы»** / Assignment #10 due

Apr 10 Topic 11: **Children's language: Korney Chukovsky** /Assignment #11 due

Apr 17 Topic 12: **Doing business in Russia: all the necessary language and communications tools**/ Assignment #12 due

Apr 24 **Student presentations and discussions**

May 5 **Student presentations and discussions**

This syllabus is subject to change!