

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
RUSS 0400

Advanced Russian I

Fall 2009
MWF, 12:00-12:50 PM
CL 304
CRN: 11344

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I. Format, Course Description, and Goals

This course carries three credits and is the first half of a year-long advanced Russian course designed to develop your proficiency in all language skills. The course will include: Russian stylistics, syntax and grammar at the advanced level; authentic Russian texts and films; blogging in Russian; and extensive work on vocabulary building and advanced conversation skills.

As this is an advanced language course, it will be conducted almost exclusively in Russian. Students are expected to converse only in Russian during all class sessions. The instructor may occasionally switch to English if it is required by the day's lesson and students may then ask questions in English as well.

Upon successful completing of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- read and gain useful information from nonfiction texts of a moderate level of difficulty;
- comprehend and gain useful information from the speech of educated native speakers;
- converse on everyday topics with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

II. Texts and Materials

Students are required to bring the following texts to each class meeting:

1. Kagan, Olga, Frank Miller and Ganna Kudyma. *V Puti. Russian Grammar in Context*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.
2. Kagan, Olga, Frank Miller and Ganna Kudyma. *Student Activities Manual. V Puti: Russian Grammar in Context + CDs*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.
3. a good quality Russian-English/English-Russian dictionary (e.g., Katzner or Oxford).
4. students will be required to come to every class having read the course blog:
[http:// russ0400fall2009.blogspot.com](http://russ0400fall2009.blogspot.com)

* *Recommended*: Wade, Terence. *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. Malden: Blackwell, 2000.

III. Attendance Policy

You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester. For all additional absences, your participation grade will be lowered accordingly. According to the policy commonly applied in the Slavic Department, absences are only excused for reasons of personal ill health and deaths in the family. All such excused absences must be documented. More than five unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Please keep in mind that missing class will not only jeopardize your participation record, but will put you in danger of missing important information. In case of absence, it is your responsibility to obtain from your classmates any information passed out during the class you missed. You are, therefore, encouraged to exchange telephone numbers and e-mail addresses with your classmates. If you are experiencing special problems in the course, do not hesitate to make an appointment with me.

IV. Course Requirements and Grading

A 100-93	B+ 89-87	B- 82-80	C 76-73	D+ 69-67	D- 62-60
A- 92-90	B 86-83	C+ 79-77	C- 72-70	D 66-63	F 59-0

Participation (25%): For each class meeting you will be expected to prepare several exercises, activities, or written assignments. The exercises from *V Puti* will require you to review and/or learn the grammatical structures associated with the assignment and to learn all new vocabulary introduced. You should not only be prepared with the specific answers to these exercises, but you should also be able to deal with any improvised activities. Your participation also involves having read the course blog for the day. Participation will be evaluated on a daily basis and a grade of 0-5 points will be assigned for each class session. You will receive a grade of “0” for any class session missed unless excused (see above).

Homework (15%): HW sheets will be posted on Courseweb no later than Friday for the following week. The assignments will take various forms, ranging from complex grammar practice to formal compositions. Written assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class meeting and a grade of 0-5 will be assigned. Late homework assignments will be penalized a full point for each day late.

Written Assignments (15%): Over the course of the semester you will be required to contribute 5 entries (7-10 sentences each) to the class blog. Prompts will be provided on the HW sheets, marked “Blog (optional).” The entries must be posted before the beginning of the class period that they are due and a printed copy turned in that day. Should you wish to rewrite, you must turn in a hard copy of your revision plus the original no more than 2 weeks after it was handed back. Late revisions and revisions without the original will not be accepted. You will also be required to contribute 10 comments (2 sentences) on your classmates’ posts over the course of the semester. You do not need to hand in a hard copy of these.

Oral Presentations (5%): Each student will be expected to make one prepared oral presentation. The presentation, given after the mid-point of the semester, will be approximately 10 minutes in length. Details on the length, topic, and format will be given several weeks before the presentations are due.

Tests (25%): There will be five full-period scheduled tests of equal value. Make-up tests are allowed only for excused absences (see attendance policy).

Final Exam (10%): There will be a cumulative final exam on the date assigned by the university.

Quizzes (5%): There may be unannounced quizzes (usually on new vocabulary) at the beginning of class sessions. Latecomers or absent students will miss these quizzes and will not be able to make them up.

Schedule of texts and exam (subject to change)

Test 1: September 14

Test 2: September 28

Test 3: October 16

Test 4: November 6

Test 5: November 23

Final Exam: December 19, 8:00-9:50 AM

V. Academic Integrity

By remaining enrolled in the course, you not only agree to abide by the above stipulations, but also understand that I will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the University's *Handbook on Integrity* regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. (<http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html>; <http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html>). It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and observe them. Any infraction will be penalized accordingly.

VI. Disability Policy

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) before the end of the second week of the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.