

RUS 2220: Intermediate Russian 1

Section 8129/Class 19719 – 5th period

Section 6558/Class 19850 – 4th period

Prof. Michael Gorham



Исаак Левитан, «Осенний пейзаж» (с. 1895)

UF Russian Studies
Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
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Office Hours

Wednesdays 1–3 PM, or by appointment

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Zoom Office Hours: <https://ufl.zoom.us/my/gorham> (Meeting ID: 523 004 7250)

Zoom Class Meeting ID: [924 0445 1904](#) (passcode 212505)

Course Description and Goals

When combined with its second-semester continuation, RUS 2220 offers an intensive and comprehensive continuation of Russian language study focusing on developing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. If successfully completed, students will be able to communicate in a wide variety of everyday settings in Russian and speak in extended paragraphs about themselves and on a wide variety of topics.

Credit and Prerequisites

This course carries four credits and counts as foundational work toward the UF Russian major and minor. Prerequisite: RUS 1131 or instructor's permission.

Course Requirements and Grading

You will be required to:

- Attend class meetings;
- Participate actively and intelligently in class exercises;
- Complete the assignments scheduled for each class meeting and be prepared to work with them in class;
- Complete periodic quizzes and presentations assuming a variety of formats;
- Take 4 unit tests;
- Take comprehensive final proficiency assessment.

Your course grade will be determined by the quality and consistence of your daily performance and periodic quizzes, tests and other assessment activities as follows:

- Attendance: 5%
- Participation: 5%
- Homework: 30%
- 10–12 Quizzes and presentations: 25%
- 4 Unit Tests: 25%
- 1 Final Proficiency Assessment: 10%

Final grades

Final grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

A = 93 – 100%	C- = 70 – 72%
A- = 90 – 92%	D+ = 67 – 69%
B+ = 87 – 89%	D = 63 – 66%
B = 83 – 86%	D- = 60 – 62%
B- = 80 – 82%	E = less than 60%
C+ = 77 – 79%	
C = 73 – 76%	

Tests

Tests will consist of a combination of open-book written prompts, Canvas-based speaking, listening, and reading assignments, and periodic oral interviews—all designed to assess your mastery of chapter material. More specific test structure and content will be previewed during the classes leading up to a test.

Quizzes and presentations

Periodic quizzes and presentations will range from oral readings of textbook passages (to assess pronunciation, intonation, and fluidity), to grammar and vocabulary checks and prepared and recorded 2–3 minute oral presentations. They will be graded on a 10-point scale and your lowest quiz/presentation score will be dropped before final grades are calculated.

Make-up policy: Make-up graded work will be permitted only in the case of legitimate conflicts well-documented in advance.

Homework

- The weight of credit given to homework reflects the special nature of foreign-language learning, which, like mastering a sport or musical instrument, depends first and foremost on consistency, persistence, and daily training.
- Homework assignments will be due nearly daily (per class meeting) and clearly outlined in Canvas.
- Answer keys to workbook assignments are made available for each assignment. Here's how you use them:
 - Study the new vocabulary, structures, dialogues, grammar, etc. from the Textbook
 - Write the assigned SAM exercises with the TB pages available if necessary. Consult grammar explanations, conjugation patterns, declension tables, as needed. Actively consult the relevant TB pages as you make your way through a written assignment.
 - When you have completed an assignment—and only once you've completed the assignment—open up the answer key, check your work against it, try to understand your errors, and correct all your mistakes directly on the page, using a different colored pen. It is critical for me to see where you are having problems, so I can follow up as required with clarifications.
- Important: Using the answer keys too earlier in this process will delay, if not entirely prevent, your proper mastery of the material, and likely hurt you when it comes time for graded tests and quizzes.
- Unless otherwise stated, written homework should be hand-written, using cursive Cyrillic.
- Open-ended writing assignments should be submitted on lined paper, double-spaced. Homework submitted 1 class period late will be eligible for ½-credit.

Attendance

Class meetings will be highly interactive and demand active and meaningful use of new language models; for this reason, unlike many other courses, missed contact hours will be difficult if not impossible to make up. Attendance will be graded on a straight percentage basis: attend 100% of the class (excepting excused absences), receive 100% credit for this component. Excused absences will be given in the case of legitimate conflicts well-documented in advance.

Class Participation

Your participation grade will be based on your level of engagement and focus in classroom activities in both large and small groups. Participate actively, stay on task, ask questions when you're unsure or confused, and you will do well. I will provide you with a status report on this component toward the middle of the semester.

Course Etiquette, Communication and Technology

- Class will begin and end promptly. Please be on time and refrain from gathering up materials until I indicate that class is over.
- Outside of class and office hours, feel free to reach me by email (mgorham@ufl.edu) with inquiries or issues that are not clarified in class meetings, the course syllabus, the online "Weekly Assignments" page, or posted handouts. If you do send email, practice your informal, but official, communication skills by including a proper form of address. "Dear Professor Gorham" or even "Hi Dr. Gorham" are fine, but "Hey" or omitting a greeting altogether are not. Also be sure to clearly identify yourself somewhere in the message – at least in the opening message of a communication string. If you abide by these simple rules of email etiquette, you can expect an answer within 1 working day.

Zoom Rules and Etiquette

- As advancing conversational skills is a key objective of this course, you are required to have your cameras on from start to finish during the Zoom session.
- Zoom sessions will not be recorded by the instructor and may not be recorded by students. As in all courses, unauthorized recording of and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.
- You should plan on using a laptop or desktop computer, best as you can, to ensure full capabilities in both Zoom and Canvas.
- Plan on having your textbook and whatever note-taking material you normally use with you for class.
- Try your best to secure a quiet workspace with good internet connection.
- Listen to and follow instructions for microphone settings.
- Turn off extraneous notifications on your device before class starts.
- Dress appropriately, avoid distracting backgrounds, and refrain from eating on camera.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty

All students must be familiar with and will be held accountable to the University's "Academic Honesty Guidelines." Please review these guidelines at: <https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>, and contact me with any questions or concerns.

Course Materials

Required texts

- Olga Kagan, Frank Miller, Ganna Kudyma, *В Пыму: Russian Grammar in Context*. Second edition. Pearson/Prentice Hall 2006. ISBN 0-13-028280-4.
- Olga Kagan Frank Miller, Ganna Kudyma. Student Activities Manual. *В Пыму: Russian Grammar in Context*. Second edition. Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006. ISBN 0-13-191760-9.

Online Learning Platform: All assignments and grades will be posted at the Canvas site for this course, available at <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/403340>.

Overview of Course Schedule

Chapter 1: 8–10 days (Preliminary test date: Sept. 16)

Chapter 2: 8–10 days (Preliminary test date: Oct. 5)

Chapter 3: 7–9 days (Preliminary test date: Oct. 20)

Chapter 4: 6–8 days (Preliminary test date: Nov. 3)

Chapter 5: 6–8 days (no separate chapter test)

Chapter 6: 6–8 days (no separate chapter test)

Final Proficiency Assessment: 7–9 December