

RUS 2220: Intermediate Russian 1

Section 6557/Class 26576 – 3rd period

Section 6558/Class 16853 – 4th period

Prof. Michael Gorham



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

UF Russian Studies
Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Fall 2024

Office Hours (in-person or via Zoom by request)

Wednesdays 12:00–2:00 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%
- 12–15 Quizzes and presentations: 30%
- 4 Unit Tests: 20%
- 1 Final Proficiency Assessment: 10%

Final grades

Final grades will be calculated according to the following scale, and are consistent with [University grading policies](#):

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, closed-book speaking, listening, reading and grammar assessments, 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. They will regularly include listening, speaking, reading, and writing assignments.
- To ensure we spend as much of class time engaging in the target language, I will occasionally record short video lectures on various aspects of Russian grammar, which you will also be expected to watch outside of class.
- On the website for the textbook, textbook authors provide answer keys to most assignments in the text. It's critical that you use them the right way:
 1. Study the new vocabulary, structures, dialogues, grammar, etc. from the textbook.
 2. Write the assigned exercises with the appropriate textbook pages available if necessary. Consult grammar explanations, conjugation patterns, declension tables, as needed. Actively consult the relevant textbook pages as you make your way through a written assignment.
 3. When you have completed an assignment—and only once you've completed the assignment—open 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 working with Canvas-based quizzes and exercises or otherwise stated, the homework should be written out by hand, 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. After that is too late.

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 as stipulated by [University Attendance Policies](#).

Class Participation

Your participation grade will be based on your level of engagement and focus during 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. Whether you acquire the print or electronic edition of the course textbook (see below), you must have access to it during every class meeting, unless you are in testing mode. I will provide you with a status report on your participation status 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.
- Non-course related use of technology in class is distracting for everyone and highly detrimental to your learning, and, if noticed, will result in the loss of participation credit for that day's meeting.
- 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 "Schedule and 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.

Course Materials

Required texts

- **Anna S. Kudyma, *Russian From Novice High to Intermediate*. Routledge, 2022.**
[You may purchase either the print or the electronic edition, but you should plan on using it actively (taking notes!) on a daily basis. Purchasing the print will automatically give you access to the electronic version as well. Either version will also be the main text for "Intermediate 2"(RUS 3400), should you elect to continue your pursuit of Russian in the spring semester.
- You will also need access to online resources for the above materials, available at <https://bruinlearn.ucla.edu/courses/1758/modules>.

Online Learning Platform: All assignments and grades will be posted at the Canvas site for this course, available at <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/515744>.

Overview of Course Schedule

Chapters 1–2: 12 days (Preliminary test date: Sept. 18)

Chapters 3–4: 11 days (Preliminary test date: Oct. 7)

Chapters 5–6: 11 days (Preliminary test date: Oct. 23)

Chapters 7–8: 11 days (Preliminary test date: Nov. 13)

Chapter 9: 5 days (no separate chapter test)

Final Review & Proficiency Assessment: 2–4 December

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. See the [UF Conduct Code](#) for more information.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.