

RUS3240– Conversation Practice in Russian

Period 5 (M, W, F 11:45 – 12:35 am) – FLG 0275

Instructor: Dr. Natalia Sletova

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Student hours: I welcome you to contact me outside of class. You may e-mail me (preferred) or message me through Canvas to set a time to meet. Feel free to attend either face-to-face or virtual hours.

Office: Dauer Hall 370, Tuesday 11:45am -12:45pm and by appointment

Prerequisite: RUS 1131 or an equivalent.

Course Description

This is a 3-credit course designed to develop nonnative speaker oral skills that are relevant to establishing and maintaining direct conversation and communication with native speakers of Russian. The course focuses on a range of skillsets, including improving listening comprehension, participating in class discussions, understanding conversational strategies, giving presentations, asking and answering questions. Specifically, this course seeks to:

- explore strategies for communicating effectively in a variety of academic and social situations, e.g., expressing an opinion, agreeing/disagreeing, asking for clarification, interrupting, etc.
- analyze the structures of language, the meaning behind these structures, and the pragmatic function of these structures in common social discourse structures
- develop student skills and experience in academic speaking situations (i.e., presentations)
- expand student Russian vocabulary, active command of Russian grammar, and overall ability to speak at the Intermediate level.

Students, who attend class regularly, participate actively and perform competently on presentations and vocab quizzes can expect to be able to produce and comprehend both spoken and written Russian in a variety of basic communicative situation by the end of the semester.

Course Materials

All course Materials will be published on Canvas or available on-line.

Course Requirements

In this class, we are seriously committed to supporting diversity and inclusion among all classroom community members. We proactively strive to construct a safe and inclusive environment by respecting each other's dignity and privacy. We treat one another fairly and honor each member's experiences, beliefs, perspectives, abilities, and backgrounds, regardless of race, religion, language, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identification, ability status, socio-economic status, national identity, or any other identity markers. Bullying, hateful ideas, violent language, belittling, racial slurs, and other disrespectful or "othering" language or behavior will not be tolerated. Our class provides a safe space for free inquiry and open exchange of ideas. We recognize the power and promise of language and yet are cognizant that

language might be used to exclude or hurt rather than express or inform. Therefore, though we might feel strongly about a topic, we maintain respect for each other's diversity. We act and communicate respectfully toward one another, both directly and indirectly, both inside and outside the classroom

Attendance and Participation: 50%

Attendance is mandatory. Day-to-day preparation and performance is critical in any language course, including Conversation Practice. **Given their highly interactive nature, language classes cannot be "made up" if missed.** Unexcused absence cannot be made up. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation. These need to be documented excuses. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. **Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, excused make-ups should be arranged prior to absence.** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Class time is your opportunity to practice speaking Russian! This means that I expect you to come to class prepared to ask and answer questions as well as to think creatively about the language you are learning. I will call on you and I will expect you to perform brief skits and act out situations in small groups in front of the class. I do not, however, expect you to speak perfect Russian!

Class structure:

1. Warm-up with a 5 minute-talk with a partner in Russian
2. Headline news.

Monday – politic/business/economy

Wednesday– Sport/culture/movies/art/

Friday - strange/funny/crime news

3. Checking a home assignment
4. Euro news (video discussion) once a week.
5. Presentation – once a week (starting October 1st)
6. Working on textbook “From Novice-high to Intermediate “once a week

Presentation: 25%

Each of you will have to present about any famous Russian persona (e.g., biography, interesting facts, etc)

Presentation Requirements: 10 minutes with good sentence structure and new vocabulary learned in class (you will be asked to make a glossary for your presentation).

Vocabulary Quizzes(4): 10 %

A vocabulary quiz will accompany each chapter.

Final oral exam – 10%

Final test – 5%

Extra credit: 1 -10%

Writing a dairy or completing an additional assignment.

Grading Scale

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

**Students will need to earn a C or higher to use this course toward a major or minor and/or earn General Education Credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>*

Course Policies

Class Demeanor: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

University Honesty Policy: **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Canvas

Assignments, handouts, grades, etc. will be posted on the course website on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the website regularly and keep up to date with the class.

Accommodations: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information see <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>.

Missed assignments may be made up if appropriate documentation is provided and/or after discussion with the instructor.

MISSED QUIZZES AND TESTS MAY BE MADE UP ONLY IF APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED

Illness: If you are sick, please stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.

Resources Available for Students

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: umatter@ufl.edu; 392-1575
- [Counseling & Wellness Ctr](#): 392-1575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- University Police Department: 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Learningsupport@ufl.edu; <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>
- Career Resource Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>; 392-1601
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>; 846-1138

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://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not

limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

COVID-19 Statement

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence. As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

РАСПИСАНИЕ

***Homework will be published on Canvas after each class and is suggested to be completed before next class. However, it can be submitted weekly before the class on Fridays, unless otherwise is indicated on Canvas.**

Tentative Overview of the Course Schedule (TBD)