

RUS 4930: (Special Topics in Russian) Third-Year Russian 2

**Professor Michael Gorham, UF Russian Studies
Dept. of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
University of Florida
Spring 2016**

Meeting times: MWF 5

Location: CBD 212

Section: 0164

Office Hours: Monday 9-11 AM,
or by appointment

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Description and Goals

“Third-Year Russian 2” provides students having completed “Third-Year Russian 1” or the equivalent with continued advanced oral and written training in some of the more frequently occurring grammar structures in Russian. The course will enhance your ability to read complex Russian texts more easily and to express yourself with greater confidence and precision both in writing and everyday conversation. In-class activities, conducted primarily in Russian, will include a variety of speaking, listening, reading and writing activities predominantly derived from the required ***Russian from Intermediate to Advanced*** textbook and accompanying website.

Course Policies, Requirements and Grading

Language use. Russian will be the normal language of operation during class meetings, unless otherwise specified. Unauthorized use of English will be taken into account in the assessment of in-class performance.

Final grades will be based on your performance in the following areas:

- Daily Grind (attendance, homework, in-class participation) (35%)
- Chapter tests (40%)
- Quizzes (10%)
- Final proficiency assessment (15%)

Daily Grind (Attendance, homework, participation): 35%

Because maximizing contact hours is so critical to foreign language learning, **attendance** for this course is mandatory and will be graded on a straight percentage basis (e.g. if you attend 92% of the meetings, you earn a 92% for this portion of your grade). Absences may be excused if for a legitimate, well-documented reason. If you miss a class meeting, you will still be responsible for all course content and logistical information covered during the class. Class will begin promptly at 11:45 AM and end at 12:35.

Homework will be assessed in the same by-percentage manner as attendance. Beginning the second week of classes, **all written homework, unless otherwise noted, should be typed double-spaced, printed and submitted on the due date.** Homework turned in one meeting session late will be eligible for half-credit unless a pattern of late submission emerges. Homework turned in later will not be accepted.

Beyond showing up for class and completing assignments on time, you will be evaluated on the quality and level of **participation – both prepared and spontaneous** – you demonstrate in class discussions and activities. It is to be expected that you won't always know answers, understand passages, forms, etc.; sometimes you may feel utterly lost. But it is important that you give 100% effort in trying and speak up (in or outside of class) when you are having trouble. And it is critical that you come to class having prepared the assigned exercises in advance.

You can expect to receive a preliminary assessment of your status in all three of these areas near the halfway point of the semester; if you have any questions about how you are faring, feel free to come by during office hours.

Quizzes: 10%

Course quizzes will generally be short, will assume a variety of forms – written, oral, and online – and will be used to measure your mastery of material covered in recent class meetings. They may focus on vocabulary, grammar, reading or listening comprehension, or some combination of these groups. In any case, you will be warned in advance about both the format and content of quizzes. You should expect to take between 7 and 10 quizzes over the course of the semester, evaluated using a 10-point scale.

Tests: 40%

Four 50-minute chapter tests will test your mastery of the reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills, grammar, and thematic topics covered over the course of the unit.

Final proficiency assessment: 15%

The final proficiency assessment (FPA) will take place in the closing days of the semester, will include both a written and oral component, will be comprehensive in coverage, and designed to measure your overall proficiency. Detailed study materials will be provided in advance.

There is no final exam in this course.

Grading percentages

Grades based on percentages will be determined 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%	

Make-up policy: Make-up tests and quizzes may be permitted only in the case of legitimate conflicts well-documented in advance. Please contact me as early as possible if you think you have a scheduling conflict.

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.
- All phones must be turned off and left off during class meetings. Laptops may be used during class for course-related activities only. Students found in violation of this policy may be asked to leave class and/or have their participation grade reduced.

Students with Disabilities

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 me when requesting accommodation.

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: www.generalcounsel.ufl.edu/Rules/Chapter%204/4017.pdf, and contact me with any questions or concerns.

UF Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

Required Course Materials

- Olga E. Kagan, Anna S. Kudyma, and Frank J. Miller and Kudyma, *Russian from Intermediate to Advance* (London: Routledge, 2015).

Technology Requirements

Assignments will be posted and grading will be managed primarily within UF's Canvas learning platform. To get into the system, you will need your Gatorlink ID and password to log on at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>. If you have trouble with the online format of this course, please see me in my office hours.

Beginning the second week of classes, all written homework assignments, unless otherwise noted, must be typed and double-spaced, printed out and submitted in hard copy. You will therefore need a computer capable of typing in Cyrillic. If you have not yet taught your computer Russian, please consult the following resource for Russification instructions: <http://www.aatseel.org/resources/fonts/> (I strongly recommend using phonetic keyboards settings, where available).

Preliminary Course Schedule

Preliminary **test dates appear in red**. I will post detailed homework assignment schedules for each chapter prior to its commencement. This schedule is subject to change with advanced notification.

- Глава 6: Молодёжь и общество (Jan. 6–**Jan. 27**)
- Глава 7: Здоровье и вредные привычки (Jan. 1–**Feb. 15**)
- Глава 8: Политика и общество (Feb. 17–**Mar. 14**)
- Глава 9: Экономика и мы (Mar. 16–**Apr. 1**)
- Final proficiency assessment: **Apr. 18-20**.