

RUS 4001: Advanced Russian 2



Исаак Левитан, «Деревня. Зима.» (1878)

**Prof. M. Gorham • UF Russian Studies • Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Class 17558 • 3 credits**

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**MWF 5  
Spring 2022**

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Contact Information:

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Office Hours: Mondays 3–5 PM (or by appointment)

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

Description and Goals

“Advanced Russian 2” provides students having completed “Advanced 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.

Grading criteria

Your performance in the course will be based on the following criteria:

- Daily grind: 35%
 - Homework (25%)
 - Attendance (5%)
 - Class participation (5%)
- Chapter tests: 25%
- Presentations & quizzes: 25%
- 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 and end promptly as scheduled.

Homework will be assessed in the same by-percentage manner as attendance. Pay close attention to homework guidelines, as some exercises will be assigned as written (*письменно*) and some as oral (*устно*), and some of the written assignments will need to be typed, others written out by hand (using cursive Cyrillic). All written homework, typed or written, should be double-spaced and include your name at the top of the page. 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.

For many of the assignments, you will have access to **answer keys** provided by the textbook authors. Here's how you use them:

- Study the new vocabulary, structures, dialogues, grammar, etc. from the textbook (TB) & lecture videos
- As you write the assigned exercises, 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: Premature use of the answer keys will delay, if not entirely prevent, your mastery of the material, and likely hurt you when it comes time for graded tests and quizzes.

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 participation 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.

Presentations & quizzes: 25%

Course presentations and quizzes will assume a variety of forms and will be used to measure your mastery of material covered in recent class meetings. **Presentations** will cover a variety of themes relevant to chapter content. They should be brief and well-prepared (memorized, not read), and should demonstrate near-mastery of recently covered material. Some you will deliver live in class; others you may record and post in Canvas. **Quizzes** 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 both presentations and quizzes. You should expect to have 6–8 quizzing or presentation opportunities over the course of the semester, evaluated on a 10-point or 20-point scale.

Tests: 25%

Two take-home, open-book tests will test your mastery of the reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills, grammar, and thematic topics covered over chapters 5–6 (Test 1) and 7–8 (Test 2). See below for tentative test dates and consult Canvas for updates.

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. Successful completion of the FPA serves as a capstone requirement of the Russian Major.

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

Make-up policy

Make-up tests and quizzes may be permitted only in the case of legitimate conflicts well-documented in advance, unless circumstances prevent such timing. Ditto for missed homework assignments. Please contact me as early as possible if you think you have a scheduling conflict.

Preliminary Course Schedule

Detailed homework assignment schedules for each chapter can be found by following the “Weekly Schedule & Assignments” link in Canvas. This schedule is subject to change with advanced notification.

- Глава 5: Город, пригород и деревня (Jan. 5–24)
- Глава 6: Молодёжь и общество (Jan. 26–Feb. 9)
 - Test 1 (chapters 5–6): **Feb. 11**
- Глава 7: Здоровье и вредные привычки (Feb. 14–28)
- Глава 8: Политика и общество (Mar. 2–28)
 - Test 2 (chapters 7–8): **Mar. 30**
- Глава 9: Экономика и мы (Apr. 1–Apr. 15)
- Final proficiency assessment: **Apr. 18 (review), 20 (oral), 27 (written)**

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. On occasion, you will be asked to have a laptop or other appropriate device available during class meeting to conduct online activities.

As a number of written homework assignments will need to be typed and uploaded to Canvas, you will need a computer capable of typing in Cyrillic. If you have not yet taught your computer Russian and do not know how to do so, please contact me during the first week of class.

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 Schedule & 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 silenced 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.

Required UF Policies

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-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 or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.