



RUSS 400 Advanced Russian Language 1 (3 credits)
Fall 2023

Meeting Times: MWF 3.35pm – 4.25pm; SH680 391

Instructor: Dr. Zora Kadyrbekova

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Office Hours: Mon 10.30am – 12.30pm and/or by appointment, SH680 431

Required materials:

1. Kagan, Olga E., Anna S. Kudyma and Frank J. Miller. Russian: From Intermediate to Advanced. London & New York: Routledge, 2015. (available for free access – see MyCourses for more information)
2. www.russian.ucla.edu/AdvancedRussian - free companion website

General Information: This course covers the first part of the Advanced Russian Course Sequence at McGill University and introduces learners to the advanced elements of the Russian language. RUSS 400 carries three (3) undergraduate credits and must be taken for a letter grade.

Prerequisites: Intermediate Russian, or equivalent. Students of Russian ethnic origin and students who have lived under circumstances (e.g., family members, prolonged stay in Russia etc.) that would provide advantageous exposure to the language must inform the instructor about this.

Failure to disclose this information to the instructors constitutes practicing deceit in an academic evaluation proceeding and will be regarded as an Academic Integrity offense. If you have not taken any Russian Courses at McGill, please see Dr. Maria Ivanova for a placement test (maria.ivanova@mcgill.ca)

Course content: RUSS 400 focuses on developing learners' advanced proficiency in speaking, reading, listening, and writing with emphasis on reading short authentic texts, using more complex grammar structure and more extensive vocabulary. The content of the course relies on the materials, topics and grammar drills presented in Russian: From Intermediate to Advanced. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the term the students will be able to do the following (according to ACTFL Guidelines, 2012):

1. Speaking: "Engage in conversation in a clearly participatory manner in order to communicate information on autobiographical topics, as well as topics of community, national or international interest";

2. Reading: “understand the main ideas and supporting details of authentic narrative and descriptive texts”;
3. Listening: “understand the main ideas and most supporting details in connected discourse on a variety of general interest topics, such as news stories, explanations, instructions, anecdotes, or travelogue descriptions”;
4. Writing: employ “a variety of cohesive devices up to several paragraphs in length” and demonstrate “control of the most frequently used syntactic structures and a range of general vocabulary.”

Instructional method: The course will be taught primarily in Russian. Classroom time is optimized for communicative practice and interactive activities, as well as for explanation/clarification of difficult grammar material. Because classroom time is used for the development of interactive proficiency, it is essential that you spend at least 2.5 hours per day for each class (as you would need to do for any language course). A thorough study session includes reviewing the material presented in class, writing out homework assignments, reviewing vocabulary and thinking about the material (making attempts to connect new material to old). Class will begin by reviewing items from both the previous class meeting and that class homework. The remainder of class will be spent discussing new material (class presentations), practicing it in groups or in brief writing assignments. Students will be evaluated on their attendance, participation, homework, quizzes, and tests.

Because this is an Advanced level and most of the grammar material introduced in chapters is a more in-depth presentation of the grammar material covered in previous levels (e.g., cases, verb aspect etc.), the classroom format will be predominantly of the following format: 1. At home: students read, review and study the new grammar material; complete assigned exercises; 2. In class: students participate in communicative activities and/or complete various assignments/exercises to practice and apply the studied new grammar material. If there are certain aspects of the new material that are difficult to understand – these will be addressed in class.

Classes will be held in-person. Should the mode of delivery change, students will be notified.

Your active participation in class is essential. It is my goal as your instructor that each student be given ample opportunity to learn and apply the material. In order for this to happen, it is imperative that we all work together to make the learning environment a truly productive one. The classroom atmosphere should be one where all students feel comfortable trying out the language and experimenting with language production. Therefore, I expect my students to respect one another, to participate in all activities, to maintain a positive attitude, to come prepared and to help one another out.

Class attendance policy:

Because most language learning takes place in the classroom in communicative situations, where students need to speak with one another in Russian, absence can be particularly damaging not only to a student’s progress, but also to the progress of others who must then work with someone who is inadequately prepared. For this reason, this course follows a fairly strict attendance policy:

- There are no excused absences in this course for any reason.
- Each day of class is essential to your mastery of the language.
- * The participation grade is critical because it cannot be made up.

- There are no make-up tests, or quizzes, or assignments. Any medical emergencies and/or hospitalizations must be verified by a doctor's note and/or medical certificate submitted no later than 10 workdays from the day of the absence. The instructor reserves the right to verify this information, and all final decisions are at the instructor's discretion.
 - 4 absences – 50% attendance, 5 absences – 0% attendance, 6 absences – 0% attendance and no extra credit, 7 absences - F grade for the course.
- * In case of absence students are responsible for catching up with the class, completing homework and coming to the next class prepared. Homework and assignment descriptions will be posted on MyCourses. To catch up with the missed material students are encouraged to use all the uploaded files on MyCourses, tutoring services, study groups and other resources.
- * If a student's health repeatedly prevents the student from completing graded activities (e.g., tests, quizzes etc.) and actively participating in class (which will inevitably significantly affect the grade), the student should consider taking time off to take care of their health and re-take the class when their health is strong enough not to disrupt their studying. Vacations, family gatherings, tickets booked in advance, dates immediately preceding/following holidays etc. are not legitimate excuses for a make-up test consideration. Absences for McGill Athletics events and religious holidays follow McGill University guidelines.
- * Because tardiness is disruptive, students are expected to arrive on time and not to leave before the end of the class session. While occasional tardiness may sometimes be unavoidable, frequent or chronic tardiness will be counted as absence. Three late arrivals (15 min) will count as one absence.

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Homework	12%
Discussions (4)	12%
Group Presentation Project	10%
Quizzes (5)	15%
Chapter Tests (5)	30%
Compositions (2)	10%
Syllabus Quiz (1)	1%

Grade	Percentages
A	100%-85%
A-	84%-80%
B+	79%-75%
B	74%-70%
B-	69%-65%
C+	64%/-60%
C	59%-55%
D	54%-50%
F	49%-0%

100%

Home Assignments – see MyCourses for detailed submission instructions.

Students are expected to read/study the new material before class. Then, in class we go over it together and practice. This approach is necessary for two reasons: 1) the online/remote learning format; 2) This course and its textbook are designed so that homework is studying; it's a step-by-step guide to learning the material, rather than something you do after you've completed the learning. This course starts fairly intensively because it is difficult to do much of interest with a language until you've developed a bit of a foundation. After the first week or so, you should anticipate 2.5 hours of studying/homework per day. You will have homework for almost every class, from on-line listening and grammar exercises in the online component to practice worksheets and writing assignments. Occasionally you will be asked to prepare an oral presentation or a dialog with an assigned partner in Russian. No late assignments will be accepted.

There will be an answer key for selected assignments to allow students to check their mistakes right away as they study the material. First – the student is to complete a homework exercise; then – check with the answer key. Homework assignments may be collected randomly, even the ones with the answer key. The assignments with an answer key are expected to have corrections by the student. All nuances about homework assignments will be further explained in class in person to ensure there are no misunderstandings. Homework is graded for completion. Only homework that has been corrected by students themselves using an Answer Key is considered completed (C) – full credit. Homework assignments that have uncorrected mistakes are considered to be partially completed (H) – half the credit. No homework submitted – zero credit.

Final Group Project with Presentation – Detailed explanations and instructions will be posted on MyCourses in October.

The class will be divided into small group, and each group will choose a topic for a debate. This is a content-based communicative activity. The detailed explanations will be given in October.

Quizzes and Chapter Tests – see MyCourses for detailed instructions.

Quizzes based on the vocabulary and grammar will be given at different points of the term, after a portion of the course material has been covered. Quizzes will be announced ahead of time, giving you the necessary time to review the material and memorize the target vocabulary. Under normal circumstances, quizzes may not be made up or re-taken at a later date. Five (5) chapter tests will cover the material of individual chapters + some old material. There will be NO final examination scheduled during the final week in this class. For the detailed instructions see MyCourses.

Discussions – see MyCourses for detailed instructions.

Students will be divided into groups. Each group will prepare a discussion for the entire class. This is a content-based communicative activity. For the detailed instructions and explanations see MyCourses.

Compositions – see MyCourses for detailed instructions. There will be two compositions during the semester. The compositions will be written in two steps. The first step: students write the first draft and submit it. The instructor points out mistakes. Then students submit the second and final draft. Only the final draft will be graded.

Extra Credit

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit. They will be announced and explained in class as soon as they become available. These will include attendance at the Russian Conversation Club, Russian Help Desk, end-of-term Russian Evening and other possible activities at the Russian Dept.

Extra credit is a privilege. In order to qualify for it students must maintain attendance (see Attendance Policy above). For the Russian Evening all performances must be approved by the instructor. No unapproved performances will receive extra credit.

McGill policy statements:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).(approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by email when the evaluations are available on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights" (The Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities is available here <http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies/students/handbook-student-rights-and-responsibilities/lerecueil-des-droits-et-obligations-d>

If students miss any assignments or assessments due to McGill Athletic activities and religious holidays consult McGill policy. All make-ups in these situations must be done before the planned absence. Make-ups on later dates will not be accepted. (e.g., if a student misses a test on Friday for the above reasons, the make up must be scheduled before that Friday).