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RUSS 400 Advanced Russian Language 1 (3 credits)  
Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Zora Kadyrbekova

Email: zora.kadyrbekova@mcgill.ca

Office Hours: Mon/Wed **2.30am – 3.30pm and/or by appointment, SH680 R431**

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](http://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 scheme:

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.

*Participation & Oral Practice* – see *MyCourses* for detailed explanations and a grading rubric. Students’ active participation in a language class is essential. It is my goal as your instructor that each student be given ample opportunity to learn and apply the material. 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. Due to its spontaneous and in-class interactive/in-class context dependent unique nature, Participation & Oral Practice grade cannot be made up. Attendance is considered a mandatory course activity.

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 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 7 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 – 75% participation grade ; 5 absences – 50% participation grade ; 6 absences – 0 % participation grade ; 7 absences – 0% participation grade and no extra credit**

- \* 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.
- \* 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. While occasionally leaving class early may be unavoidable, frequent, or chronic early departure can hinder students' learning progress and become disruptive. Three late arrivals (10 min or more in a regular 50min class hour) and/or three early departures will count as one absence.
- \* If you need to leave early, you must notify your instructor in advance. Leaving class early without notifying the instructor in advance will count as an absence.
- \* Please note that graded assessment in language courses begins right away within the Add/Drop period. Students who joined the course later during the Add/Drop period have one week from the registration date to complete the missed graded assignments. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to arrange for the timely make-up of assignments and assessments missed during the Add/Drop period. Once one week from the registration date elapsed, no make-ups will be allowed.

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

Participation and Oral Practice	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%

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100%

*Home Assignments – see MyCourses for detailed submission instructions and a grading rubric.* Homework assignments are holistic assessments aimed to help students practice, reinforce, and test all four skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. 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) to optimise the class time for interactive communicative activities

and practice; 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. No late assignments will be accepted. No ChatGPT, Google Translate, and/or other similar internet-based resources can be used in preparation of homework, essays/compositions, other graded assignments.

*Group Presentation project – see MyCourses for detailed instructions and a grading rubric.* The class will be divided into small group, and each group will choose a topic for the project. A group presentation project aims to allow students to demonstrate their progress in oral communication skills. This is an interactive activity that includes spontaneous communication between the presenting group and the rest of the class. Due to its spontaneous and in-class interactive/in-class context dependent unique nature, Group Presentation project cannot be made up.

*Quizzes and Chapter Tests – see MyCourses for detailed instructions and a grading rubric. See MyCourses for the detailed schedule of all quizzes and tests for the semester.*

Quizzes aim to test students' knowledge of new vocabulary, grammar, writing and spelling. Tests aim to track students' progress in grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, and listening. The entire semester schedule of all quiz and test dates is available at the start of the semester. 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.

Under normal circumstances, quizzes may not be made up or re-taken at a later date. However, if a student provides a valid doctor's note within 7 working days from the date of absence, a quiz or test make-up may be accommodated.

*Discussions – see MyCourses for detailed instructions and a grading rubric.*

Students will be divided into groups. Each group will prepare a discussion for the entire class. This is an in-class content-based communicative activity. Due to their spontaneous and in-class interactive/in-class context dependent unique nature, Discussions cannot be made up.

*Compositions – see MyCourses for detailed instructions and a grading rubric.*

Compositions aim to help students develop their writing skills in the target language. 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 analyze and correct their mistakes and submit the second and final draft. Only the final draft will be graded. No ChatGPT, Google Translate, other similar internet-based resources can be used in preparation of homework, essays/compositions, other graded assignments.

*Extra Credit – see MyCourses for detailed instructions and a grading rubric.*

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit. Extra credit activities aim to provide students with opportunities to practice the target language in more spontaneous and non-academic environment while also earning extra points to boost their total course grade. They will be announced and explained in class as soon as they become available. These may include attendance at the Russian Conversation Club, Russian Help Desk, end-of-term Russian Evening

and/or 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/](http://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/](http://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 Student Accessibility and Achievement at 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-responsibilitieslerecueil-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).