RUSS 3002

Advanced Russian II

Our goals this semester are 1) to develop all four modalities of language use: listening, speaking, reading and writing; 2) to expand knowledge of more advanced grammar and syntax; 4) to strongly expand students' vocabulary base, both active and passive, focusing on abstractions and the language of public discourse/newspapers; 5) to communicate on a variety of topics, including religion, gender issues, social and political issues, and Russia and the West; and 6) *most importantly, to enjoy the richness of Russian language and culture!*

We will use the unusual make-up of this group to achieve a symbiosis between heritage speakers and ‘traditional’ language students.

Textbook:

Traditional students should purchase Rifkin, *Grammatika v kontekste* (textbook) and Tall and Vlasikova, *Let’s Talk about Life*. Heritage speakers should purchase Tall and Vlasikova and also Kagan, et. al., *Russian for Russians*. We will also be using many handouts and audio-visual materials.

Grading (for traditional students):

Active participation 15%

Compositions and Quizes 15%

Three unit tests 25%

Two oral exams (midterm and final) 15%

Final composition 15%

Final exam 15%

Grading (for heritage speakers):

Active participation 25%

In-class grammar quizzes and dictations 25%

Weekly compositions 25%

Final composition 25%

***Grades, especially for heritage speakers, will be based on effort and improvement.***

Notes

Heritage speakers are expected to complete exercises from *Russian for Russians* which are available on the web -- on the textbook website (<http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/rdr/>) and print out the results. In contrast, compositions should be handwritten. (The final composition can be typed, if desired.) I have found that the website interacts better with Firefox than with Internet Explorer.

Homework Expectations: You can expect to spend 1.5-2 hours in preparation for each class day. It is most effective to study some Russian every day.

Class Participation Grade:

No more than 3 unexcused absences and almost always well prepared for class – A;

Generally well prepared, sometimes partially prepared or unprepared – B;

Generally partially prepared or unprepared – C;

More than 3 unexcused absences – down one letter grade;

Significantly more than 3 – down two or more letter grades.

Only homework which is submitted on time or with a valid excuse (e.g., illness) will be corrected.

Compositions will be graded as follows:

Communicative Content 25%

Lexicon and spelling 25%

Grammatical Accuracy 25%

Syntax (variety, use of complex sentences) 15%

Originality 10%

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| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION** | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language** | RUSS 3002: Students will demonstrate oral proficiency at the Intermediate Mid or Intermediate High level on the ACTFL scale. |
| **ML Learning Outcome 2:** Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language |  |
| **ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language** | RUSS 3002: Students will produce topical essays, expressing their own opinions on current issues. |
| **ML Learning Outcome 4:**  Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target Language | RUSS 3001: Students will demonstrate gisting without a dictionary and reading for detail with a dictionary of a broad range of non-specialized authentic texts (newspaper articles, short stories, internet materials, etc.). |
| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE** | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a *specific* target-language country or region** | RUSS 3001: Students will demonstrate basic knowledge of a series of key social and political issues impacting the Russian-speaking world. |
| **ML Learning Outcome 6:**  Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s) | RUSS 3001: Students will compare conflicting target-culture perspectives on issues. |
| **ML Learning Outcome 7:**  Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context | RUSS 3001: Students will reflect on their own issue orientations in light of readings on the target culture and their knowledge of American contexts. |