

University of Pennsylvania | School of Arts & Sciences

Course Prospectus | Spring 2024

**Course ID and 7-digit Number:** RUSS 0400-401 and RUSS 0400-402

**Course Description and Level:**

This course is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series of second-year, intermediate-level Russian-language courses designed for students who completed RUSS 0300 or have otherwise demonstrated competence at this level. If you are new to Penn Russian Language Program and have studied or been exposed to Russian elsewhere, you will need to take the Russian placement test before registering for this course. Please contact the Russian Language Program Director, Dr. Maria Alley ([malley@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:malley@sas.upenn.edu)), as soon as possible.

**Course Structure for Spring 2024**

- **Goals:**

In this course you will continue developing competence in speaking, reading, writing, and understanding contemporary Russian, as well as your understanding of Russian culture and Russian-speaking cultures around the world. You will expand your active and passive vocabulary on a variety of topics, including personal appearance, characters traits, clothing and fashion, traveling, weather conditions and ecology.

- **In class:**

We will be meeting daily Monday through Thursday for 50-minute classes. You should plan to come to every class, to arrive on time, to be prepared and ready to practice Russian. You will have many opportunities to practice as a whole class, in small groups or pairs and we hope you will give activity your best effort.

- **Outside of class:**

The work you do at home to practice and improve your Russian is a central part of this course. You will spend at least 1 hour completing assigned activities every day, but you will frequently spend up to 2 hours going over the material covered in earlier lessons, learning and applying new vocabulary and grammar structures, and exploring other ways to practice Russian (listening to music, surfing the internet, etc.). Homework assignments range in point value from 5 to 15 points.

- **Assessments:**

There will be around 7-8 different types of assessments distributed regularly throughout the semester. These are meant to be regular “check-up” points to the work we are doing in class and will be closely aligned in form and content to the homework assignments and classroom activities and skills and competencies you will be developing. Assessments may be a grammar or a vocabulary quiz, an in-class or at-home essay, a video comprehension, a presentation, a discussion post, etc.).

- **Essential Course Policies**

Active participation in all class activities is key to your success in this course, as well as to the overall course dynamics and success. Therefore, it is expected that you will attend and actively participate in all classes. Recognizing that unexpected circumstances may arise, at the end of the semester your lowest **five daily attendance and participation scores will be dropped**. These may include absences due to physical or mental health concerns, athletic and ROTC obligations, extracurricular activities or any personal reasons. Following [University policy](#), students may miss class and not submit work on the days of major religious holidays, **if the students inform the instructor(s) about them in the first two weeks of class**. Beyond religious holidays and 5 lowest scores being dropped, there are no excused absences. Any additional absences may hinder your understanding of the course material and impact your grade in the course. Following Penn [policy](#), a student who misses or anticipates missing 5 or more consecutive days of class should contact the school's advising office as soon as possible.