

## **RUSSIAN 1200: Advanced Russian II**

### **Contemporary Russian Society**

#### **Course Description**

Welcome to Russian 312! In this course we will continue exploring aspects of contemporary Russian culture and society through mass media, opinion polls, TV, and film. The major goal of this course is help students move toward advanced proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, writing in Russian. During the semester we will work on building active and passive vocabulary on a variety of topics, and developing higher-level language skills such as describing, narrating, giving and supporting opinions, and hypothesizing. We will also focus on more advanced and problematic grammatical concepts (verbal aspect, verbal system), complex syntax and lexicology. The course is taught in Russian.

#### **Class Structure**

- ☐ Class meets MW 12:00–1:30 PM

#### **Outline of Assignments & Assessments**

- ☐ Daily homework including written assignments, reading, and preparation for discussions.
- ☐ Quizzes on grammar and vocabulary.
- ☐ In-class compositions.
- ☐ Small group presentation with slides.
- ☐ Final oral exam.

#### **Required Materials**

- ☐ All required materials will be posted to Canvas by instructor.

- Working in teams, students will have to prepare a virtual museum space based on the contents of the course, and present a 15-min. virtual excursion to the class.
- Create a creative work inspired by the themes covered in the course.
- Regardless of project choice, each student will require to write a 350+ word proposal with a condensed description of the main ideas, theoretical background and primary and secondary materials of the project.

**Time and location:** TR 10:30—12:00

**Zoom Meeting**

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/97878513638?pwd=SXNRWFFYZldNcjVneENKQjAyeFNuZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 978 7851 3638

**Passcode:** 806596

**Instructor:** Djamilia Nazyrova (Джамиля Ильгизовна Назырова)

**Office hours:** by appointment

**E-mail:** [nazyrova@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:nazyrova@sas.upenn.edu), [nazyrovaj@gmail.com](mailto:nazyrovaj@gmail.com)

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ☐ Develop language and culture competency in Russian
- ☐ Achieve higher levels of language competency in speaking, listening, reading and writing
- ☐ Place all language learning into contemporary Russian cultural context
- ☐ Become accustomed to hearing authentic speech spoken by a wide variety of Russian speakers
- ☐ Expand active and passive vocabulary on a wide range of topics
- ☐ Increase ability to express yourself accurately and effectively
- ☐ Develop learning strategies

## MATERIALS

All course materials will be selected and/or prepared by the instructor from a variety of sources and distributed in class and on Canvas.

A required reference book is **Terence Wade and David Gillespie's *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2010)**. You may purchase this book online on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or elsewhere and use a print or an electronic edition. A copy (both paper and e-book) is available in Van Pelt library. This is the Russian language program's reference book that will serve as a good reference for you as long as you study Russian language, at Penn and beyond!

## GRADING

Attendance and participation	20%
Homework (written and speaking)	20%
Presentations	10%
Essays	20%
3 tests	20%

At the end of the semester, your final percentage will determine your final course grade as follows:

98-100	<b>A+</b>	83 - 86	<b>B</b>	70 - 72	<b>C-</b>
93 - 97	<b>A</b>	80 - 82	<b>B-</b>	60 - 69	<b>D</b>
90 - 92	<b>A-</b>	77 - 79	<b>C+</b>	59 & below	<b>F</b>
87 - 89	<b>B+</b>	73 - 76	<b>C</b>		

All final course grades are rounded up from .5 and down from .4.

## AUDITING THE COURSE

Course audits are only allowed for graduate students with permission from their home departments. Undergraduate students are not allowed to audit courses. Auditing students have the same attendance, participation and homework requirements as registered students. Expectations for completion of other course components (including tests and exams) must be agreed upon with the instructor of the course during the first week of the semester. Silent auditors are not allowed.

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular class attendance and active participation in all class activities is absolutely essential for your progress. Each day that you are absent will not only seriously affect your attendance and participation grade, but will also affect your performance on homework and tests. By missing class or coming to class unprepared or late, you are less likely to learn the material, will be unable to achieve your own language learning goals, and will deprive your classmates of opportunities to learn as well. At the end of the semester, your attendance and participation grade will be calculated

based on the average of daily attendance and participation grades assigned using the following scale:

**0**      absent

1	present, but not prepared for class; does not participate; does not stay on task and/or in Russian, does not listen to others.
2	present, but <i>minimally</i> prepared; <i>rarely</i> able to answer when called on; rarely uses Russian when required; rarely stays on task during partner/group work, rarely volunteers or contributes to group activities, rarely listens to others.
3	present, but <i>inconsistently</i> prepared; <i>sometimes</i> able to answer when called on; sometimes uses Russian when required; sometimes stays on task during partner/group work, sometimes volunteers or productively contributes to group activities, sometimes listens to others.
4	present and prepared for <i>most</i> activities; answers when called on <i>most of the time</i> , willingly and productively contributes to class activities; makes a conscious effort to use Russian as much as possible and stays on task during partner/group work; volunteers answers to open questions (not directed at anyone) with constructive comments; listens and respects contributions of others.
5	present; demonstrates high level of preparation; always answers when called on; willingly and productively participates in all class activities; uses Russian almost exclusively; stays on task during partner/group work; volunteers constructive comments; shares pertinent information; listens and respects the ideas and comments of others.

Please note that you are *not* expected to answer all questions posed in class correctly. In fact, mistakes are a natural part of the learning process. However, we expect that you will come to every class committed and prepared to *attempt* to answer every question, to take every opportunity to practice your Russian, and to help other students in class to do the same.

If you arrive late, points will be deducted from your daily attendance and participation grade.

## **HOMEWORK**

You will have required written and/or oral homework for every class meeting as a way of cementing what is being done in class and in order to prepare for classroom discussions. You should plan to spend three to four hours of homework for every class meeting. Every night, in addition to completing assigned exercises, you should go over the material covered in class and in earlier lessons, actively learn and use new vocabulary and grammar structures, find other ways to practice Russian (listening to music, surfing the internet, etc.).

If answers to homework assignments are provided, you should correct your homework before turning it in using a different color ink pen. All homework assignments will be graded for accuracy and effort using the following scale:

<b>0</b>	did not turn in or no work completed
<b>1</b>	carelessly done with many mistakes; no evidence of use of answer key or reference materials (textbook grammar explanations, dictionary); open-ended activities carelessly prepared
<b>2</b>	little evidence of use of answer key or reference materials (textbook grammar explanations, dictionary); few exercises done carefully, most hastily completed and dominated by errors
<b>3</b>	some evidence of use of answer key or reference materials (textbook grammar explanations, dictionary); some exercises done carefully, others hastily completed and contain multiple errors.
<b>4</b>	most exercises carefully completed; most exercises corrected using an answer key or using appropriate reference materials, but may be missing some information, corrections, or contain some errors in key structures.
<b>5</b>	all exercises carefully done; all exercises carefully corrected/revised using answer key or appropriate reference materials; open-ended activities show thought and attention and stretch student's abilities beyond the required minimum

**All homework is due on the dates indicated in the homework schedule *in the beginning of class*. Any work submitted after this time will be considered late and will receive partial credit (-1 point for every class day it is late).**

### **ABSENCES/MAKE-UP WORK POLICY**

Regular attendance, active participation and consistent work outside of class are an important part of your performance in this course.

At the end of the semester, two lowest daily attendance and participation scores will be dropped. These may include absences. After the two absences, your final grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade for each additional absence (i.e. if it was an A before the third absence, it'll be reduced to an A- after the third absence).

There are no “excused absences” – if you miss class, you are responsible for making up any work and knowing the material covered. All absences must be reported using “Course Absence Report” in Penn-in-Touch. In this course we use CAR system to manage information about course absences. You should also contact your instructor immediately to discuss deadlines for making up missed homework.

You are supposed to arrive to class on time and stay in class through the end. Three times you miss more than 5 min of class time count as 1 absence.

Following Penn policy, if a student misses or anticipates missing 5 or more consecutive days of classes, she or he should contact the College Office as soon as possible.

If you miss class for any reason, you are responsible for making up any work and for knowing the material covered as soon as possible. In any such instances please keep open communication with your instructor.

Test make-ups will only be allowed when the instructor is presented with verifiable documentation confirming an excused absence (in one of the categories discussed above). Aside from such verifiable incidents, requests to reschedule a test/exam will only be considered if the request is made at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled test/exam and are not guaranteed.

Please take a careful look at scheduled test times and let your instructor know of any time conflicts in advance.

Course problem notices (CPN) in Penn-in-Touch will be used in this course to alert students individually of any course related problems that could impede their success.

## **COMPILING VOCABULARY LISTS**

During each class, one student will be responsible for compiling a list of key vocabulary we use in class discussions on that day for future reference and active use by all students. The number of lists you will compile this semester will depend on our class size. Please check Canvas for specific guidelines for compiling vocabulary lists and the grading rubric.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

During the semester each student will make 1-3 presentations (depending on class size). Each presentation should be about 5-7 min. long and should be on any recent Russia-related topic (related or unrelated to topics and issues discussed in class). Your presentations will be evaluated on content, accuracy (grammatical and lexical), effectiveness of communication (including organization) and fluency, preparedness and pronunciation. Please check Canvas for specific guidelines for making presentations and the grading rubric. You will find presentation guidelines on Canvas.

## **ESSAYS**

For each of the three topics we cover this semester you will write an essay examining an issue or

a topic related to the general theme. In order to maximize opportunities for you to improve your writing competency in Russian, you will write 2 drafts for each essay: the first draft and the final draft. Only the final draft of each essay will receive a grade that would count towards your final grade in this course. The specific instructions and requirements concerning draft revisions will be discussed in class. Essays will be graded for content, organization, accuracy (grammatical and lexical) and mechanics (spelling, capitalization, punctuation). Please see Canvas for specific guidelines for writing essays and the grading rubric.

## TESTS

During the semester, there will be three written tests, each will reflect the material and tasks we completed in class and as part of homework in the preceding unit. All tests will include a reading section, a grammar/vocabulary section, a short essay and a speaking task. The speaking part of the test will be conducted by your instructor outside of class and will generally consist of a spontaneous conversation on various topics covered in class. During this part of the test, you will be graded on content, comprehension, accuracy, fluency and pronunciation. Please see Canvas for the grading rubric.

As a follow-up to first and the last speaking test, you will listen to and analyze a small 2-minute portion of your speech in order to get a better understanding of what your Russian sounds like and how to best improve it. You will then write out your response in Russian and then make careful, thorough content, grammar, vocabulary changes using dictionaries and other resources. Your instructor will then review your corrections and add any other suggestions for making your response sound even more “Russian.”

Test 1 (**Образование**) is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, Test 2 (**Социальные сети**) for Tuesday, March 23 and Test 3 (**Большие города и экология**) will take place during the finals week (specific date TBA at a later time). **If this schedule needs to be changed, changes will be announced in class.** The specific requirements and expectations for each test will be discussed in class in advance.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students of Russian at Penn may take advantage of a wealth of extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Department and by other units at Penn, including weekly informal conversation gatherings (Russian Tea), lectures and discussions, language competitions, film screenings, parties and more. You may receive up to three points of extra credit added to your written test grade for participation in such events (1 point per one event). Events eligible for extra credit will be announced in class or via e-mail and on the department website. To encourage regular participation throughout the semester, all extra credit must be completed and submitted to the instructor by the last day of regularly scheduled classes of the semester.

## LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Every student at Penn can request a Russian tutor who will attend to his/her linguistic and learning needs patiently and with care. It is a free service provided through Penn Language Center. If you are interested, you may find more information about this program at [http://www.plc.sas.upenn.edu/language\\_direct/](http://www.plc.sas.upenn.edu/language_direct/) and submit an online application at [http://www.plc.sas.upenn.edu/language\\_direct/request\\_tutor.html](http://www.plc.sas.upenn.edu/language_direct/request_tutor.html). We also encourage you to take advantage of the office hours held by our Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant, Olga Koltcova, during her office hours on Tuesdays 12 to 2 pm.

## CLASSROOM RULES FOR RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

The following is a list of classroom rules that was devised so that all students may experience a comfortable and productive learning environment. Many of these rules are self-evident and already observed by most students. However, it is helpful for everyone in the group to understand explicitly what type of behavior is expected in Russian language classrooms. All students are expected to abide by these rules, and students will be held accountable for any infraction of these rules. Thank you for your cooperation, and please see your instructor if you have any questions or concerns.

1. All students are expected to abide by the rules of *the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity*, which can be found at [http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic\\_integrity\\_code\\_of](http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic_integrity_code_of) and *Code of Student Conduct* located at [http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/conduct\\_code\\_of\\_student](http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/conduct_code_of_student).

Any violations of the Code, including plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own) or dishonest practices during examinations will be reported to the university officials.

Please note that the use of any translation program and/or website with phrasal input or help of native and fluent speakers of Russian is also considered plagiarism. Any work you submit for grading must be your own and must represent vocabulary and structures covered in this course.

2. University of Pennsylvania provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of [Student Disabilities Services](#) (SDS). Please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible in order to discuss your accommodations and your needs. If you have not yet



contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215.573.9235. The office is located in the [Weingarten Learning Resources Center](#) at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. All services are confidential.

3. In this course, you will be asked to express personal opinions and to talk and write about yourself, your family, and friends. If you prefer, you do not need to discuss or reveal any personal information; instead you may provide fictitious information. When you are being creative, you are expected to keep in mind the general purpose of the activity by using relevant vocabulary and expressions.
4. The use of profanity in the classroom (in any language) will not be tolerated.
5. The use of any electronic devices is not permitted during class, except with permission of the instructor.

**Should you have any questions regarding Russian at Penn please feel free to talk to your instructor, and, of course, at any time you are welcome to drop in on the Russian Language Program Coordinator, Dr. Maria Alley (Williams 739, (215) 746-5977, [malley@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:malley@sas.upenn.edu)).**