

**ADVANCED RUSSIAN COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION**

**REE 385/RUS 327/RUS 380D**

**Spring 2012**

**Instructor:** Dr. Bella Bychkova Jordan

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**Office hours:** Wednesday 12 :00-2:00 and by appointment in Calhoun 3

**Meeting time:** W 2:00-5:00pm

**Course description:** This course is designed to teach advanced writing and oral communication skills in the Russian language based on both traditional approach to grammatical and lexical studies of the language and innovative use of current Russian media, including newspaper and magazine articles, news programs, DVD clips and short films. The goal of the course is to help students learn how to master both formal and informal knowledge of contemporary Russian and ability to discuss the most important issues of the Russian society. These will include Russian current political issues, socio-economic development, demographic and health problems, ecological challenges, and everyday life.

**Course requirements:** students will be given assignments on a weekly basis, including:

- 1) Writing assignments on topics given by the instructor – double-spaced 12 font typed assignments for graduate students – 2 page long, for the undergraduates – 1 page long;
- 2) Oral assignments allowing discussion during class time – once a week;
- 3) By the end of the semester students will give one final oral paper on a topic chosen by a student and approved by the instructor.

**Course grading:**

1. 12 take home written assignments – 60% of the final grade, each worth 5 points.
2. Participation and discussion in the class – 24%.
3. Final oral presentation – 16%.

**Course materials:** all course materials will be provided by the instructor before the assignments in advance.

**Course prerequisite:** 3 years of advanced level Russian language courses.

## Course schedule

Jan 18	Topic 1: <b>Grammar: Russian verbs conjugation</b>
Jan 25	Topic 2: <b>Grammar: Ways of expressing <i>to have</i></b> / Assignment # 1 due
Feb 1	Topic 3: <b>Grammar: Verbs that describe locale</b> / Assignment #2 due
Feb 8	Topic 4: <b>Anton Chekhov's "Drama during hunting" Part I</b> /Assignment #3 due
Feb 15	Topic 4: <b>Anton Chekhov's "Drama during hunting" Part II</b> /Assignment #4 due
Feb 22	Topic 5: <b>Russian symbolist poets: Brysov, Balmont, Blok</b> / Assignment #5 due
Feb 29	Topic 6: <b>Russian acmeist poets: Anna Akhmatova</b> /Assignment #6 due
March 7	Topic 7: <b>Russian futurists: Mayakovsky</b> / Assignment #7 due
March 12-17	Spring break
March 21	Topic 8: <b>Russian 'village writers': Astafiev, Rasputin</b> /Assignment #8 due
March 28	Topic 9: <b>Works of Fasil Iskander</b> / Assignment #9 due
Apr 4	Topic 10: <b>Prose of Chinghiz Aitmatov</b> / Assignment #10 due
Apr 11	Topic 11: <b>Children's language: Korney Chukovsky</b> /Assignment #11 due
Apr 18	Topic 12: <b>Russian folk tales and legends</b> / Asssignment #12 due
Apr 25	<b>Student presentations and discussions</b>
May 2	<b>Student presentations and discussions</b>

