ADVANCED RUSSIAN COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION

REE 385 #44620/ RUS 326 #44910

Fall 2010

Instructor: Dr. Bella Bychkova Jordan  e-mail: belka@mail.utexas.edu

Office hours: Monday 11:00-5:00 and by appointment in Calhoun 3

Course description: This course is designed to teach advanced writing and oral communication skills in the Russian language based on the use of the 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 political challenges, socio-economic development, demographic and health problems, everyday life, religion and art.

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

1) Writing assignments on topics given by the instructor – double-spaces 12 font typed assignments for graduate students – 2 page long, for the undergraduates – 1 page long;
2) Oral assignments allowing discussion in 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. 10 take home written assignments – 60% of the final grade.
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 courses.
Course schedule

Aug 26  Introduction to the course
Aug 31  Topic 1: Grammar: Genitive, Dative and Accusative Cases of Nouns
Sep  2  Topic 2: Grammar: Instrumental and Prepositional Cases of Nouns
Sep  7  Topic 3: Grammar: Russian Verb Subjugations/ Assignment # 1 due
Sep  9  Topic 4: Grammar: Subjunctive and Conditional
Sep 14  Topic 5: “Polarization of the Russian Society and Splitting of National Identity”/ Assignment # 2 due
Sep 16  Topic 5: discussion and exercises
Sep 21  Topic 6: “Instability in North Caucasus”/ Assignment # 3 due
Sep 23  Topic 6: discussion and exercises
Sep 28  Topic 7: “Demography and Health in Russia”/ Assignment # 4 due
Sep 30  Topic 7: discussion and exercises
Oct  5  Topic 8: “Russian Religious Culture” /Assignment # 5 due
Oct  7  Topic 8: discussion and exercises
Oct 12  Topic 9: “Russian Education System” /Assignment # 6 due
Oct 14  Topic 9: discussion and exercises
Oct 19  Topic 10: “Russian Classical Literature (Chekhov)”/ Assignment # 7 due
Oct 21  Topic 10: discussion and exercises
Oct 26  
Topic 11: “Soviet Revolutionary Poetry (Mayakovsky)/ Assignment # 8 due

Oct 28  
Topic 11: discussion and exercises

Nov 2  
Topic 12: “Russian ‘Cult’ Films”/ Assignment # 9 due

Nov 4  
Topic 12: discussion and exercises

Nov 9  
Topic 12 (continuation): “Russian ‘Cult’ Films” (Vysotsky)

Nov 11  
Graduate student presentations and discussion/ Assignment # 10 due

Nov 16  
Graduate student presentations and discussion

Nov 18  
Graduate student presentations and discussion

Nov 23  
Undergraduate student presentations and discussion

Nov 25  
Thanksgiving – No class

Nov 30  
Undergraduate student presentations and discussion

Dec 2  
Undergraduate student presentations and discussion

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!