Class code: RUSSN-UN 9004001

Instructor Details
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NYU, Malé nám. 2.  
Monday 12:30-13:30 or to be arranged via e-mail

Class Details
Russian Intermediate II – SPRING 2015  
Days and time TBA  
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
Russian Intermediate I or equivalent.

Class Description
The course combines the traditional grammatical approach with a communicational, interactive method. Since the size of the classes is usually small we can put a great emphasis on oral drills and improving speaking in Russian on various subjects. Students will be given short topics to talk about at the beginning of every lesson and most written essays will have to be presented orally in class.

The class also focuses on improving your writing skills and broadening your vocabulary. That is why the students are expected to keep a diary in Russian and write several compositions during the course. The students will also read several Russian short stories which will be discussed in class. We will review familiar grammar and study some advanced grammatical structures. The students will do considerable amount of grammar and vocabulary exercises in the Workbook as part of the home assignments. Several short lectures on various aspects of Russian culture and history will be given during the course and we will watch two Russian films that would be followed by the discussions.

**Russian Prague as a living classroom.** This class takes advantage of the multitude of Russian cultural events that Prague offers. Several trips to performances including opera, ballet and classical concerts are arranged as a part of the course. Various fieldtrips are undertaken to allow students to get to know Russian culture more intimately.

*The schedule given below might be slightly changed if more time is needed for certain topics or more supplementary material will be provided if we proceed faster.*

Language lessons, listening to audio materials, video and film viewing, short lectures, discussions; fieldtrips including trips to Museum of Modern Art, Russian ballet, Russian Opera and a concert of Russian classical music.

Desired Outcomes
By the end of this course the students will have made progress towards the following goals:
Students will improve their communication skills in Russian.  
Students will be confident in writing in Russian on various topics.  
Students will get some knowledge and experience of reading Russian Literature in the original.  
Students will be exposed to several aspects of Russian culture.

Assessment Components
| Class attendance, participation and preparation | 15 points |
| Workbook, Diary, Compositions | 20 points |
| Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes | 10 points |
| Oral presentations | 10 points |
Reading and Comprehension 10 points
Midterm Exam 15 points
Final Exam 20 points

Class attendance, participation and preparation: Students should actively participate in the class and should be aware that the minimum time required for personal study and homework should at least equal the number of class hours per week.

Workbooks: Workbooks will be collected and graded by the end of each Unit. The days on which the workbooks are due are announced in advance.

Diary in Russian: Please buy a notebook (diary). The number of the entries and the length of each entry are up to the student but every week something has to be written and the diary has to be submitted each Tuesday and will be returned to the student on Thursday. The entries will be corrected but NOT GRADED, students are free to experiment and use what they learn creatively.

Compositions: There will be four shorter compositions (about 150 words) and two longer compositions (about 350 words).

Vocabulary and Grammar Quizzes: There will be regular quizzes, both on grammar and on vocabulary. The dates of five quizzes and the topics will be announced in advance.

Oral presentations: There will be five oral presentations each for 5 minutes and two longer presentations for 10 minutes. Most presentations will be based on written compositions. Students should not read their presentations.

Reading and Comprehension: There will be two long short stories and one short story to read. The students will be given about 4 weeks for reading long stories. Пушкин (15 pages), Гоголь (30 pages), Чехов (3 pages).

Recitations of the Russian poems: There will be four poems to memorize during the course. Students will recite one poem of their choice as a part of Midterm and Final Exams.

Midterm and Final Exam: Each exam will consist of two parts. Oral part: recitation of a poem and presentation of an essay written at home (10 minutes). Written part: vocabulary and grammar tests in class (60 minutes) and submission of an essay written at home (450 words). The topics of the essay will be given in advance.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work.
Grade B: Very good work.
Grade C: Satisfactory work.
Grade D: Passable work.
Grade F: Failure to achieve a passable standard.

Grade conversion
A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65
Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Associate Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

Late submission of work will affect your final grade.

**Required Text(s)**


The Course Pack will be provided at the beginning of the course.

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-P Library)**


Additional short readings. Supplementary grammar tables and exercises. Vocabulary lists. The list of useful websites will be given in class.

**Additional Required Equipment**

Your own copy of a good Russian-English/English-Russian Dictionary would be useful, but not compulsory. Please buy a separate small notebook for keeping a journal in Russian.

**Session 1**

**Tuesday, Feb 3**

**Unit 8. Тема 1.**

**Work in class**

Themes and topics: Introduction of the course and the textbooks.

Listening: A song.


Speaking: Travelling around Eastern Europe, pages 190-193.

Vocabulary: Countries and nationalities, page 192.

**Homework assignment**

Text book В путь: text to read, 8-6, page 192.

Student Workbook В путь: 8-8, 8-10, 8-11, 8-12, pages 162-164.

To read a short story by Николай Гоголь (in total 30 pages).

The text with a vocabulary list will be provided in class.

**Session 2**

**Thursday, Feb 5**

**Unit 8. Тема 2.**

**Work in class**

Themes and topics: Vocations and traveling, pages 198-203.

Grammar topic: Types of unidirectional and multidirectional verbs of motion, pages 203-206.

Listening: Fill in the missing words in the dialogue, page 202.

Word-forming: Using the suffixes –тель/-ниц.

**Homework assignment**
Session 3
Tuesday, Feb 10

Unit 8. Тема 3.

Work in class

Themes and topics: Ecological tourism, pages 207-211.
Presentation: Student’s presentations about various countries of the former Soviet Union.
Discussion: Peter I and his travels in Europe (based on the text on page 216).
Grammar topics: Using verbs of unidirectional motion in the past and future tenses, page 211.
Review of negative constructions, pages 212-213.
Listening: Fill in the missing words in the dialogue, page 210

Homework assignment

To prepare for the Vocabulary and grammar quiz (Unit 8).

Diaries in Russian are due for submitting.

Session 4
Thursday, Feb 12

Unit 9. Тема 1. Moscow: its history and architecture.

Work in class

Discussion: Иван Тургенев: his life and his ‘poems in prose’.
Presentation: A short lecture about Moscow.
Video: A video in Russian about the history and architecture of Moscow.
Grammar topics: Using the prefix по- with verbs of motion; prefixed verbs of motion, pages 224-228.

Homework assignment

Text book: To read the text about Moscow Tretyakov Gallery, 9-67, page 252; to read 9-4, pages 222-223, to do the exercise 9-17, page 229. To write a composition (150 words) about your home town and prepare to talk about it in class (5 minutes), see 9-5, page 223.
To memorize a poem by Иван Тургенев.

Workbooks will be collected and all homework assignments for Unit 8 will be corrected.

Session 5
Tuesday, Feb 17

Unit 9. Тема 2.

Work in class

Vocabulary and grammar quiz (Unit 8).
Presentation: Your home town.
Themes and topics: Finding your way around a city, pages 230-234.
Grammar topics: Prefixed verbs of motion, pages 235-238
Listening: Fill in the missing words in the dialogue, page 232.

Homework assignment

Student Workbook: 9-5, 9-7, 9-8, 9-9, 9-10, 9-12, 9-19, 2-23, pages 181-188.

Diaries in Russian are due for submitting

Session 6
Thursday, Feb 19

Unit 9. Тема 3.

Work in class

Discussion: A short story by Николай Гоголь (session I).
**Themes and topics**: Traffic in the city and various means of transport, pages 239-244.

**Grammar topics**: Prefixed verbs of motion, Russian equivalents for driving; reversible or undoable actions, pages 244-250.

**Listening**: Fill in the missing words in the dialogues, pages 242-243.

**Recitation**: Poems by Иван Тургенев.

**Homework assignment**: 

**Text book**: Культура и история, to read a text about Александр Блок and to memorize his poem, page 251.


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<td><strong>Unit 9</strong>: Saint. Petersburg: its history and architecture.</td>
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<td><strong>Work in class</strong>:</td>
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<td><strong>Listening</strong>: A song about St. Petersburg.</td>
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<td><strong>Themes and topics</strong>: A short lecture about St. Petersburg, its history and architecture.</td>
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**Homework assignment**: 

**Student book**: To read two texts about St. Petersburg and the Hermitage, 9-37, 9-38, pages 196-197; also 9-40, page 201.

**Diaries in Russian are due for submitting**

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<th>Session 8</th>
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<td>Russian film.</td>
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**Homework assignment**: 

To write an essay (about 350 words) about the main themes and characters of the film. Please prepare a 5 minute presentation in class.

To prepare for the Vocabulary and grammar quiz (Unit 9).

**Work books will be collected and all homework assignments for Unit 9 will be graded.**

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<th>Session 9</th>
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<td><strong>Discussion and presentation</strong>: The essays on the film.</td>
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<td><strong>Recitation</strong>: A poem by Александр Блок.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grammar topics</strong>: Particules, the formation and translation of active participles, pages 168-172. Additional grammar exercises will be provided in class.</td>
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**Homework assignment**: 

**Student Workbook**: 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, pages 141-144.

**Diaries in Russian are due for submitting**

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<td><strong>Work in class</strong>:</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong>: A short story by Николай Гоголь (session II).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grammar topics</strong>: The formation and translation of passive participles, short forms of past passive participles, pages 174-176. Additional material and grammar exercises will be provided in class.</td>
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**Homework assignment**: 

**Text book**: To read a text about Петр Чайковский, page 174.

**Student Workbook**: 7-6, 7-7, 7-8, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11, 7-12, 7-13, 7-14, pages 144-148.

To prepare an oral presentation (5 min) about a Russian composer, musician or singer.
To read a short story by Александр Пушкин (15 pages) by April. The text with a vocabulary list will be provided in class.

**Homework assignment:**

Text book: To read two texts about Russian history, pages 185-186 and to study a table on the history of Russia and the USA, 12-41, pages 334-338.

To write a composition (about 350 words) about a chosen period of Russian history we have discussed about and ‘have seen ‘on the fieldtrip. Please be prepared to present your essay in class (10 minutes).

**Session 12**

**Thursday, March 12**

**Unit 7.**

**Themes and topics:** Russian history.

**Presentation and discussion:** The essays on Russian history.

**Grammar topics:** Verbal adverbs: use and formation; complex sentences with dependent clauses introduced by mo, pages 178-184. Additional grammar exercises will be provided in class.

**Homework assignment:**

Text book: To read a text about Анна Павлова, page 177.

Work book: 7-15, 7-16, 7-17, 7-18, pages 148-150, and to read about Галина Вишневская and Мстислав Ростропович, 7-20, page 152.

To memorize a poem by Дмитрий Кедрин, page 180.

To prepare for the Vocabulary and grammar quiz (Unit 7).

**The topics for the midterm essay (about 450 words) will be announced.**

Diaries in Russian are due for submitting.

**Session 13**

**Tuesday, March 17**

**Russian Classical Music.**

**Work in class:**

Vocabulary and grammar quiz on Unit 7.

**Theme:** Short lecture about Russian Classical Music.

**Presentations:** Students oral presentation about a Russian composer (5min).

**Discussion:** Russian performances we have seen in Prague; texts about Игорь Стравинский and Сергей Дягилев, pages 180-181.

**Listening:** extracts from Russian opera and ballet.

**Homework assignment:**

Text book: to revise the grammar for Units 7-9.

Workbooks will be collected and all homework assignments for Unit 7 will be corrected.

**Session 14**

**Thursday, March 19**

Discussion: A short story Александр Пушкин.

Diaries in Russian are due for submitting

**Session 15**

**Tuesday, March 24**

Revision for the midterm exam.

**Work in class:**

Revision and preparation to the midterm, explanation about the corrections of the workbooks, discussion and consultation about the midterm essay.

Diaries in Russian are due for submitting.
Session 16
Thursday, March 26

**MIDTERM EXAM**

**Oral part:** recitation of a poem, presentation of your midterm essay.

**Written part:** vocabulary and grammar test on units 7, 8, 9.

**A midterm essay to submit**

Session 17
Tuesday, March 31

**Unit 10. Тема 1.**

**Work in class**

*Themes and topics:* Climate, weather, clothing, pages 258-262

*Grammar topics:* Long and short forms of adjectives.

**Homework assignment:**

*Text book:* Texts to read, 10-19, page 266.

*Student Workbook:* 10-5, 10-6, 10-7, 10-12, 10-13, 10-14, 10-15, pages 202-212.

**Diaries in Russian are due for submitting**

Session 18
Thursday, April 2

**Unit 10. Тема 2.**

**Work in class:**

*Themes and topics:* Natural disasters, pages 265-267.

*Grammar topics:* The comparative degree of adjectives and adverbs; comparatives with a stem alternation, pages 268-271.


**Homework assignment:**


*Student Workbook:* 10-17, 10-19, 10-20, 10-21, 10-22, pages 213-216 and 10-36, page 223.

**Spring Break**
April 6-10

**Session 19**
Tuesday, April 14

**Unit 10. Тема 2.**

**Work in class:**

*Themes and topics:* Natural disasters, pages 265-267.

*Grammar topics:* The comparative degree of adjectives and adverbs; comparatives with a stem alternation, pages 268-271.


**Homework assignment:**


*Student Workbook:* 10-17, 10-19, 10-20, 10-21, 10-22, pages 213-216 and 10-36, page 223.

Session 20
Thursday, April 16

**Unit 10. Тема 3.**

**Work in class**

*Recitation:* A poem by Федор Тютчев.

*Themes and topics:* Human body, health and illnesses, pages 272-275.

*Discussion:* How to stay healthy and well, page 280.

*Grammar topics:* Expressing comparison in Russian; the superlative degree of adjectives and
adverbs.

**Listening:** Fill in the missing words in the dialogues, page 276.

**Homework assignment:**

**Student Workbook:** 10-26, 10-30, 10-31, 10-32, 10-33, pages 77-88.

To prepare for the Vocabulary and grammar quiz (Unit 10).

**Diaries in Russian are due for submitting**

Unit 11. Тема 1.

**Work in class:**

**Discussion:** A short story by Антон Чехов.

**Themes and topics:** The food, national dishes, pages 286-289.

**Grammar topics:** Using aspect in imperative forms; requests and commands: chose of aspect, page 289-291.

**Homework assignment:**

**Student Workbook:** 11-3, 11-5, 11-8, 11-9, 11-10, pages 229-232; 11-32, page 241; to write a recipe of your favorite dish (see 11-33, page 241).

**Diaries in Russian are due for submitting**

Revision of grammar for the final exam. Russian Tea.

**Session 22**

**Thursday, April 23**

Unit 11. Тема 2.

**Work in class:**

**Presentation:** A recipe of your favorite dish.

**Themes and topics:** Visiting friends and entertaining guests, pages 292-296.

**Grammar topics:** The use of пусть and давай/те in the imperatives; the partitive genitive.

**Listening:** Fill in the missing words in the dialogues, page 295.

**Homework assignment:**

**Student Workbook:** 11-14, 11-16, 11-17, 11-18, 11-19, 11-23, 11-24, 11-25, pages 233-238

The topics for the final essay (about 450 words) will be given.

**Session 23**

**Tuesday, April 28**

Unit 11. Тема 3.

**Work in class:**

**Themes and topics:** Cooking and eating out in the restaurant, pages 298-303.

**Grammar topics:** Expressing indirect commands, suggestions, and wishes; wanting to do something versus wanting someone else to do something, pages 304-305; exercises in the student book: 11-30, 11-35, 11-36, pages 240, 242.

**Listening:** Fill in the missing words in the dialogues, page 303.

**Workbooks will be collected and all homework assignments for Unit 11 will be graded.**

**Session 24**

**Thursday, April 30**

Unit 12. Тема 1.

**Work in class:**

**Presentation and discussion:** Students’ presentations about the film.

**Themes and topics:** Sport, pages 314-317.

**Grammar topics:** Declension of surnames, pages 319-320.

**Listening:** Fill in the missing words in the dialogue, page 331.

**Homework assignment:**

**Text book:** To read the texts 12-15 and 12-16, pages 321.
Session 25
Tuesday, May 5

Unit 12. Тема 2.

Work in class:
Themes and topics: Literature, pages 321-324.

Homework assignment:
Student Workbook: 12-9, 11-10, 12-11, 12-14, pages 253-255.

Session 26
Thursday, May 7

Unit 12. Тема 3.

Work in class:
Themes and topics: Cinema and television, pages 327-332.
Presentation: A short lecture about a Russian director and his film we are going to watch.
Listening: Fill in the missing words in the dialogue, page 33.1

Homework assignment:
Student Workbook: 12-18, page 257; to read a text about the history of Russian cinema, page 259.

Workbooks will be collected and all homework assignments for Unit 10 and 12 will be corrected.

Session 27
Tuesday, May 12

Fieldtrip to the Museum of Modern Art, the section of the International art (Russian painters).

Homework assignment
To write an essay (150 words) about any Russian artist and his paintings we have seen in the museum. Please be prepared to present your essay in class (5 min).

Text book: To read the texts about Василий Кандинский, Казимир Малевич, Марк Шагал, pages 332-333.

Session 28
Thursday, May 14 (last day of classes)

Revision for the Final Exam

Work in class:
Consultation and explanation about the corrections in the Workbooks

Video Советы молодым, the discussion and Russian tea.

Diaries in Russian are due for submitting

Session 29
Tuesday, May 19

FINAL EXAM

Oral part: recitation of a poem, presentation of your final essay (10 minutes).
Written part: vocabulary and grammar test
A final essay to submit.

Session 30
Thursday, May 21

Consultation after the Final Exam.

Consultation and the explanation of the corrections of the final essay and the written part of the Final Exam.

Classroom Etiquette
Mobile phones should be set on silent and should be not used in class except for emergencies.
Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.
Food is not consumed in class, but drinks (water, tea, coffee) are allowed.

Required Co-curricular Activities
There will be two fieldtrips that will take place during the normal teaching hours.
There will be several trips to the theatres and concert halls for Russian Opera and Russian Ballet and Russian Classical music, usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The exact days will be
announced.
To be announced.