



2023 CLS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Prepared by American Councils for International
Education

CLS Course Descriptions

RUSSIAN – BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN and Tbilisi, Georgia

Advanced Beginning Level

RUSS 053 Adv. Beg. Russian Conversation (1 unit)

This course deepens students' vocabulary on topics related to daily life, allows them to further understand phonetic and intonation norms in spoken Russian, and develops their listening comprehension skills for the speech of native speakers. Students are introduced to unmodified speech in excerpts from movies and television shows, news broadcasts, songs, podcasts, and other authentic materials. Students participate in debates and small group discussions with their peers and prepare presentations and dialogs. At the end of the course students are able to successfully handle a limited number of uncomplicated oral communication tasks in straightforward social situations, narrate short stories in the past and present tenses, and demonstrate basic politeness in their speech. Students are able to converse on a number of familiar topics related to daily life and their personal experiences.

RUSS 055 Adv. Beg. Russian Grammar (1 unit)

This course consolidates material learned at the beginning level by reviewing basic grammar rules such as case endings and verbal aspect. As the course progresses students are introduced to more challenging linguistic and cultural material from a variety of authentic materials, some of which may be adapted for second language learners. Students apply the grammar topics studied to reading and writing assignments. Writing progresses from simple sentences to paragraphs, but topics continue to be connected to daily experiences. By the end of this course students demonstrate control of all six Russian cases in writing and have a deeper control of verbal aspect. Students are able to read, understand, and summarize short written texts on concrete topics. Students are able to describe facts and opinions, support a simple argument, and produce short narratives in writing.

Intermediate Level

RUSS 093 Int Low Russian Conversation (1 unit)

This course develops basic conversational, speaking and listening skills in Russian. By the end of the course students are able to function comfortably in ordinary social situations using exclusively Russian language. Students are able to talk about their daily activities, recreation, hobbies, and personal health. At the end of this course students speak in detail about themselves and their families, order in a restaurant, and participate in daily activities such as shopping, making basic requests, and traveling. Students' speaking skills at the end of this course allow them to converse on topics related to employment, current events, and topics of public and community interest. Students have a solid grasp of basic politeness norms as exhibited through speech. Students narrate and describe in paragraph length discourse, linking and combining sentences. Students can comprehend the main topics of broadcast news reports, television programs and films and generally understand main plot points.

RUSS 095 Int Low Russian Grammar (1 unit)

This course reviews basic grammar such as cases and subject-verb agreement and allows students to solidify this knowledge and use it consistently and correctly in spoken and written speech. The course develops students' vocabulary by introducing level-appropriate written and audio material on everyday topics such as transportation, daily routine, hobbies, shopping and purchases, diets, and personal health.

Students learn about culture through texts, videos, songs, and audio materials. Through the study of a variety of adapted texts and experts from the Russian press, students begin to understand the more subtle and nuanced aspects of the language. By the end of the course students can read these texts independently and understand them with the use of a dictionary. Students begin to be able to write clearly and correctly (letters, descriptions, summaries of texts) and can compose simple summaries on familiar topics, combining and linking sentences into texts of paragraph length and structure.

RUSS 103 Intermed Russian Conversation (1 unit)

This course focuses on mastering spoken Russian via immersion in everyday language. The aim of the course is the improvement of oral skills, the correction of Anglicisms and other engrained errors, and the broadening of students' cultural competence. Course materials are based on situations from modern daily life and are designed to help students expand their ability to understand and express themselves in spoken Russian on a wide range of subjects and to comprehend and produce complex discourse. Each class promotes cultural and linguistic comprehension through exposure to a variety of discussion topics, familiarization with Russian culture and perspectives, and active discussion. Within these discussions, students practice new grammatical forms, develop speaking skills, and improve their capacity to understand and produce spontaneous Russian speech. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions and debates as well as to prepare oral presentations.

RUSS 105 Intermed Russian Grammar (1 unit)

This course focuses on fundamentals of Russian grammar and syntax, including verb conjugation, verbal aspect, tense, mood, verbs of motion, the use of verbs in simple and complex sentences, expressions of time, conditionals, clauses, and other topics. Attention is given not only to sentence constructions, but also to syntax (for example, prefixed verbs and adjectives). The course provides opportunities for students to expand their vocabulary and improve their communication skills. Emphasis is placed on the verbal activation of all material, including attention to grammatical structures of oral communication. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, dialogues, and debates, as well as to prepare oral presentations and short compositions.

Advanced Level

RUSS 305 Advanced Russian Grammar (1 unit)

This course focuses on the rapid expansion of students' grammar base and activation of new grammatical forms and structures through conversation and close study of texts of different styles. Students develop their proficiency in understanding and using advanced grammatical concepts, including verbal aspect, prefixed and un-prefixed verbs of motion, participles, and the formation of complex sentences in different styles of speech (including conversational and professional styles). Attention to lexical verb groups provides opportunities for students to expand their Russian proficiency rapidly and to activate existing linguistic knowledge. Equal emphasis is placed on reading and spoken proficiency, increasing students' capacity to engage in spontaneous communication in Russian. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, dialogues, and debates, as well as to prepare oral presentations and written compositions.

RUSS 319 Advanced Practical Russian (1 unit)

This course focuses on the development and expansion of speaking, listening, writing and reading proficiency through the acquisition of advanced vocabulary and activation of a wide range of conversational routines. Course materials are based on real-life situations and are designed to expand students' ability to understand and express themselves both orally and in writing and to understand texts of varying styles and complexity. Through this course students produce speech that is more fluent and spontaneous. Students expand their ability to use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic

and professional purposes. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, dialogues, and debates, as well as to prepare oral presentations and compositions in a variety of genres.