



RUSSIAN

Students who wish to fulfill the RC Language Requirement with Russian must complete **RCCORE 193 Intensive Russian I** and **RCCORE 293 Intensive Russian II** (or demonstrate an equivalent level of skill in the language). Each course carries eight credit hours, students must then pass a proficiency examination. In addition, all students must take a readings course in the Russian language. Students who pass the readings course have completed the RC's language requirement.

PLACEMENT POLICY

1. Students with no background in Russian elect Russian 193.
2. Students with background in Russian should take the LSA placement test and then consult with an academic advisor.
3. Students who are placed out of two years of Russian after taking the placement test must take the proficiency exam at the beginning of the fall term before enrolling in the Readings course.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RCCORE 193: INTENSIVE RUSSIAN I (8 credits)

This course is offered in the Fall term only. It meets four days a week for two hours each day for eight hours of credit.

The goal of this course is to provide the student with a basic but solid knowledge of grammatical structures and syntax, a functional vocabulary, familiarity with intonation patterns and native pronunciation, and practice in speaking and writing. Both vocabulary and grammatical structures are presented in a situational context. Abundant cultural material is introduced throughout the course. Upon completion of this course, the student can understand simple written texts or short spoken passages without the aid of a dictionary, and can carry on a short, elementary conversation.

193 Final Exam: There are two parts in the final exam for 193:

Writing: Grammar, Vocabulary, Composition

Speaking: A short oral interview.

RCCORE 293: INTENSIVE RUSSIAN II (8 credits)

This course is offered in the Winter term only. It meets four days a week for two hours each day for a total of eight hours of credit.

The goal of this course is to expand vocabulary and to master grammatical structures and syntax to the level of competency required to pass a proficiency examination. This entails developing the ability to communicate with some ease with a native speaker in spoken and written language.

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Students must be able to understand the content of texts and lectures of a non-technical nature, and of general (non-literary) interest.

In class students review grammar, receive intensive training in speaking, listen to dialogues and lectures about various aspects of contemporary Russia, and discuss the assigned texts.

The Proficiency exam evaluates the student's level of performance in communicative skills at the end of the term.

RCCORE 323: READINGS IN RUSSIAN (4 credits)

The Russian Readings course is open to all students who pass the Russian Proficiency Exam. Students may elect Russian Readings more than once as long as the content of the course is different each time. RCCORE 323 counts towards the Slavic Department Russian concentration as 301 or 302. The goal of this course is to use and improve different language skills by reading, writing about, and discussing topics dealing with Russia, Russians and Russian culture. The focus is on stylistics, but there is a review of basic grammar if necessary. Class sessions are on an informal lecture-discussion basis; students are responsible for leading most of the discussions. Class attendance and weekly conferences with an instructor are mandatory. Students will write 20-25 pages during the term. Typically, there is a final project consisting of an oral presentation and a six-eight page report. Students in 323 must attend two hours of either the Russian Lunch Table or the Russian Tea a week. Topics for Russian Readings course recently included Russians Abroad and Russian Foodways: History, Culture, Folklore and Practices of the Russian Table.

Reminder: Plan to take a Readings course as soon after passing the Proficiency Exam as possible. After passing the Proficiency Exam at the end of the Winter Term, students will have a four-month gap before taking Readings. It is necessary to read Russian during the summer to keep in shape. Russian Faculty are available with suggestions.

Special Features

In addition to the classroom experience, the Russian Program offers numerous opportunities for students to apply and practice their language skills. Regular weekly Russian Teas (Tuesday, 3–5 p.m., Greene Lounge) and daily lunch table conversations (M,T,Th,F, 1–2 p.m., 64 Greene) as well as a special section in the Benzinger Library that contains Russian language videos, journals, and other published materials ensure that students are exposed to multiple opportunities for engagement with the language. The Program also stages Russian language theatrical productions, in which students participate in all aspects of the performance.