RUSSIAN FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS I
COURSE DESCRIPTION

MWF 10-10:50 in 313 Davenport

Instructor: Valeria Sobol
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Office hours: Mon 2-3, Thu 3-4
or by appointment

Course objectives and content:

The purpose of this course is to enable graduate students in humanities and social sciences, who are advanced learners of Russian, to acquire skills necessary for their professional communication and academic activities. The course will introduce them to general academia-related vocabulary in Russian, as well as to the terminology and critical apparatus currently used in their respective disciplines. Students will also learn how to discuss their academic situations and research interests in the target language and will develop practical skills in writing letters of inquiries to their colleagues in Russia, requests to libraries and archives, and conference paper abstracts in Russian.

In addition, some of the topics in Russian grammar and vocabulary that pose particular difficulties to advanced students (such as participles, time expressions, etc.) will be reviewed. However, this is not a traditional language course with a systematic presentation of grammar. Rather, students will develop and enhance their Russian language skills through a regular exposure to academic Russian in both written and oral forms and through a review of most typical grammatical and usage problems in class and as homework. All the materials will be provided by the instructor except for oral reports which are the students’ responsibility.

In the course of the semester, students will be regularly reading articles in their disciplines, writing short summaries and essays and presenting oral reports (2 per semester). At the end of the semester, a mock conference will be held, for which students will present a short conference paper in Russian.

Course requirements:
Participation and attendance — 25%
Homework (including self-corrections) — 35%
Oral reports — 15%
Final paper and oral presentation — 25%

1 Late homework will be downgraded. Corrections will be accepted no later than in the 2nd class following the class when homework was returned.