# COURSE SYLLABUS | SPRING 2027

**RUSS 1821: Speaking and Reading Practice in Russian**

*One credit · Practice speaking · Have fun*

Добро пожаловать! На этом курсе мы будем много разговаривать по-русски, играть, смеяться, знакомиться друг с другом и учиться свободнее выражать свои мысли. До встречи!

## Course and instructor information

| Item | Details |
|---|---|
| Course | RUSS 1821, Section A, CRN 35317 — Speaking & Reading Practice in Russian (1 credit hour) |
| Semester | Spring 2027 · January 11–May 6 |
| Class day and time | Monday, 3:30–4:20 p.m. |
| Classroom | 760 Spring St NW, Room 235 |
| Instructor | Dr. Valeriya Chekalina · vchekalina6@gatech.edu |
| Office | Swann 332 |
| Office hours | Monday 9:30–10:30 a.m.; Friday 5:00–6:00 p.m.; or by appointment |

## What this course is

RUSS 1821 is a relaxed, one-credit conversational practice course. It gives students extra opportunities to speak Russian in a friendly, low-pressure environment. We will reinforce familiar vocabulary and structures through games, role-plays, short conversations, improvisation, and occasional short reading prompts used for conversation. The aim is to become more comfortable speaking and listening, not to memorize long lists or prepare for formal tests.

You do not need to speak perfectly. Bring your curiosity, a willingness to participate, and a sense of humor. Mistakes are a normal part of learning to communicate.

## What we will do in class

- Conversation games and partner or small-group activities.
- Role-plays about familiar everyday situations.
- Creative prompts, short improvisations, and informal discussions.
- Listening-and-responding activities with practical vocabulary.
- Collaborative challenges designed to make Russian feel more natural and enjoyable.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should be able to participate more confidently in familiar Russian-language exchanges, ask and answer follow-up questions, use communicative strategies when a word is missing, and understand classmates' spoken Russian more readily.

## Homework and materials

There is no homework. There are no unit tests, written compositions, or separate final examination in this course. All essential practice takes place during our meetings. Materials for games and activities will be provided in class or through Canvas. A separate textbook purchase is not required for RUSS 1821.

## Grading

The course grade is based entirely on attendance and active participation (100%). This is a practice course, so grades reflect consistent engagement and willingness to communicate—not perfect grammar, accent, or vocabulary.

| Participation grade | Description |
|---|---|
| A | Attends regularly, participates actively, and makes a consistent effort to speak Russian. No more than three unexcused absences. |
| B | Generally active, with occasional limited engagement or preparation. |
| C | Inconsistent participation; often needs encouragement to join activities. |
| D/F | Minimal participation or repeated unexcused absences that prevent meaningful practice. |

More than three unexcused absences may lower the participation grade by one letter; significantly more than three may lower it by two or more letter grades. Institute-approved absences and documented emergencies are handled according to Georgia Tech policy.

Final letter grades: A 90–100%; B 80–89%; C 70–79%; D 60–69%; F 0–59%.

## Course expectations

- Come ready to speak, listen, collaborate, and try.
- Use Russian as much as possible; asking for clarification is always welcome.
- Support classmates and make the classroom a respectful place to experiment with language.
- Check Canvas for announcements or occasional changes to classroom activities.

## Student support and Institute policies

Students are expected to follow the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. Institute-approved absences will be handled in accordance with Georgia Tech policy. Students seeking accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (disabilityservices.gatech.edu) and share the accommodation letter with the instructor. Georgia Tech Counseling Center resources are available at counseling.gatech.edu.

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports an inclusive learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. Course changes and announcements will be shared through Canvas or Georgia Tech email.