

RUSS S-Aab. Beginning Russian (CRN: 30222)

Natalia Reed PhD, Lecturer on Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University

This course is a thorough introduction to the Russian language for students with no previous knowledge of Russian. A strong emphasis is placed on developing oral skills and practicing vocabulary and grammar in patterns that imitate natural conversational exchanges. The course includes an introduction to Russian culture with special attention to behavior in social situations to facilitate developing proficiency. To develop reading and speaking fluency, 1 hour per day will be devoted to the reading and discussion of well-known stories, biography, and poetry. Daily reinforcement and writing practice through written exercises. At the end of the course, students will have the means to express themselves on a number of topics and will have a solid basis for further study. Students should be aware that the pace of this course is extremely rapid and requires a total time commitment (including class time) of 6 to 8 hours per day.