

Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara
Russian 102: Intermediate Russian (Fourth-Semester)
Bryn Mawr College
Spring 2022

“Professor Vergara does a great job of mixing up the activities that we do. Even though we have to do a lot of bookwork (necessary to learn the language), we also do so many fun activities like songs, videoblogs, and reading articles in Russian. I enjoyed all the content in this course and had a very fun time taking it.”

“Can be easily contacted by email, made a syllabus and stuck to it, varied course content so we did not always have to use textbook.”

“I really liked how much emphasis was placed on speaking Russian in the classroom. I found it really useful that the professor would teach grammar concepts or describe the meanings of new words in only Russian. I also liked the inclusion of other media in the class—videos, songs, articles and short stories—which were really helpful and always very fun. I really liked free writing assignments, like essays or occasionally textbook assignments, because I enjoyed learning new vocabulary that was relevant to my interests and applying it to the writing skills I already have.”

“I felt very prepared to take this course. If you do the homework every day it makes learning the lessons so much easier and helps a lot throughout the course. Professor Vergara does a great job at teaching and gives very fair tests according to the content that we learn. I never felt like I was unprepared for anything I had to do in this class.”

“He was very good about making accommodations for those of us not in class or who were struggling.”

“Professor Vergara did a great job in creating an accessible and inclusive course experience. On the first day of class, he made sure we all knew the students in the class names and he helped us build a great community within our classroom. We also talked about relevant issues going on in the world and make sure we recognize the bad things happening around us. He was also very understanding if something had come up and we couldn't make it to class, whether that be from having covid or something else. He made it very easy for us to still participate in class over zoom!”

“The course presented grammar and vocabulary in a way that made it interesting and relevant for the lives of college students, and in this way I believe the course was accessible and inclusive.”

“Yes, I would definitely recommend this course. You learn so much and will have such a clear understanding of the Russian language. It is also a very fun class and we do a lot of fun activities. Even though we have this class every day which is slightly unusual for a college course, it never felt overwhelming.”

“Yes--I saw a lot of improvement in my language skills this semester, and I would recommend the course to anyone who is serious about learning the language and reaching a higher degree of proficiency.”

“This has been a wonderful year! I really enjoyed taking this course, my favorite one of the year!”

“I had a great year. I really am grateful for your instruction which allowed me to communicate with my Russian neighbor!”

“Open-ended questions are very helpful for developing on the spot speaking. I really think they are very engaging. Authentic Russian materials are also very good because they make things interesting and you feel proud once they are used/done/whatever.”

“The most productive/engaging parts have been pen pal exchanges and vocabulary building. The pen pal exchanges challenge me to respond in a casual manner on my own (i.e. without the textbook), and it gives me practice typing on my phone in Russian. I think I have been fortunate enough to be paired with someone who has more advanced Russian skills, so reading their messages is a refreshing alternative to the textbook. I realized last semester that I should be building my vocabulary on my own, so I always make sure to write down any vocabulary in the textbook I do not know. I think the textbook does a good job of including new vocabulary without leaving words from earlier units behind.”

“Great instruction. I like that lessons are in Russian, and that this semester we mixed around the order of the textbook to study participles and adverbs. I very much appreciate that the professor is easily accessible by email.”