

**Higher Education  
Temple University**

College of Liberal Arts, Department of French, German, Italian, Slavic

Address: 5th Floor Anderson Hall, 1114 W. Berks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Contact: Benjamin Rifkin  
Professor of Russian  
Email: brifkin@temple.edu  
Telephone: 215-204-1816  
Fax: 215-204-3731

Web address: [www.temple.edu/fgis](http://www.temple.edu/fgis)

Type of institution: Research university

Languages taught: Russian

Undergraduate level courses: two-semester sequence

**Program Description**

**Purposes and goals of the program:** To provide heritage learners of Russian a foundation for literacy

**Type of program:**

- Part of a foreign language program
- A heritage track within a foreign language program: students completing this two-semester sequence can choose to continue for a certificate, minor or major in Russian.

**Program Description:** The program was founded in 2006 by a proposal from the Russian program, as approved by the College's Collegial Assembly, the university administration, and ultimately by the Board of Trustees.

**Students**

- First-generation immigrants
- Second-generation immigrants

**Countries of origin:** The Russophone world: primarily Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine, but also all the republics of the former Soviet Union

**Total student enrollment:** Unknown, the program is just beginning.

**Age of students:** Unknown, the program is just beginning.

**Identification of a heritage speaker:**

- Self-reported by students
- Oral proficiency interview with each student

**Faculty**

**Total number of faculty teaching in the program:** 1

**Number of part-time instructors:** 1

**Languages in which faculty members are proficient:** I am an educated native speaker of Russian and Ukrainian.

**Credentials**

PhD: Russian philology

**Professional development opportunities faculty have:** Very few, mostly attendance at professional conferences

**Professional development opportunities faculty need:** Support to attend workshops focusing on heritage e-learning

**Instruction**

**Student grouping:** Students are grouped according to level.

**Face-to-face course title:** Russian 227: Heritage Russian I, first heritage level

**Number of hours:** 3 hours per week, over 14 weeks

**Online course title:** Russian 228: Heritage Russian II

**Number of hours:** 3 hours per week, over 14 weeks

**Language Skills**

**Heritage Skills:**

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Cultural competency

**Culture**

- History

- Traditions/beliefs
- Social and cultural norms
- Cultural appropriateness
- Literature

**Special content courses offered:** Not yet, but we incorporate some of these into our two-semester sequence

### **Methodologies**

**Methodologies and instructional strategies used in the program:** Focus on literacy and formality of register

### **Materials**

**Textbook:** *Russian for Russians* (Slavica, 2006)

**Other materials:** Various short stories and newspaper articles

**Technology used in the program:** BlackBoard

### **Assessment**

- Chapter tests
- Final exams

### **Articulation**

**Local connections:** Local high schools: The program receives students from George Washington High School, Philadelphia, PA.

**Opportunities heritage students have outside the college to use their heritage language or develop their cultural knowledge:** Northeast Philadelphia has a Russian neighborhood. The program promotes involvement with the community.

### **What the program has in place**

**Kinds of assistance or collaboration you would like to receive for your program from other entities:** Money to support cultural programming would be extremely helpful.

### **Special Challenges and Comments**

**Challenges that your program has experienced:** It is hard to say, because we are just getting started. Some questions in this survey were not answered because this is a new program.