

Sample Student Evaluations for José Vergara
Russian 004: Intensive Fourth-Semester Russian
Swarthmore College
Spring 2018

“I placed into Russian two last year without having had any actual Russian class or speaking practice.

So coming into four, even having had Russian 2 and 3 for the last two semesters, I felt I might've been behind, but with Professor Vergara's teaching it was very easy to catch up and keep up as far as learning the material went.”

“Yes. Because of Professor Vergara's teaching it was fine, even though it felt like it might've been that other students had a more thorough background than I did. Also Vergara is good at teaching the new grammatical material quickly and giving us all the information we need to learn, and then Tsvetelina is very very good at discerning what we need to go over more based on what she can tell we do and don't have a firm grasp on in class. Vergara is good at that too, but we have less class time with him. All of both of their handouts are also helpful.”

“He had everything planned from the beginning of the semester and kept up with the schedule all semester.”

“Professor Vergara has had the syllabus planned out since the beginning of the semester, and it has barely changed in all that time.”

“He always provided plenty of materials (slideshows, worksheets, games) to help teach the materials, and had the syllabus completely planned a semester in advance with very few changes.”

“His cool grammar powerpoints and handouts. And email reminders.”

“He brought tons of extra resources.”

“It's a Russian class, so yes, he speaks in Russian the whole time.”

“He also encouraged us to ask our questions in Russian even when we were pretty sure we couldn't express them. Sometimes it worked.”

“Great! The experience was almost immersive.”

“Definitely--feedback on compositions was especially helpful.”

“Yes, his teaching and assignments were very effective.”

“He is very good at explaining grammar concepts and making clear how and when to use the new material.”

“This man is unflappable. Our particular group has never been great students, and I honestly don’t know how he hasn’t run screaming yet. Even at our worst, I think all we’ve ever gotten out of him is a raised eyebrow. He makes Russian class a welcome spot of stability in the midst of our turbulent lives. Also, is super helpful both in and outside of class, accommodating and understanding in cases of conflicts/external circumstances.”

“He has a lot of materials and is great at explaining the textbook in simpler words which is incredibly helpful. He also has extremely high expectations when it comes to assignments and quality of work, which pushes us.”

“He cares a lot about us learning and being okay moreso than anything else it seems like.”

“He thoroughly explains the concepts and content that are difficult to understand.”

“Additionally the handouts that were available online or given out in class were very helpful.”

“I found it difficult to read the textbook independently and adequately understand the new grammar. That is why it is so important that Professor Vergara is good at breaking down the information in an easier way.”

“Writing long compositions (up to 1000 words) definitely pushed past how much I thought I was able to write, and definitely helped me improve basic grammar and a lot of syntax errors that I made.”

“The video projects and other oral exam assignments were very useful because they allowed us to practice our language skills in more realistic settings.”

“Games! I love playing pictionary and Kahoot with the class to help with quick recall.”

“Would you recommend this course to other students?”

- “Yes. Russian is a fun language to learn.”
- “Yes, because Russian is underrated as a language and I will advocate for others to learn it until the day I die.”
- “Yes! Because it will really help you learn Russian grammar, vocab, and culture, which is the point.”
- “Absolutely.”
- “Yes, I already have.”