**Russian Language 1 (Language and Phonology) - Year 1, Three-Year Course Students**

Prof. Anna Bonola

**Russian Language Practical Classes (Year 1, Three-Year Course)**

## Anna Baydatska; Laura Ferrari; Francesca Maffinelli

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***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to:

* explore the origins and the development of Russian among the other Slavic languages;
* introduce Russian phonetics, phonology, prosody, and the international transliteration system (from the Cyrillic script to ISO 9), including the one in use in the United Kingdom.

At the end of the course, students will be able to describe the key steps of the evolution from Common Slavic to modern Slavic languages (especially Russian), and articulate all the sounds and the prosodic elements of Russian. Furthermore, they will have the possibility to develop their knowledge of the history of Slavs – especially the Russians and their language – in the European context, and get a better understanding of authentic oral texts (from the point of view of pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation) and the key pragmatic-communicative functions of Russian intonation.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Phonetics and intonation*

The course will help students develop their theoretical and practical knowledge of the principles of Russian phonetics, phonology, and prosody (according to the seven models of intonation identified by E. Bryzgunova).

*The Slavs.* The course will explore the origins of Slavic languages, the alphabetisation of the Slavs, and the creation of Paleo-Slavic, with a focus on the evolution of the Russian language.

Finally, it will introduce the ISO 9 international transliteration system, as well as the one used in the United Kingdom.

***READING LIST***

I.V. Odincova, *Zvuki, ritmika, intonacija*, Flinta-nauka, Moskva, 2006 (the pdf format is available in the folder *Materiali* of the course on Blackboard and at the UCSC Reprographic service).

A. Bonola, *Gli slavi attraverso l’Europa*, in B. Cambiaghi-C. Milani-P. Pontani, *Europa plurilingue*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2005 (p. 175-191 (available in the folder *Materiali* of the course on Blackboard).

A. Cavazza, Elementi di lingua e cultura russa, in G. Carloni,  *Insegnare italiano a stranieri*, FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2015, p. 152-166 (available in the folder *Materiali* of the course on Blackboard).

The texts written by Bryzgunova (that students will have to study for the final exam) will be made available in the folder *Materiali* of the course on Blackboard, together with the recordings used in class and further teaching material about phonetics and intonation.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and practical classes, supported by the use of audiovisual material.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written tests (during the lectures and on Blackboard), and a final oral exam.

The latter will consist in:

1. a first part (60% of the final mark), in which students will have to recognise the intonation patterns of an unknown text (that will be read aloud by the lecturer), followed by a transliteration exercise of some words from Cyrillic to Latin script and vice versa; in order to get a positive mark, students will have to provide a correct answer to at least 2/3 of the exercises. If so, they will be asked to reproduce the intonations of a text assigned during the exam. Assessment criteria: correct use of pronunciation and intonation.

2. a second part (20% of the final mark), in which students will have to read one of the texts they have studied at home (by Bryzgunova and Odincova), available – together with their recording – in the folder *Materiali* (‘Teaching material’) on the Blackboard page of the course. In addition, they will be asked to read, with correct phonetics and prosody, the exercises carried out in class and contained in the textbook: I.V. Odincova, *Zvuki, ritmika, intonacija*, Flinta-nauka, Moskva, 2004. Assessment criteria: correct use of pitch accent, phonetics, and prosody.

3. a third part (20% of the final mark), in which students will be asked some questions in Italian on the key concepts of phonetics explained in class, and the origins of Slavic languages (please see the documents available in the folder *Materiali* on Blackboard and the Reading list). Assessment criteria: accuracy of answers.

The final mark will result from the weighted average between the interim oral and written language tests.

Further information will be made available in the folder *Informazioni* (‘Information’) on the Blackboard page of the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Lectures will cover one academic semester for students of the 3-year course (year 1), and the ones of the 2-year course (year 1) who have included Russian linguistics in their degree curriculum. In addition, students are invited to check their registration on the Blackboard page of the course, in order to be able to download useful information and further teaching material. The online platform should be checked at least once a week.

*Practical activities*

Students are invited to check the Russian language course syllabus (referring either to the 2-year course or the 3-year course).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to help students acquire a basic knowledge of written and oral Russian.

At the end of the course, students will be able to write (also in cursive) and read in Russian, understand and translate simple written and oral texts, engage in a conversation on everyday topics, write a short text from dictation, and translate simple texts from Italian into Russian without using a dictionary. These activities aim to help students achieve a knowledge of the Russian language corresponding to the A2+ level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

***COURSE CONTENT***

А. Grammar

1. Elements of phonology: the Russian consonant and vowel system, intonation.

2. Basic noun and verb morphology: Declination of the noun, adjective and pronoun, the degree of adjective.

3. Verbal modes and tenses.

4. Forming and using the aspectual pair.

5. Unidirectional and multidirectional verb categories.

B. Syntax

6. Elements of syntax: coordination and subordination, the hypothetical phrase.

C. Lexis

7. Basic vocabulary: family, home, university, Russia, Moscow and Saint Petersburg.

8. Vocabulary for describing an everyday situation or an image.

D. Writing

9. Reading simple Russian texts.

10. Understanding simple Russian texts and translating them into Italian.

11. Preparation for the dictation and starting to translate from Italian to Russian and from Russian to Italian.

E. Speaking

12. Basic structures of the spoken language.

13. Listening and speaking exercises.

***READING LIST***

A. Shibarova, A. Yarin, *Raz dva tri! Corso di lingua russa*, vol. 1, Hoepli, Milan 2019, ISBN: 978-88-203-9032-7

S.A. Chavronina, A.I. Širočenskaja, *Il Russo Esercizi*, Il punto editoriale, Rome 2007, ISBN 978-88-903186-0-3

D. Bonciani, R. Romagnoli, N. Smykunova, *Mir Tesen.* *Fondamenti di cultura russa*, Hoepli,

Milan, 2016

Further teaching material will be made available in class and on Blackboard (for this reason, students are invited to check the platform on a regular basis).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and practical activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written and oral exam. Active participation in class and individual study at home will be assessed through specific written and oral tests during the academic year**.**

The final exams, which are the same for all profiles, are divided into:

*Written exam*

- a level-1 test based on morphosyntax and vocabulary (multiple choice, transformation, and matching exercises, aimed to assess knowledge of vocabulary, declension, conjugation, motion verbs without prefixes, and the key functions of verbal aspect);

– a dictation;

– a short translation (from Italian into Russian), aimed to assess the development of writing skills (vocabulary, grammar, and syntax).

- the reading comprehension of a short text in Russian.

Students will not be allowed to use dictionaries in any of the texts.

The various parts of the written test contribute, at varying percentages, to the final mark: the translation from Italian to Russian and the test are each worth 30%. The remaining tests are worth 20% each.

Each exercise will be assessed with a score from 1 to 30 points. The maximum score, resulting from the average between the exercises, is 30/30.

*Oral exam*

Students will be asked to read, translate, and summarise the readings analysed in class during the academic year and the texts studied at home (about 30 pages in Russian which will be indicated by the course lecturers), and engage in a short conversation on everyday topics.

In addition, they will have to read and translate an unknown text in Russian (level 1), and discuss its content in Russian or to grammar questions on the topics covered on the course.

Finally, students must be able to describe the main features of an image which will be presented by the lecturer.

Assessment criteria: use of appropriate terminology (20% of the final mark), correct grammar (20% of the final mark), good pronunciation and accentuation (20% of the final mark), reading skills (20% of the final mark), and quality of presentation and communicative interaction (20% of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should have a good knowledge of Italian grammar.

In addition, for students attending year 1, the Russian language intensive classes will start 2 weeks before the rest of the courses. Class attendance is strongly recommended.

In order to get the most out of this course, students will have to attend classes and do their homework on a regular basis.

Participation in the activities proposed by the lecturers in the form of written and oral exercises will be checked regularly during the year.

The practical activities will cover the whole academic year.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.