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

## Prof. Adriano Dell’Asta

# Russian Language Practical Classes (Year 1, First-Level Degree)

## Anna Baydatska; Francesca Maffinelli

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***COURSE AIMS***

*Course aims*

The course aims to provide students with the tools and fundamental concepts (in terms of content and methods) for approaching Russian literature and culture in various periods of history.

***INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

By the end of the course, students will be able to present and comment on a text (read in Italian), a phenomenon or a cultural event from the Russian area. They will know the most important interpretative approaches to the elements linked to this world and will be able to indicate their particular features, both in terms of content and method. They will be able to recognise elements of continuity and discontinuity at the various points and in the various aspects of Russian cultural history, as well as developments, both internally and in the country’s relations with foreign powers.

They will also be able to present these aspects from a teaching perspective aimed at high school students.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts.

The first part (in the form of a traditional single subject course) will delve, in particular, into the figure of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, offering an overall reconstruction of his work, from short texts taken from his first public debuts, through the broader creations of an exquisitely literary character, to his key works dedicated to the history of Russia in the twentieth century.

The second part takes place in Semester 2 and explores history and culture from a multidisciplinary perspective, focusing in particular on a series of core topics linked to some of the most important and characteristic aspects of the Russian cultural world: the history of literature, the history of thought, the history of religious tradition, the history of art and the history of political and social institutions.

***READING LIST***

The full reading list will be provided during the course.

For the first part of the course, it will include:

1) A.I. Solženicyn, a choice between: *Una giornata di Ivan Denisovič* e *La casa di Matriona*; *Divisione cancro*; *Nel primo cerchio*; *Agosto 1914*.

2) A.I. Solženicyn, a choice from *Arcipelago Gulag*.

3) Four works of Russian literature chosen from a list (varying according to whether students are taking Russian Language and Literature or Russian Language and Culture); this will be communicated by the lecturer in class (and will then be made public on the course's Blackboard page).

For the second part, the study material will be grouped into three macro-sectors:

1) Storia generale. Reference text: R. Bartlett, *A History of Russia*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke 2005 (tr. it. *Storia della Russia*, Mondadori, Milano 2011).

2) Particular core topics: articles or essays by the lecturer, which will be made available to students via the lecturer's Blackboard page.

3) students’ choice of one text (of which they must demonstrate thorough knowledge) selected from a list on the lecturer's Blackboard page.

Syllabus and reading list are the same for attending and non-attending students, whether they are following the Russian Literature 1 or the Russian Language and Culture course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class (PowerPoint presentations, film clips, etc.).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam to evaluate their knowledge of the content presented during the lectures (50% of the total mark), but also their acquisition of a critical methodology and the ability to apply it not only to lecture content, but also to the materials on the reading list to be read independently (30% of the total mark). In addition, students will be assessed on how well they use terminology and present the content covered (i.e. consistently and in a considered manner, taking a systematic approach to interpreting the material) (20% of the total mark).

Any ongoing preliminary assessments will be communicated during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

All students require good knowledge of the Italian language, as well as the ability to contextualise cultural events historically.

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 aim of the course is for students to acquire solid elementary skills in written and spoken Russian.

By 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, hold a simple conversation on everyday topics, write down a short dictated text, translate simple texts into Russian without the help of the dictionary. The practical classes in the first year will bring students to European Language Portfolio level A2+.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Grammar

1. Elements of phonology: the consonant and vowels systems, intonation.

2. Basic noun and verb morphology: inflection of nouns, adjectives and pronouns.

3. Verbal modes and tenses.

4. Forming and using the aspectual pair.

5. Unidirectional and multidirectional verb categories.

1. Syntax

6. Elements of syntax: coordination and subordination.

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. Preparing 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, storia e letteratura russa*, Hoepli, Milan, 2023.

Further material will be made available by the lecturers and on the course

Blackboard page (students should check this regularly).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and practical classes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The Russian language practical course ends with written and oral exams. Students will be assessed on the outcome of their work in class and individually at home by means of written and oral tests during the year**.**

The final exams, which are the same for all profiles, are structured as follows:

*Written test*

- a first-level grammar and vocabulary test comprising a range of exercises (multiple choice, transformation, combination of phrases, aimed to assess knowledge of vocabulary, declensions, conjugations, verbs of movement with no prefix, and the key functions of verbal aspect;

– dictation exercise;

– short translation from Italian into Russian intended to assess students’ written production (vocabulary, use of grammar and syntax).

– comprehension test based on a short Russian text.

Dictionaries are not permitted.

Dictionaries are not allowed in any of the tests.

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.

 The maximum final mark, based on the average of the four assessments, is 30/30.

As from the ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24 and exclusively for students of the 1st and 2nd year LT, it will be possible to take the written interim test on Russian language in two different ways:

1. for **those attending lectures**, through several ongoing control tests that will be carried out during the two semesters of attendance.

 This mode is reserved for those who attend at least 75% of the Russian language tutorials in person (120 hours in total). For those who enrol in the course after lectures have started, as a rule, it will not be possible to take the ongoing written test, unless the student already has previous knowledge of the Russian language, which would still need to be verified with a test at the beginning of lectures.

 The ongoing control tests will be held during the lectures: one test every 20 hours for the first year and one every 30 hours for the second year. The precise schedule will be communicated at the beginning of lectures.

 The written test is passed if the average of the partial tests is at least 18/30 and if the last two tests were passed.

 For those students who are not happy with their final mark for the ongoing tests, it is possible to take the single written exam in the official exam sessions.

 Students who have passed the ongoing tests and obtained the final mark must register for the written language exam at the end of May/June to register their mark.

1. for **non-attending students** and for those who have not passed the ongoing tests (or have not taken all of them) the interim written test will be taken in the form of a single exam in one of the three written language exam sessions (May/September and January), as usual.

*Oral test*

Students must be able to read, translate and summarise the texts read in class during the year and the texts read at home (about 30 pages in the original language, which will be indicated by the course lecturers) as well as to hold a brief conversation on everyday topics. Moreover, students must be able to read and translate unseen elementary-level Russian texts presented to them in the exam and respond in spoken Russian to some of the questions about their contents or to grammar questions on the topics covered during the year.

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

Students will be marked on: vocabulary (20% of the final mark), grammar (20% of the final mark), pronunciation and accent (20% of the final mark), reading skills (20% of the final mark), and their presentation of the content of a text and communicative interaction (20% of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites in terms of Russian language knowledge. Students must be familiar with Italian grammar and grammatical terminology.

Students are reminded that, in the first year, regular language classes will begin 2 weeks before the rest of the courses and they will be a full immersion into the Russian language. Class attendance during these two weeks is strongly recommended.

NB: successful learning of course content depends largely on students’ regular attendance in class and it can be achieved only through a regular and progressive effort, and constant practice at home, as indicated by the lecturer in class.

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 classes will be delivered over the whole 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.