## **Russian Language and Literature (Year 2, Three-Year Course Students)**

## Prof. Anna Bonola, Prof. Adriano Dell’Asta

# Russian Language Practical Classes (Year 2, First-Level Degree)

## Anna Baydatska; Laura Ferrari

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***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, 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 certain developments, both internally and in the country’s relations with foreign powers. In addition, at the end of the course, year-two students will be able to read in Russian part of the teaching material proposed by the lecturer, and carry out an independent critical analysis of the phenomena and the specific topics that will be explored during the second part of the course.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts.

The first part (in the form of a traditional single-subject course held by Prof. A. Dell’Asta) will explore the post-revolutionary period, presenting the figure and work of Vasilij Grossman, a correspondent (war, Holodomor and Shoah) and novelist, and his rediscovery of the irreducability of man to any power or ideological interpretation.

For the second part of the course, see the syllabus for CULTURE AND HISTORY OF RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, taken by Prof. A. Bonola.

***READING LIST***

The full reading list will be indicated during the course.

The first part will include:

1) V.S. Grossman, *Vita e destino*, Adelphi, Milano 2013.

V.S. Grossman, *Tutto scorre*, Adelphi, Milano 2010.

2) Four masterpieces of Russian literature chosen from a list to be communicated by the lecturer in class (and then published on the course Blackboard page).

For the second part of the course, see the syllabus for CULTURE AND HISTORY OF RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, taken by Prof. A. Bonola.

***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 intermediate skills in written and spoken Russian, equivalent to CEFR advanced level B1.

By the end of the course, students must recognise the key aspects of Russian grammar necessary for developing the communication intermediate-level skills required (written and oral).

Students will also be able to understand and create simple written and oral texts, independently producing written texts on familiar topics; holding simple conversations on topics discussed in class and of personal interest; translating simple texts on current affairs from and into Russian with the use of bilingual dictionary.

***COURSE CONTENT***

А. Grammar

1. Verb aspect in the structures: «должен-можно-нельзя-нужно»; verb aspect in the infinitive (verbs that require the choice of aspect); Verb aspect in the future.

2. Reflexive verbs.

3. Verbs of motion without prefixes; verbs of motion with prefixes.

4. Participles: formations and conjugation. Participle structures. Active and passive participles in the present and past. Transformation of the subordinate proposition with «который» in a participle structure. Short forms of passive participles.

5. Gerund: Formation and use of gerunds of НСВ and СВ verbs.

6. Indeterminate pronouns (кто-то, кто-нибудь, etc.); negative pronouns (никто-ничто); possessive pronoun/adjective "свой".

7. The short form of adjectives and adverbs.

8. Degrees of comparison of adjectives and adverbs.

9. Cardinal and ordinal numbers; declination of numbers for expressing the date.

10. The positive and negative imperative.

B. Syntax

11. The simple phrase: time and cause complements with prepositions из-за, благодаря, за, etc.

12. The complex phrase (subordinate clauses: completive, relative, final, concessive, temporal, causal, hypothetical, etc.).

13. Indirect discourse.

14. The impersonal sentence: analysis and exercises based on Russian texts and in preparation for translation.

C. Lexis

15. Time indications (date and time).

16. Transliteration and declination of Russian and foreign names, surnames and place names.

17. Lexical difficulties.

18. Use of the verbs надевать-одевать-одеваться; звать – называть; учить – учиться – изучать; ставить – класть…

D. Writing

19. Reading Russian texts of medium difficulty.

20. Translations into Italian.

21. Translations into Russian.

22. Starting to use the bilingual dictionary.

23. Dictation exercises.

24. Summary writing (изложение): written reworking in class of a text of around 180 words read by the lecturer.

E. Speaking

25. Listening and speaking exercises.

***READING LIST***

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

Anna Shibarova, Aleksander Yarin, *Raz, dva, tri! Corso di lingua russa.* Volume 2*,* edited byE. Freda Piredda, A. Krasnikova, forthcoming.

D. Bonciani, R. Romagnoli, N. Smykunova, *Mir tesen*. *Fondamenti di cultura russa*, Hoepli, Milan, 2016.

recommended texts

C. Cevese, J. Dobrovolskaja, E. Magnanini, *Grammatica russa. Manuale di teoria ed esercizi Livelli A1-B2,* Hoepli, Milan, 2018.

***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 an 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 assessment:

* grammar and vocabulary test;

– a written summary of a text read aloud by the lecturer;

– a short translation from Russian;

– a short translation from Italian.

Use of bilingual dictionaries will only be allowed for the translations.

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 tests, 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 assessment:

Students must be able to read, translate and summarise the texts read in class during the year and the texts read at home (about 60 pages in the original language which will be indicated by the course lecturers) as well as to hold a brief conversation on the texts read and topics covered in lectures, and be able to respond to a number of grammar questions on the topics covered during the year.

Moreover, students must be able to read and translate the unseen second-level Russian text presented to them in the exam, and discuss its contents in Russian.

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 (25% of the final mark), grammar (25% of the final mark), pronunciation and intonation (25% of the final mark), presentation of content and communicative interaction (25% of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

To benefit from the course, students require good knowledge of elementary-level written and spoken Russian, acquired by completing the first year of Russian Language (written and spoken interim test 1, Russian Language 1-Language and Phonology). NB: successful learning of course content depends largely on students’ regular attendance in class and assimilation of the content conveyed by the lecturer in class through individual work at home.

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.