Russian Linguistics

Prof. Anna Bonola; Prof. Valentina Noseda

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

The course is divided into two semesters. In *semester 1* (only for the LLS, LCM and LMT profiles), taught by Prof. Anna Bonola, the aim is to explore certain systemic aspects of the Russian language: phonology, prosody, and morphosyntax (for the latter, we will work on examples of current usage, both spoken and written, from the Russian National Corpus).

In *semester 2*, taught by Prof. Valentina Noseda, the course merges with “Russian Language 3 (Professional Communication)”, meaning that ALL profiles from the three-year degree will be taking the course (LI, LRI, LLS, LCM, LMT). In semester 2, the aim of the course is for students to gain lexicological understanding and be able to describe the Russian lexical system. The course will also present the existing lexicological tools (particularly digital) and train students to use them. Indeed, students need to be able to use the lexicographical tools correctly in order to carry out professional roles as language graduates in the various fields requiring communication in Russian, particularly translation.

By the end of *semester 1*, students will be able to produce all the sounds and prosodic systems of the Russian language, as well as identify the morphological structure of words and the syntactical structure of phrases.

By the end of *semester 2,* students will be able to use the Russian National Corpus and the main lexicographical tools, both traditional and online.

Moreover, by the end of the course, students will be able to understand a lecture in Russian on specialist topics from the field of linguistic theory, have become familiar with specific terminology and be able to understand spoken academic Russian.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course contents in *semester 1* are as follows:

– phonetics and phonology of Russian (in Italian);

– prosodic system of Russian (in Italian);

– morpho-syntactic system of the Russian language (in Russian);

*Semester 2* will focus on describing the Russian lexical system, in particular the types of meaning and the processes of lexical formation. This part of the course will also illustrate some lexicographic tools: monolingual, bilingual and specialist dictionaries and the Russian National Corpus; students will learn to use these through practical activities. There will be a particular focus on different varieties of terminology and text types from different sectors, which will be explored through autonomous activities on REVITA platform (https://revita.cs.helsinki.fi/login).

The activity will be monitored regularly.

Lectures will be held in Russian.

***READING LIST***

A. Bonola-M.C. Gatti (ed.), *Cultura e ideologia nei vocabolari. Lessicografia russa e italiana a confronto,* EDUCatt, Milan, 2016, pp. 17-50; ISBN: 978-88-9335-026-6 (may be purchased from EDUCatt; students need only prepare the essays by Bonola, Gatti, Gherbezza and Marello-Masla).

Other reading material will be shared on *Blackboard* in the course “*materiali*” folder. Students should therefore familiarise themselves with the contents of the course *Blackboard* page and the lecturer's webpage (PPD) via the UC website.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course combines theory-based lectures in class (in Russian and Italian, as per the syllabus) and practical activities, both in class and at home.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

For students taking the exam on the syllabus of both semesters (LLS, LMT and LCM profiles), each semester is worth 50% of the final mark.

In more detail, students will be assessed on the contents of *semester 1* as follows:

– a prosodic recognition test and a phonetic and intonation test (50% of the total mark for this part); the mark will reflect the accuracy and precision demonstrated.

– a test on the morphemic analysis of words and the syntactic analysis of phrases (50% of the total mark for this part): the mark will reflect the accuracy of the analysis.

The syllabus for semester 2 (for all profile group) is based on:

- a test to assess students’ knowledge of and ability to apply the lexical and semantic concepts illustrated on the course (synonymy, conversive relations, etc.) to the Russian language, and understand the lexical entries in some monolingual Russian dictionaries, using them to obtain information on the types of meaning of a given lexeme (denotative, representative, connotative, etc.). This part of the exam is worth 50% of the mark for semester 2.

- questions in Russian, to be answered in Russian, designed to assess knowledge of the theoretical aspects of the course according to the following criteria: relevance, logical presentation of content and accuracy of expression (morphosyntactic and lexical knowledge and accuracy in spoken Russian). This part of the exam is worth 30% of the mark for semester 2.

- This will be followed by questions in Italian on the text on the reading list (20% of the total mark for semester 2).

- Autonomous activity on REVITA will be assessed with the addition of 1 point on the final grade, if the platform statistics attest to a level of progression of language skills that reaches the B2 threshold, or higher.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must have at least TRKL level B1 Russian and have a firm grasp of the concepts covered during the General Linguistics course of the first year.

The semester 1 course is for profiles LMT, LLS, LCM, while the semester 2 course merges with Russian Language 3 (Professional Communication) course, thereby incorporating the LI and LRI profiles.

Should the Covid-19 health emergency prevent in-person teaching, distance learning alternatives will be put in place, details of which will be provided to students in good time.

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.