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Russian Language 1 (Language and Phonology)

## Prof. Valentina Noseda

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

The course has two main aims:

* to introduce students to knowledge of the origin and development of the Russian language within the Slavic language group;
* for students to learn and master the Russian phonetic and phonological system, the prosodic system and the ISO9 system of international transliteration from Cyrillic to Latin script, as well as the transliteration method used in the Anglo-Saxon countries.

By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the fundamental stages in the transition from Common Slavic to modern Slavic languages (in particular Russian). In addition, knowledge gained on the phonetic and prosodic system of Russian will be applied in the correct understanding and pronunciation of Russian-language texts, both in terms of phonetics and prosody. Students are therefore expected to improve their understanding of oral original text and speaking (pronunciation, rhythm and intonation) and pragmatic skills in Russian (understanding and using the pragmatic-communicative functions of Russian intonation).

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Phonetics and intonation*

The course provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge of the principles of the Russian phonetic and phonological system and prosody (according to the seven models of intonation developed by Bryzgunova).

*The Slavs*

A general description of the Slavic languages and their origin, examining the development of literacy among the Slavs and the creation of Proto-Slavic, with a particular focus on the development of Russian; moreover, the course will demonstrate and apply the ISO9 international transliteration system.

***READING LIST***

I.V. Odincova, *Zvuki, ritmika, intonacija,* Flinta-nauka, Moskva, 2006 (in the "*Materiali*" folder on the course Blackboard page or at Reprographics department).

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

A. Cavazza, *Elementi di lingua e cultura russa*, in G. Carloni, *Insegnare italiano a stranieri*, FrancoAngeli, Milano, 2015, pp. 152-166. (in the "*Materiali*" folder on the course Blackboard page in pdf version).

A number of texts by Bryzgunova with the relative audio files in the "*Materiali*" folder on the course Blackboard page. In the same folder, students will also find the audio files and any other materials used in lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and exercises.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam

The exam is in three parts:

1. the first part consists of a test to assess students’ recognition of prosodic features in an unfamiliar extract read aloud by the lecturer, the transliteration of a number of words from Cyrillic to Latin script and vice versa and a reading test to assess students’ tonic accent; students must achieve at least 60% to pass the test. Students who pass may proceed with the rest of the exam. They will be assessed on the suitability of their choices. This first part is worth 50% of the final mark.

2. In the second part, students must read one of the passages prepared at home (texts by Bryzgunova and Odincova), to be found (together with the relative recording) in the "*Materiali*" folder on the course Blackboard page. Furthermore, students must be able to read correctly - both in terms of phonetics and prosody - the exercises completed in class and contained in the below text: I.V. Odincova, *Zvuki, ritmika, intonacija*, Flinta-nauka, Moscow, 2004. In addition to tonic accent, phonetic and prosodic performance will also be assessed. This test is worth 25% of the final mark.

3. Finally, students will answer a number of questions in Italian on the phonetic content explained in lectures, and on the origin and history of the Slavic languages (see the "*Materiali*" folder on the course Blackboard page). Students will be assessed on the accuracy and relevance of their answers. This test is worth 25% of the final mark.

The weighted average of the marks for the interim spoken and written language tests will contribute to the final mark.

For further details on the exam syllabus, see the "*Informazioni*" folder on the course Blackboard page.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for this course.

The course lasts one semester for: students in the first year of a three-year course; and for students in the first year of a two-year course who have chosen linguistics. Students are asked to check they are enrolled on the course on Blackboard, where all relevant materials and information will made available. Furthermore, students are advised to check Blackboard at least once a week.

Although not mandatory, attendance is strongly encouraged.

*Russian Language Practical Classes*

Please consult the year-one syllabus of the three-year course or the year-one of two-year course.

Further information can be found in the "*Informazioni*" folder on the course Blackboard page.

**Russian Language Practical Classes (Year 1, First-level Degree)**

## Dott. Sara Mazzucchelli

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

The course will enable the student to develop solid language skills in written and spoken Russian at the basic level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify and use the main reading and writing skills, the Russian morphology of verbs and nouns, vocabulary, and sentence structures needed to develop the communication skills (both in terms of speaking and writing), corresponding to an elementary level.

In addition, students will be able to understand and translate simple written and oral texts, talk about everyday topics, take dictation, and translate short texts from Italian to Russian without using the dictionary.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. the main reading and writing rules

1.1. The characters of the Cyrillic alphabet, in block letters, in italics, capital and small letters. Scientific transliteration.

1.2. The main orthographic and phonetic rules of the Russian language.

1.3. Pronunciation and stress.

1.4. Intonation in affirmative and interrogative clauses.

2. Nominal morphology and complement formation

2.1. *The nominative case*

2.1.1. Noun gender. Nouns ending in soft consonant (учитель).

2.1.2. The plural of regular and irregular nouns.

2.1.3. Gender and number of adjectives and their hard and soft desinences.

2.1.4. Personal pronouns, interrogative pronouns (кто, что), possessive and demonstrative pronouns.

2.1.5. General notions concerning the masculine and feminine noun in Russian.

2.2. *The genitive case*

2.2.1. Formation and use of the singular and plural genitive for nouns,

adjectives, and pronouns.

2.2.2. The complement of specification without preposition (машина моего отца).

2.2.3. Expressing the possession of an object (у брата есть жена).

2.2.4. Expressing the absence of an object (у меня нет красной ручки).

2.2.5. Use of nouns in the genitive singular with numerals 2, 3 and 4 (два дома, три книги).

2.2.6. Use of the plural genitive with сколько, много (много дней).

2.2.7. The prepositions supporting the genitive case (у, от, из, для, около, без).

2.3. *The dative case*

2.3.1. Formation and use of the singular and plural dative for nouns, adjectives, and pronouns.

2.3.2. The indirect object complement (звоню моей матери).

2.3.3. The complement of motion (иду к нашему другу).

2.3.4. Motion complements for place (гуляю по широкой площади).

2.3.5. The dative of possession to indicate one’s age (моему сыну пять лет).

2.3.6. Use of the dative in impersonal clauses (мне холодно).

2.3.7 Use of the dative with the verb нравиться.

2.4. *The accusative case*

2.4.1. Formation and use of the singular and plural accusative for nouns, adjectives, and pronouns.

2.4.2. The declension of feminine nouns in –ь (площадь).

2.4.3. The inanimate direct object (читаю новую книгу).

2.4.4. The animate direct object (знаю этого студента, вижу Ивана).

2.4.5. The caused motion construction (иду в новую школу).

2.4.6. The complement of time (в среду каждый день).

2.5. *The instrumental case*

2.5.1. Formation and use of the singular and plural instrumental for nouns, adjectives, and pronouns.

2.5.2. The complement of union (работаю с твоим отцом).

2.5.3. The complement of means (ем маленькой ложкой).

2.5.4. The complement of manner (читаю с большим удовольствием).

2.5.5. The complement of time (утром, зимой).

2.5.6. The prepositions requiring the use of the instrumental case (с, перед, над, за, между, под).

2.6. *The prepositional case*

2.6.1. Formation and use of the singular and plural prepositional case for nouns, adjectives, and pronouns.

2.6.2. The use of the prepositions в and на.

2.6.3. The declension of hard masculine nouns (в лесу).

2.6.4. The declensions of nouns ending in–ие, -ь, -ия (здание, площадь, лекция).

2.6.5. The complement of aim (говорю о нашей жизни).

2.6.6. The complement of place – state (живу в Италии).

2.6.7. The complement of time (в августе).

3. Verbal morphology

3.1. Transitive and intransitive verbs.

3.2. The Russian indicative mode: the present, the past, the future.

3.3. The conjugation of regular verbs and of the main irregular verbs.

3.4. Consonant alternations in verbs (писать-пишу).

3.5. Use and conjugation of the modal verbs хотеть, мочь.

3.6. The modal forms нужно, можно, нельзя.

3.7. Verb aspect and principle uses in the past (писал, написал) and future (напишу, буду писать).

3.8. Conjugation and use of reflexive verbs (учусь – учишься).

3.9. Place verbs (стоять, лежать, etc.).

3.10. Use of the main motion verbs without prefix идти-ходить, ехать-ездить.

3.11. The use of the verb быть in the past and future tense as a function of the predicate (он был учителем, она будет врачом).

4. Numerals

4.1. Cardinal numerals from 1 to 100.

4.2. Ordinal numerals from 1 to 20.

5. Pronouns

5.1. The declension of personal pronouns (я, ты, он, она, оно, мы, вы, они).

5.2. The declension of pronouns (этот, эта, это, эти, тот, то, та, те).

5.3 The declension of pronouns весь, вся, всё, все.

5.4 Introduction to the possessive pronoun свой.

6. Adverbs

6.1. Use of adverbs (хорошо, плохо, мало, много etc.)

7. Syntax

7.1. Nominal interrogative, affirmative, and negative clauses.

7.2. The nominal clause with the verb быть with existential meaning (я дома, я был дома, я буду дома).

7.4. Coordinate and subordinate clauses.

7.4.1 The declarative subordinate introduced by что.

7.4.2 The relative subordinate clause introduced by который.

***READING LIST***

Anna Shibarova, Aleksander Yarin, *Raz, dva, tri! Corso di lingua russa.* Volume 1*,* a cura diE. Freda Piredda e A. Krasnikova,Hoepli, Milano 2019.

S.A. Chavronina, A.I. Širočenskaja, *Il russo. Esercizi,* Il punto editore, Roma 2007.

Further reading list will be provided by the lecturers at the beginning of the course and published on *Blackboard*.

The lecturer will provide additional materials in class and on the Blackboard course page, which the students are encouraged to visit regularly.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and practical classes to introduce students to written translation, from Italian into Russian and from Russian into Italian; to prepare them for dictation; and exercises to develop their ability to understand and speak Russian and to consolidate their grammar.

A number of dictations will be made available to students on the Blackboard platform throughout the year. These will be regularly collected and marked.

**Students are also reminded that for the first year, the language lectures will take place from 18-30 September in semester 1 and from 12-23 February in semester 2.**

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Practical language classes will be assessed by final written and oral exams.

The final test is divided into the following two parts:

*interim written test (students are not allowed to consult to dictionary)*

The written interim test may be carried out in two ways. For **non-attending students,** it can be carried out on the three ordinary exam dates and will include the following:

– a morpho-syntactic and lexical test;

– a dictation;

– a short translation (about 120 words) from Italian into Russian, aiming to assess students’ ability to manage their written production (lexis, use of grammatical and syntactic structures);

– a test to verify understanding of a short Russian text.

The assessment will have a duration of about three hours.

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, resulting from the average between the four tests, is 30/30.

**Students who have attended at least 75%** of the course hours will be able to take five tests throughout the year (two in semester 1 and three in semester 2) according to the following schedule:

Semester 1:

- dictation and transliteration

- grammatical test and translation from Italian into Russian.

Semester 2:

- comprehension exercise with multiple choice and cloze exercises.

- dictation

- grammar test on the syllabus of the whole year and translation from Italian into Russian.

Students will pass the written test if their average mark for the partial tests is 18/30 and if they pass the last two.

Students’ marks for each test will be shared at various points in an anonymised list (according to registration number) on Blackboard.

*Oral interim exam:*

The exam will be structured as follows:

– oral questions on grammar (verb conjugation, noun declension, explanation of certain grammar rules, etc.). Students may also be asked to translate short sentences from Italian to Russian;

– conversation on everyday topics;

– description of an image as demonstrated during the practical language classes.

– reading, Russian-Italian oral translation and questions on texts, some of which will have been done in class, some read at home independently (around 30 pages in total of original Russian to be indicated by the course lecturer);

– reading and translation of an unseen text (Russian-Italian).

The ability to read accurately and fluently is essential for passing the oral exam.

The final mark for the oral assessment will consider the following aspects: knowledge of vocabulary (10% of the final mark), grammatical accuracy; (25% of the final mark); correct pronunciation and accentuation (25% of the final mark); reading ability (25% of the final mark); and presentation of the content of a text and communicative interaction (15% of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Students are reminded that their learning of the course content will largely depend on how frequently they attend lectures and assimilate, along with their home study, what the lecturer teaches them in class.

Students will be divided into numbered groups (Russian gr.1, 2, 3, etc.). The group lists will be provided 2 weeks before the beginning of lessons on the Faculty Blackboard site.

**NB. For those who have chosen Russian along with another language other than English (Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish or German), it is possible to follow both languages by combining sessions from different timetables, the details of which will be published on BBoard by mid-September. It is therefore essential for students to consult Blackboard.** Students are nevertheless reminded that, as a rule, if they attend a group with an odd number (1, 3 etc.) in one language, they must attend a group with an even number (2, 4 etc.) for the other. Otherwise there will be several timetable clashes.

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.

**Russian Language Practical Classes (One-Year Course students; First Year of Two-Year Course students)**

## Dott. Elena Freda Piredda, Dott. Anna Tokareva

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

The aim of the course is for students to achieve linguistic competence in elementary-level (A1) written and spoken Russian.

At the end of the course, students will be able to talk about themselves, their family, their interests, introduce themselves or someone else, ask for information about everyday life situations (school, university, bars, shops, etc.), and understand the answers given by the other speaker. In addition, they will be able to understand and write simple texts, as well as read and translate elementary Russian texts. Finally, they will be able to identify and use the main elements of the Russian verb and noun morphology.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The most important reading and writing rules

1.1 The Cyrillic script: block and cursive letters; capital and small letters.

1.2 The main rules of Russian orthography and phonetics.

1.3 Pronunciation, accent, and intonation.

2. Russian verb and noun morphology and the use of complements

2.1 *The nominative case*

2.1.1 Grammatical gender.

2.1.2 The plural of regular and irregular nouns.

2.1.3 Adjectives: gender, number, and terminations in the nominative case.

2.1.4 Personal, interrogative, possessive, and demonstrative pronouns.

2.1.5 A general introduction to Russian names.

2.2 *The genitive case*

2.2.1 Formation and use of the singular genitive

2.2.2 Prepositions used with the genitive case.

2.2.3. The genitive with numbers.

2.3. *The dative case*

2.3.1 Dative construction and use.

2.3.2 Some verbs that govern the dative

2.4. *The accusative case*

2.4.1 Accusative construction and use of the singular and plural inanimate accusative case.

2.5 *The instrumental case*

2.5.1 Instrumental construction and use.

2.5.2 Some verbs that govern the singular

2.6 *The prepositional case*

2.6.1 Prepositional construction and use.

2.6.2 Prepositions that govern the prepositional case

3. Verb morphology

3.1 The first and the second Russian conjugation.

3.2 Russian verbs of the indicative mood: present, past and future perfect tenses.

3.3 Verbs with the particle -ся (учиться)..

3.5 Short introduction to the modal verbs нужно, можно, нельзя and the expression of necessary/unnecessary actions.

3.6 Short introduction to the verbs of movement without prefix идти/ходить, ехать/ездить.

4. Numerals

4.1 Cardinal numerals

4.2 Ordinal numerals

5. Pronouns

5.1 Personal pronouns.

5.2 The use of demonstrative pronouns.

5.3 The pronouns весь, вся, всё, все.

6. Adverbs

7. Syntax

7.1 The interrogative, affirmative, and negative forms.

7.2 The conjunctions а, и and но in complex sentences.

7.3 The declarative clause introduced by что.

***READING LIST***

The reading list will be made available at the beginning of the course and published on the *Blackboard* platform*.* As well as the course texts, students will be pointed in the direction of relevant websites and online resources for learning Russian.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written and oral assessment, structured as follows: morpho-syntactic and lexical multiple-choice tests, reading and oral translation from Russian into Italian of a text similar in terms of content and difficulty to those studied in class, and oral comprehension and expression. Active participation in class and independent work will contribute to students’ overall mark.

Assessment criteria: knowledge of morphosyntax and vocabulary (50%), correct use of grammar (10%), pronunciation and accents (30%), expression skills, and communicative interaction (10%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This practical course has a duration of *one academic year*, so it will take place during semester 1 and 2 (3 hours per week per semester). Course attendance is highly recommended. Students who can’t attend classes are expected to contact the lecturer at the beginning of the course.

There are no prerequisites for attending the 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.