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**Communicative and Negotiatory Strategies - Russian Language (Year 1)**

## Prof. Nataliya Stoyanova

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

The course aims to promote the understanding of authentic oral and written texts in Russian, as well as the most widespread communicative strategies that often exploit pragmatic aspects, and therefore become more familiar with the cultural dimension of the Russian language. At the end of the course, students will have acquired the necessary theoretical tools, and identify and interpret the weak meanings of the utterances that are transmitted without being explicitly stated. The course will analyse different registers of discourse in some forms of Russian oral (official speeches, interviews, project presentations, products and services) and written (journalistic, economic, scientific, literary texts) communication. The course aims to help students acquire the practical skills of the linguistic and pragmatic analysis of texts in comparison with Italian.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will explore in particular the following topics:

* Text: structure, speech act theory.
* Pragmatic meaning theories and the reconstruction of the unsaid.
* Textual functions and communication strategies.
* Intercultural pragmatics: a comparison between Russian and Italian communicative strategies.
* Russian etiquette, courtesy and manipulation strategies.
* Textual cohesion and the functions of discursive words.
* The choice of the tools for cultural mediators (dictionaries, glossaries, etc.)

***READING LIST***

For all Curricula:

A. Bonola, *Strategie di organizzazione del testo russo*, EDUCatt Università Cattolica, Milan 2008.

P. Leopardi, *Presupposizioni e implicature*, in Pragmatica, F. Orletti (ed.), Carocci, Rome, 2001.

V. A. Plungjan, *Vvedenie v grammatičeskuju semantiku: grammatičeskie značenija i grammatičeskie sistemy jazykov mira*, Rossijskij Gosudarstvennyj Gumanitarnyj Universitet, Moskva 2011.

One of the following readings:

N. Allott, *Relevance theory*, in Perspectives on Pragmatics and Philosophy, A. Capone, F. Lo Piparo, M. Carapezza (eds.), Springer, Berlin/New York 2013.

H. P. Grice, *Studies in the Way of Words*, Harvard University Press, Harvard 1989.

L. R. Horn, G. Ward (eds.), *The handbook of pragmatics*, Blackwell publishing, Oxford 2004.

I. Kecskes, *Intercultural pragmatics*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2013.

D. Wilson, R. Carston, *A Unitary Approach to Lexical Pragmatics: Relevance*, Inference and Ad Hoc, in Pragmatics, N. Burton-Roberts (ed.), Palgrave, London 2007: p. 230-259.

Further readings and teaching material will be specified in class and on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will based on classroom lectures, characterised by a theoretical and illustrative approach (with the analysis and translation of written and oral texts in Russian). Students will be asked to carry out some practical activities in order to consolidate their newly-acquired theoretical knowledge. Particular attention will be paid to the contrastive analysis of both written and oral communication failures (for all Curricula).

In addition to the theoretical lectures (30 hours), the course will include 60 hours of practical activities (please see below the ‘Russian Language Practical Activities (Year 1)’ programme).

Furthermore, it will include 20 hours of Practical Activities, that will be held by Dr Anna Krasnikova.

The students including the History of the Russian Language exam (4 ECTS) in their degree curriculum will have to attend further 10 hours of Practical Activities, held by Dr Aleksandra Dykan.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed through a final oral exam, divided into three parts:

1. An oral exam in Russian, in which students will have to demonstrate that they can find their way among the topics discussed in class. It will consist of two questions focused on the theoretical part of the course and the textbooks specified in the Reading list. It will determine 50% of the final mark.
2. In the second part, students will have to demonstrate that they can apply the theoretical knowledge acquired during the course and, using all the material available, carry out an accurate pragmatic analysis of an oral speech or a written text of their choice (that must be previously approved by the lecturer), that they can present during the course or the exam. It will determine 25% of the final mark.
3. The last part of the assessment aims to test the students’ practical ability to translate and reconstruct the unsaid of a short passage (80 words maximum) in Russian, proposed by the lecturer. Also this part of the assessment will determine 25% of the final mark.

The final mark will result from the weighted average of the results obtained in the Russian language written and oral tests (respectively 1/6 and 2/6 of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course will take place during semester 2. The lectures will be held in Italian and Russian. Students are expected to have a good knowledge of the Russian language, corresponding to at least the B2-level of the TRKI framework of reference.

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 Activities (Year 1)

## Dr Elisa Cadorin; Dr Elena Freda Piredda; Dr Anna Tokareva

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

The course aims to help students develop their language skills in the written and oral translation and understanding of the Russian language at an advanced level (B2+/C1 of the TRKI).

At the end of the course, students will be able to know the Russian language at an advanced level, and use it as follows:

* understand complex written texts, and identify their stylistic differences;
* understand the general content of oral texts (videos, films, etc.);
* carry out written translations, from and into Russian, with the support of bilingual and monolingual dictionaries and online translators;
* carry out oral translations, from and into Russian;
* interact fluently on different topics and take active part in a discussion, being able to express and find relevant arguments for their point of view;
* produce written and oral texts in Russian.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will be divided into two parts:

*Morphosyntactic and textual structures, and translation into Italian* (*Dr Elisa Cadorin, Dr Elena Freda Piredda*)

– Use of complex syntactic constructions and an in-depth study of grammar for the translation of advanced texts from Russian into Italian.

– Morphosyntactic, textual, and lexical analysis of authentic texts in Russian about Russia from a socio-economic, political-cultural, and historical perspective.

*Oral communication and translation into Russian* (*Dr Anna Tokareva*)

– Practical activities focused on written and oral translation from Italian into Russian.

– Practical activities aimed to consolidate the assimilation of the morphosyntactic system of the Russian language.

– Reading and analysis of authentic Russian texts aimed to develop writing production skills and the knowledge of vocabulary.

– Listening and oral comprehension and production exercises.

The course will explore the grammatical aspects that characterise the advanced level of knowledge of the language, including the ones that are marked from a stylistic point of view and typical of specialised communication. Therefore, it will examine the following grammar elements:

1. *Numerals*

1.1 How to specify weights, measures, and other data.

1.2 The use of the полтора numeral.

1.3 Arithmetic operations.

1.4 Fractions.

1.5 Decimals.

1.6 Percentages.

2. *Verbs*

2.1 Takings and difficulties in their use.

2.2 In-depth analysis of the use of verbal aspects.

2.3 Cancelled actions (не брал – не взял).

2.4 Syntactic use of the infinitive.

2.5 Use of verbal prefixes.

2.6 Verbs of motion with по- (пошёл, походил) and c- (сходил в аптеку) prefixes

2.7 Use of participles and gerunds in the context.

3. *Syntax*

3.1 Purpose clauses (с тем, чтобы; ради того, чтобы; лишь бы etc.).

3.2 Use of бы-, что-, чтобы, будто in complex subordinate clauses.

3.3 Conditional clauses (раз; ли... ли).

3.4 In-depth analysis of the use of the constructions: то, что / тот, кто.

3.5 Expression of measure and comparison (настолько, что).

3.6 Complex time clauses.

3.7 Causal and concessive clauses.

***READING LIST***

The teaching material will be made available on Blackboard.

Recommended readings

N. Nikitina, *Eserciziario di russo con soluzioni. Livelli B1-B2*, Hoepli, Milan, 2016.

C. Cevese-Ju. Dobrovolskaja, *Sintassi russa: teoria ed esercizi,* Hoepli, Milan, 2004.

I.S. ivanova, *Russkij jayzk. Praktičeskij sintaksis*, Russkij Jazyk, Moscow, 2004.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be based on lectures and practical activities.

In addition – as part of the teaching innovation oriented towards *blended learning* – students will have the opportunity to carry out ongoing activities on authentic Russian texts thanks to the use of the online open platform REVITA (https://revita.cs.helsinki.fi), in order to improve their Russian writing and listening skills, as well as their knowledge of the Russian vocabulary. Students will monitor this activity on their own, thanks to the self-assessment tools available on the platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The Russian Language Practical Activities will be assessed through final written and oral language exams, divided into:

*A written exam*

– Fill-in-the-blanks vocabulary and grammar test.

– Writing of a text in Russian of at about 250-300 words.

– Translation, from Italian into Russian, of a text of about 150 words on current issues.

– Translation, from Russian into Italian, of a text of about 160 words on current issues.

The written exam will be the same for all curricula. Duration of the exam: about 5 hours. Students will be allowed to use bilingual and monolingual dictionaries for the translations and the writing production.

The four parts of the written exam have the same weight and will be assessed with a mark from 1 to 30. The maximum final mark, resulting from the average of the four parts, is 30/30. Furthermore, the assessment will take into account attendance and skills acquired by the students’ on the topics examined in class by the lecturer and carrying out their individual tasks at home; this will be evaluated during the academic year through tests and exercises.

*An oral exam*

During the oral exam, students will have to carry on a conversation, that is to say answer questions based on authentic texts in Russian that they have studied at home (about 150 pages, never translated into Italian), specified by the lecturer during the course. In addition, they will have to read and translate a text in Russian that that will be proposed during the exam and that they see for the first time. The assessment of the oral exam will take into account knowledge of the vocabulary (35% of the final mark), correct use of grammar, pronunciation, and accentuation (30% of the final mark), content presentation and communicative interaction (35% of the final mark).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students should have a good knowledge of the Russian written and oral language at an intermediate level.

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.