The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies
The Johns Hopkins University

Russians: Syllabus for Novice level - Novice-High

Course number 909-710 - 909-712

This level requires two semesters (6 h/w of class-work each) These hours do not include preparation of homework and lab work.

Course description

Goal Speaking
First semester Novice High to satisfy immediate survival needs.
Second semester Intermediate Low to satisfy immediate survival needs.

Proficiency level description. Able to create with the language without relying on memorized material; can make up new independent sentences. Asks and answers questions at the sentence level, thus maintaining a simple face-to-face conversation on topics of immediate need and personal interest, autobiographical information (e.g. family, hobbies, interests, health, work and study). Can get into, through, and out of a simple transactional situation (travel, food, lodging)

Accuracy Understood by native speakers used to dealing with foreigners.

Goal Reading
First semester Novice High for getting basic information from non-political and simple political materials.
Second semester Intermediate Low for getting basic information from non-political and simple political materials.

Proficiency level description. Able to read consistently with increased understanding simple connected texts dealing with a variety of basic and social needs. Such texts are still linguistically noncomplex and have a clear underlying internal structure. They impart basic information about which the reader has to make minimal suppositions and to which the reader brings personal interest and/or knowledge. Examples may include short, straightforward descriptions of persons, places, and things written for a wide audience. Reading small newspaper clippings on official visits, negotiations and economic cooperation, as a "hot-house special"* start at this level. Elementary rules of translation (close reading) of texts are introduced at this level.

* A hot-house special is an area of special interest in which a foreign language speaker shows uncharacteristic fluency and accuracy.
Goal                  Listening

First semester        Novice Mid to satisfy immediate survival needs.
Second semester       Intermediate Low to satisfy immediate survival needs.

Proficiency level description. Able to understand sentence-length utterances which consist of recombination of learned utterances on a variety of topics. Content continues to refer primarily to basic personal background and needs, social conventions and somewhat more complex tasks, such as lodging, transportation, and shopping. Additional content areas include some personal interests and activities, and a greater diversity of instructions and directions. Listening tasks not only pertain to spontaneous face-to-face conversations but also to short routine telephone conversations and some deliberate speech, such as simple announcements and reports over the media. Understanding continues to be uneven.

Grammatical accuracy

Noun
Case forms           partial control over endings; partial control over the distribution necessary for meeting goals as stated above; concept control sufficient to allow continued development of proficiency in subsequent course work.

Adjective
Comparative and superlative degrees partial control in reading.

Verb
Tenses               partial control over endings; partial control over distribution necessary for meeting goals as stated above; conceptual control to allow continued development of proficiency in subsequent course work.
Verbal aspect        conceptual to partial control in reading.
Verbs of motion      conceptual control of basic pairs for reading and speaking.
Verbs of beginning and ending conceptual and partial control in receptive skills.
Participles          partial control over formation of regular active and passive forms for reading skills.
Verbal adverbs

partial control of regular perfective and imperfective forms reading skills.

Passive voice

partial control IN READING.

Subjunctive

partial control of ЧТОБЫ and ЕСЛИ БЫ + Past tense constructions in reading skills.

Conjunctions

conceptual to partial control over the distribution of simple coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.

Materials:

Golosa, Robin R., Evans-Romaine K., Shatalina G.
Joanna Robin, 2003
Prentice Hall publishing company
Textbook 1 and 2
Workbook 1 and 2
Tapes with the textbook

Excerpts of articles from Russian periodicals as additional reading material

Sites to get additional reading materials from the Russian press:
smi.ru; lenta.ru

Sites to get additional listening materials from the Russian radio:
webtelek.com
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Russian:  Syllabus for Intermediate-Low to Intermediate-Mid-1

Course number  909-720 - 909-721

This level requires two semesters (6 h/w of class-work each) These hours do not include preparation of homework and lab work.

Course description

Goal  Speaking

First semester  Intermediate Low Plus in everyday conversations and on politics, national security, and socio-economics as areas of particular strength.

Second semester  Intermediate Mid in everyday conversations and on politics, national security, and socio-economics as areas of particular strength.

Proficiency level description. Able to participate in casual conversations in many situations, but not consistently, can express facts, give instructions, describe and report about current, past and future activities albeit with gaps. Content includes concrete topics such as one’s own background, family, interests, work, travel, and political, socio-economic and security issues. Speaking is taught in role-playing situations in which students are expected to respond in coherent sentence length utterances. Work on speaking in short paragraphs begins during the second semester of this level.

Accuracy. Understandable to native speaker not used to dealing with foreigners. Sometimes miscommunication occurs.

Goal  Reading

First semester  Intermediate Mid with political "hot-house specials."

Second semester  Intermediate High with political "hot-house specials."

Proficiency level description. Able to read consistently with full understanding simple newspaper articles at the level of description and narrations. Structural complexity may interfere with comprehension which is less consistent than at the Advanced level. May have to reread the article several times.
Goal

Listening

First semester
Intermediate Low Plus with political "hot-house specials".

Second semester
Intermediate Mid with political "hot-house specials".

Proficiency level description. Able to understand main ideas and some details of connected discourse on a variety of topics beyond the immediacy of the situation. Comprehension may be uneven due to a variety of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors, among which topic familiarity is very prominent. Listening strategies are taught to get information from adapted reports with simplified grammar read at the speed slower than the speed of radio news announcements. Content includes short news reports which frequently involve description and narration in different time frames or aspects, such as present, non-past, habitual, or imperfective.

Grammatical accuracy comes in a way designed to give total control over basic items necessary for sentence structuring and partial control over more complicated items.

Noun

Case forms near full control over distribution necessary for sentence structuring.

Pronoun

-мо and -нибудь partial control in speaking.

Adjective

Comparatives and superlatives full control of regular forms and partial control of irregulars in speaking.

Verb

Verbal aspect partial control in speaking.

Verbs of beginning and ending partial control in active skills.

-ся verbs full control of three meanings of -ся in receptive skills; partial control of reflexive verbs in speaking.

Participles partial control of regular active and passive forms in active skills.

Verbal adverbs partial control of regular perfective and imperfective in active skills.
Subjunctive  partial control of ЧТОБЫ and ЕСЛИ БЫ  + Past tense constructions in speaking and aural comprehension.

Passive voice full reading control

Syntax

Subordinate clauses partial control in speaking; full reading control.


Russian television program RTVi, news broadcasts and interviews.

Pulkina I., Russian, Moscow, USSR., Grammar reference book  A large collection of Soviet and Russian movies is at the students' disposal.

Sites to get additional reading materials from the Russian press:  smi.ru; lenta.ru; gazeta.ru; km.ru;

Sites to get additional listening materials from the Russian radio:  www.echo.msc.ru, www.mayak.ru, webtelek.com

www.gwu.edu/~slavic/webcast - adapted reports with simplified grammar read at speed slower than the speed of radio news announcements.

Grade calculation:

There are three unit tests in the fall semester  Each unit test:
  a. grammar/vocabulary 8%
  b. report 8%  8% x 3 = 24%
  c. reading 8%

  Units total: 24% x 3 = 72%

Final test:  a. interview 14%  28%
           b. reading 14%

Total: 100%
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Russian:     Syllabus for Intermediate-Mid-II - Intermediate-High

Course number    909-722 - 909.723

This level requires two semesters  (6 h/w of class-work each)   These hours do not include preparation of homework and lab work.

Course description

Goal                Speaking

First semester  
*Intermediate Mid Plus* in everyday conversations and on politics, national security, and socio-economics as areas of particular strength.

Second semester  
*Intermediate High* in everyday conversations and on politics, national security, and socio-economics as areas of particular strength.

Proficiency level description.  Able to handle a variety of communicative tasks and social situations. Can initiate and close a general conversation, is able to narrate and describe, albeit with errors. Uses strategies appropriate for the circumstances. Vocabulary is still limited. There is evidence of connected discourse.

Accuracy. Understandable to native speaker not used to dealing with foreigners. Sometimes miscommunication occurs.

Goal                Reading

First semester  
*Advanced* with political "hot-house specials."

Second semester  
*Advanced Plus* with political "hot-house specials."

Proficiency level description.  Able to follow essential points in opinion newspaper articles at the Superior level in areas of special expertise. Can understand abstract and linguistically complex texts.

Goal                Listening

First semester  
*Intermediate High* with political "hot-house specials".

Second semester  
*Advanced Low* with political "hot-house specials".
Proficiency level description. Able to understand main ideas and some details of connected discourse on a variety of topics beyond the immediacy of the situation. Comprehension may be uneven due to a variety of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors, among which topic familiarity and acoustic purity are very prominent. Listening strategies are taught to get information from unadapted reports. Content includes short TV news reports which frequently involve description and narration in different time frames or aspects, such as present, non-past, habitual, or imperfective.

Grammatical accuracy comes in a way designed to give total control over basic items necessary for sentence structuring and partial control over more complicated items.

Noun

Case forms near full control over distribution necessary for sentence structuring.

Pronoun

-мо and -нибудь partial control in speaking.

Adjective

Comparatives and superlatives full control of regular forms and partial control of irregulars in speaking.

Verb

Verbal aspect partial control in speaking.

Verbs of beginning and ending partial control in active skills.

-ся verbs full control of three meanings of -ся in receptive skills; partial control of reflexive verbs in speaking.

Participles partial control of regular active and passive forms in active skills.

Verbal adverbs partial control of ЧТОБЫ and ЕСЛИ БЫ + Past tense constructions in speaking and aural comprehension.
Passive voice  full reading control

Syntax
Subordinate clauses  partial control in speaking;
full reading control.

Materials:  Simes N. and Robin R.M.  Political Russian, Circle Two
Pre-reading recorded audio comprehension exercises
Russian TV interviews

Russian television program “RTVi”, news broadcasts and interviews.

Pulkina I., Russian, Moscow, USSR., Grammar reference book
A large collection of Soviet and Russian movies is at the students’ disposal.

Sites to get additional reading materials from the Russian press:
smi.ru; lenta.ru; gazeta.ru; km.ru;

Sites to get additional listening materials from the Russian radio:

Grade calculation:

There are three unit tests in the fall semester
Each unit test:
  a. grammar/vocabulary  8%
  b. report  8%  8% x 3 = 24%
  c. reading  8%

Units total:  24% x 3 = 72%

Final test: a. interview  14%  28%
  b. reading  14%

Total: 100%
Goal  

**Speaking**  
*Advanced* for politics, national security and socio-economics as areas of particular strength.

**Proficiency level description.** Able to speak in paragraphs. Can conduct political discussions expressing an opinion, shifting to new subjects, quoting sources, etc. The content includes highly diversified themes connected with areas of professional strength.

Goal  

**Reading**  
*Advanced Mid* for politics, national security and socio-economics.

**Contents.** Reading materials mostly include editorials. Students are taught strategies necessary to be able to read between the lines. Reading materials include feature-length articles of editorial character.

Goal  

**Listening**  
*Advanced Low* with political "hot-house special."

**Contents.** Listening materials primarily represent news analysis and interviews.

**Grammatical accuracy**  
Students should have achieved a level of grammatical accuracy that guarantee comprehension by a native listener not used to dealing with foreigners. Work with grammar is limited to achieving partial control in distribution and total control in reading of several difficult but, nevertheless, frequently-used Russian constructions.

These are:

- Short forms of adjectives versus long forms
- Detached attributes
  - *adjectival*
  - *participial*
  - *verbal adverbial*
- Emphatic Imperatives
The use of the second person singular with the subject. Ты is omitted, in order to express a condition in the future.

- Infinitive used as a predicate
- Conjunction БУДТО (бы)

**Materials:**


Tapes for the book

Russian television program “RTVi”, news broadcasts and interviews.

A large collection of Soviet and Russian movies is at the students' disposal

**Sites to get additional reading materials** from the Russian press: smi.ru; lenta.ru; gazeta.ru; km.ru; newsru.com; rami.ru

**Sites to get additional listening materials** from the Russian radio: www.echo.msc.ru, www.mayak.ru,