

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

Russian: 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	<i>Novice Mid</i> to satisfy immediate survival needs.
Second semester	<i>Intermediate Low</i> 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

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

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	<i>Intermediate Low Plus</i> with political "hot-house specials".
Second semester	<i>Intermediate Mid</i> 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. <i>Listening</i> 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	
<i>-то and -нибудь</i>	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 <i>beginning and ending</i>	partial control in active skills.
<i>- ся verbs</i>	full control of three meanings of <i>-ся</i> 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.

Materials: **Simes N. and Robin R.M. Political Russian, Circle One**
Sixth Edition, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 2009
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:
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%

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

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	
<i>-то and -нибудь</i>	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 <i>beginning and ending</i>	partial control in active skills.
<i>- ся verbs</i>	full control of three meanings of <i>-ся</i> 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.

Materials: **Simes N. and Robin R.M. Political Russian, Circle Two**
Sixth Edition, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 2009
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:
www.echo.msc.ru, www.mayak.ru, webtelek.com

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%

- 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:

Simes, N. Years of Change: Reading the Russian Press,
Second Edition, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1997
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,