

Structure of Russian (Spring 2009; MWF 1:20)

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Course Description and Objectives. The main purpose of this course is to provide advanced students with a theoretical and practical introduction to the linguistic structure of Contemporary Standard Russian. The first part of the course is devoted to the sound system (phonetics and phonology), the second part to inflection. In addition to these topics, we will spend time over the course of the semester examining and discussing an approach to grammatical and semantic analysis known as Cognitive Linguistics (CL); readings will be both theoretical (what is CL and how does it work?) and practical (how can we apply CL to Slavic-language data?).

This course is designed both to systematize three or more years of study of the Russian language as well as to provide students with the basic tools necessary to continue the study of Russian at more advanced instructional levels or outside of an academic context (independently in work, research, or in-country settings). For students who intend to become teachers of Russian, this course is an introduction to the inner workings of the language. The course also necessarily serves as a general introduction to linguistics (what is language and how is it structured?) which uses Russian data for illustration.

As instructor, I will facilitate the achievement of the course objectives by providing you with a framework in which to learn, but I cannot achieve the objectives or learn for you. Only *independent work* and *active assimilation* of the course content on your part will result in the successful attainment of all the course goals and your own personal ones. Progress in this respect will be measured by two exams, regular homework (exercises and readings), active participation in class, and completion of a final project (see below).

Materials. We will make use of or refer to the sources below. In addition, we will have course-packets for each part of the course; to cover the cost of copying, each student will pay \$10 (cash or check made out to University of Wisconsin).

[Required or recommended materials]

- *Introduction to Russian Phonology and Word Structure*, Hamilton. (H)
- *An Introduction to Language*, V. Fromkin and R. Rodman. (F/R)
- *Roots of the Russian Language*, G. Patrick.
- *Fundamentals of Russian Verbal Conjugation*, T. Garza.
- *Using Russian*, D. Offord.

[Some sources of supplementary materials]

- **Русское литературное произношение, Р. И. Аванесов.**
- *Russian and Slavic Grammar*, R. Jakobson.
- *The Russian Language in the Twentieth Century*, B. Comrie, G. Stone, M. Polinsky.
- **Слово о словах, Л. В. Успенский.**
- *The Case Book for Russian*, L. Janda and S. Clancy.
- **Энциклопедия «Русский язык».**

The following books are additional resources and are available in the library; some are available for loan in my office. I have not put them on reserve; please share.

- P. Cubberley, *Handbook of Russian Affixes*.
- T. Wade, *Russian Etymological Dictionary*.
- L. J. Herman, *A Dictionary of Slavic Word Families*.
- C. Wolkosky and M. Poltorazky, *Handbook of Russian Roots*.
- **Св. Димитрова, Исключения в русском языке.**
- D. Hart, *Topics in the Structure of Russian*.
- M. Levin, *Russian Declension and Conjugation*.

- D. Jones and D. Ward, *The Phonetics of Russian*. [Hamilton references this]
- C. Townsend, *Russian Word-Formation*.
- S. I. Ozhegov, *Slovar' russkogo jazyka*.
- A. P. Vlasto, *A Linguistic History of Russia*.
- A. Schenker, *The Dawn of Slavic*.
- C. Townsend and L. Janda, *Common and Comparative Slavic*.
- Ю. С. Маслов. **Введение в языкознание**.

Requirements. The following are required for successful completion of the course; I have also indicated how each requirement will figure in the final grade.

•Attendance/participation	10%
•Homework (daily and weekly)	20%
•Exams (2)	50% (25% each)
•Final project	20%

Homework will come in two varieties: **assignments** for the next class period and **assignments done over the course of any given week** (mostly readings and questions based on them). All assignments are fair game for testing.

In-class **exams** will cover two of the three major topics in the course: the first on phonetics/phonology and the second on inflection.

Each student will be required to complete a **final project** that is devoted to a theme in Russian or Slavic linguistics from a CL perspective. Ample suggestions and article recommendations will be provided. Projects will be presented at the end of the semester (ie, you will teach everyone else about your theme).

Absence Policy. Please try to inform me of absences prior to the start of class.

Grading. Grades will be earned according to the following scale:

92+	A
89-91	AB
82-88	B
79-81	BC
70-78	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

As the instructor for the course, I am committed to helping you learn as much as possible from the course and achieve the course objectives. I am available for outside help whenever you need it; make an appointment to see me, drop by my office, or text-message or call me at home with questions (but please not after 9:00 pm!).

Semester Overview: Spring 09

W 1-21	Introductions: people, course, linguistics.
F 1-23	Consonants.
M 1-26	Vowels.
W 1-28	
F 1-30	
M 2-2	Group project day 1: What is Cognitive Linguistics (CL)?

W 2-4 F 2-6	Voicedness and voiceless of consonants.
M 2-9 W 2-11 F 2-13	Group project day 2: Prototyping.
M 2-16 W 2-18 F 2-20	Practical exercises on transcription.
M 2-23 W 2-24 F 2-27	No class.
M 3-2 W 3-4 F 3-6	No class. Exam on phonetics and phonology. Presentation on translation theory by Matt Larson.
M 3-9 W 3-11 F 3-13	Group project day 3: Radial categories. Morphology. No class.
[Spring Break]	
M 3-23 W 3-25 F 3-27	No class. Declensional system.
M 3-30 W 4-1 F 4-3	Group project day 4: Figure and ground, nouns and verbs.
M 4-6 W 4-8 F 4-10	Conjugational system.
M 4-13 W 4-15 F 4-17	Group project day 5: Applications to Slavic data I. Email me soon about your final project idea!
M 4-20 W 4-22 F 4-24	No class.
M 4-27 W 4-29 F 5-1	Exam on morphology. Project consultations. Group project day 6: Applications to Slavic data II.
M 5-4 W 5-6 F 5-8	Project consultations. Project presentations. Project presentations.