

Romanian Level 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

This is a course for students who have little or no prior knowledge of Romanian and who wish to attain a level of competence which will allow them to communicate effectively in a number of straightforward situations. Students will also be introduced to the reading of simple texts, including works of literature, in Romanian.

The course provides a knowledge of basic Romanian grammar and vocabulary as well as an introduction to the culture of Romania and Romanians, wherever they may live.

Course Details

Title	Romanian Language Level 1
Course Code	SEEER 101
Course Value	1 course unit
Duration	Taught in Autumn and Spring Terms
Prerequisites	Open to students who have little or no knowledge of ROMANIAN
Course Leader	Ramona Gonczol-Davies

Aims

The course aims to:

- enable students to learn Romanian *ab initio* and to attain (in all language skills) a level of competence at which they can function in Romanian, at a basic level, in straightforward everyday situations
- prepare students for the reading of selected texts in Romanian in the next stage of their degree (in courses requiring reading of literary and other texts) and for interaction with native speakers of Romanian, whether in this country or when visiting Romania
- introduce students to some of the problems and techniques of translation
- initiate and develop awareness of and interest in basic aspects of Romanian and societies where Romanian is spoken
- provide students with a sound linguistic foundation for the Romanian Level 2 Course.

Outcomes

By the end of the course students who have successfully fulfilled all the course requirements (attendance, assignment completion, assessments, examination) should be able to:

- understand authentic basic spoken Romanian (including straightforward radio and television materials etc.) presented at a measured pace; extract required information and record it accurately and coherently in English
- express orally simple facts, opinions and emotions and describe uncomplex sequences of events in Romanian; participate in conversations relating to everyday life and on straightforward topics; using straightforward language speak about selected aspects of Romania, its life and culture
- understand authentic straightforward written texts in Romanian; extract required information (with the help of a dictionary) and record it accurately and coherently in English
- translate simple Romanian texts into English with accuracy and readability
- demonstrate the ability to read and understand straightforward literary, historical and/or journalistic works in Romanian for the purposes of further studies in literature, history and/or social science course units in Year 2
- write (with the help of a dictionary) straightforward texts in Romanian using a basic range of grammatical structures and vocabulary accurately and coherently
- demonstrate an understanding of basic grammatical concepts and an active knowledge of basic Romanian structures and vocabulary.

Teaching

Romanian grammar, vocabulary and basic language skills are taught by means of presentation, whole-class discussion, small-group, pair and individual exercises, using coursebooks and tutor-prepared texts, audio and video materials as well as computer and internet resources. Students are introduced to straightforward authentic texts early in the course, and are given training in the most effective use of dictionaries. Work done in class is consolidated by means of regular assignments and self-access tasks.

The course consists of 100 hours of contact time (5 hours per week). In addition, students are expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours' independent study for each hour of work in class.

Assessment

Monitoring of progress

The regular, punctual and satisfactory completion of weekly assignments is a prerequisite for completion of the course, but does not contribute to the final assessment. Students' progress will be carefully monitored by means of regular tests, exercises and home assignments, in particular in the early stages of the course.

Examination

The course is examined by:

- an oral test of 15 minutes consisting of reading aloud, presentation and a discussion in Romanian (15% of the overall mark)
- an aural test of approx. 45 minutes (15% of the overall mark)
- a three-hour written paper, normally held in May (70% of the overall mark).

The written examination consists of four parts:

- a series of tasks assessing knowledge and understanding of Romanian grammar
- a comprehension and information retrieval task consisting of a passage of approx. 250 words in Romanian followed by questions in English, to be answered in English
- translation into English of a Romanian passage of approx. 200 words
- writing in Romanian: an essay of approx. 200 words on a topic selected from a list of three or four titles.

The use of dictionaries is permitted **in the written paper only**.

NB Progression to the Romanian Level 2 course is contingent upon passing the Level 1 examination.

Key Reference Works

The following coursebook(s) will be used:

- Colloquial Romanian, Routledge, 2002 by Ramona Gonczol-Davies and Dennis Deletant

Course materials produced by the teacher will also be provided.

In addition, students will find the following useful:

- *Romanian-An Essential Grammar* by Ramona Gonczol-Davies (in preparation)
- *You Can Speak Romanian* by Dana Cojocaru
- *Româna de bază* by A Dorobat, Mircea Fotea
- *Romanian Grammar* by Liana Pop, Victoria Molodovan
- *Limba română* by Brancus, Ionescu, Saramandu
- *Limba Română pentru străini* by Olga Balanescu
- *Romanian Verbs* by Karen Eicher, Liviu Teghiu

For self-help with the spoken language:

- *Learn Romanian* by Gheorgeh Doca
- *Teach Yourself Romanian* by Dennis Deletant and Yvonne Alexandrescu

Relevant websites and online reference materials:

- www.culture.ro
- www.dictionare.ro
- www.romania-on-line.net

A list of other relevant websites and online materials will be provided at the start of the course.

Students will require a dictionary at an early stage in the course. The following are recommended:

- *Dicționar Român-Englez*, Teora, by Andrei Bantaș
- *Dicționar Englez-Român*, Teora, by Andrei Bantaș
- *Dicționarul Explicativ Român*
- *Dicționar de sinonime*
- *Dicționar de antonime*
- *Dicționar de neologisme*

The following libraries and bookshops stock ROMANIAN books and other materials.

- Romanian Cultural Centre Library
- Grant and Cutler
- International Book Shop
- Waterstones
- Foyles.