

MA INTERMEDIATE LANGUAGE: RUSSIAN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The course aims to develop a range of production and comprehension language skills in the spoken and written language at intermediate level; these skills will relate both to the students' studies and to practical situations in the relevant country. Students on the two-year MRes, and most SSEES MA programmes are entitled to enrol on this course. The course will include the development of oral skills, the reading of more complex authentic texts, grammar exercises and writing in the language. The communicative component (oral and aural) will cover both everyday situations and formal presentations related to students' research interests. The starting level for this course is a direct continuation of the language skills attained as part of the Russian MA New Language module. It can also be taken by those who have passed at least GCSE in Russian or one course unit at university level and have not gone beyond A level or equivalent (rough equivalents are a Russian intensive year at a British university, or two years of college Russian in the USA). The course is not appropriate for students who have studied Russian beyond A-level or equivalent.

Course Details

Title	MA Intermediate Language: Russian
Course Code	SEES G076
Credits	40
Duration	Taught in Autumn and Spring Terms
Availability	Open to students of MRes in East European Studies and Russian, most SSEES MA programmes
Prerequisites	Successful completion of the MA Russian New Language course or equivalent competence in the language
Course Leader (s)	Maria Rubins, Lydia Buravova

Aims

The course aims to enable students to:

- enhance their reading skills of information retrieval, summary and translation, introducing them to a wide range of authentic texts, including materials drawn from their specific discipline and area of research;
- consolidate and further develop a knowledge of grammar, syntax and lexis;
- develop a broad base across all four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing;
- develop targeted productive skills in the written and spoken language which will equip them to undertake research in the relevant country.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students will have acquired:

- enhanced reading skills that equip them to undertake doctoral research;
- a broad base of listening, speaking and writing skills;
- targeted productive skills relating to the conduct of research;
- the ability to select, and work confidently with, authentic materials related to the chosen area of research.

Teaching

Comprehension and production of written Russian, communicative skills, grammar and vocabulary are taught by means of presentation, class discussion, individual and group exercises, as appropriate, using recommended literature, tutor-prepared texts and multimedia resources. A wide range of authentic texts is used in the course. Classwork is consolidated by means of regular assignments and independent study. The course consists of 60 contact hours (3 hours per week). In addition, students are expected to complete 5-6 hours' independent study for each hour of work in class.

Assessment

Coursework

The regular, punctual and satisfactory completion of weekly assignments is a prerequisite for completion of the course, but does not contribute to the final mark. Progress is monitored by means of regular tests, exercises and home assignments. Students also assemble an individual research-related project portfolio, which is a prerequisite for entry to the examination and serves as a basis for the presentation and discussion in the oral examination.

Examination

The course is assessed by means of a three-hour written examination and a 25-minute oral test, both normally held in May.

The written examination consists of two sections and is worth 70% of the total mark: Section One: a text in Russian of 450-500 words for summary in English (200 words): a section of this text (120 words) for translation into English.

Section Two: an essay in Russian of 250-300 words on a topic related to the materials studied during the course.

The use of dictionaries is permitted in both sections of the examination.

The oral test is worth 30% of the total mark and consists of a role-playing situation, a presentation and discussion relating to the student's individual project portfolio, and a general conversation based on topics covered during the course.

The use of dictionaries is **not** permitted in the oral test.

Key Reference Works

Collins Russian Dictionary, Harper Collins, 1994

Oxford Russian Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2000

Nicholas J. Brown, *Russian Learners' Dictionary*, Routledge, 1996 (a frequency dictionary for vocabulary building)

S. I. Ozhegov, *Словарь русского языка*, Moscow: Russkii iazyk, 1991

Terence Wade, *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*, Blackwell Publishers, 2000

Terence Wade, *A Russian Grammar Workbook*, Blackwell Publishers, 1996

Edwina J. Cruise, *English Grammar for Students of Russian*, Arnold, 2000

F. M. Borrás and R. F. Christian, *Russian Syntax (Aspects of Modern Russian Syntax and Vocabulary)*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1971

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

NB: Students will be informed at the start of the course which textbooks they should purchase.