

RUSSIAN AS A NEW LANGUAGE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

This course aims to provide a competent reading knowledge of Russian and basic communicative skills in the language. Students who complete the course successfully will be able to assure both potential employers and academic supervisors that they possess the necessary foundation-level Russian language skills to work with original Russian texts and to enable them to undertake study and/or research in Russia. The course provides an intensive introduction to Russian grammar, a knowledge of basic vocabulary, and practice in the skills of oral communication in Russian in straightforward situations, translation, summary and information retrieval, using Russian texts on Russian and international cultural, political and social themes.

The course is designed for beginners, i.e. for students who do not already speak or understand Russian. It requires intensive study and applicants must provide evidence of language learning ability. Progress is carefully monitored, in particular in the early stages of the course.

Key Reference Works

The course will use the following textbook:

Svetlana le Fleming and Susan E. Kay, *Colloquial Russian*, Routledge, 1997

In addition, students will find the following books useful:

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

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

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

A dictionary will be essential from about the middle of the first term:

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

Oxford Russian Dictionary, Oxford University Press, 2000

Collins Russian Dictionary, Harper Collins, 1994

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

Course Details

Title	RUSSIAN AS A NEW LANGUAGE
Course Code	SEES GO72
Course Value	40 credits
Duration	Taught in the Autumn and Spring Terms
Availability	Open to students of most SSEES taught postgraduate programmes, including MA and MRes
Prerequisites	Open to students who have no knowledge of Russian
Course Leader	Dr Andrei Novikov

Aims

The course aims to enable students to:

- develop competence in and use of Russian to an intermediate level
- develop basic communicative skills of aural comprehension and oral production
- develop the comprehension skills of reading, translating from Russian and summarising, through the use of a range of stylistically diverse materials, drawn in the main from contemporary sources
- acquire the basic writing skills necessary to facilitate language learning and support a period of study and/or research in Russia
- develop a knowledge of grammar and syntax, lexis and register, as well as language awareness and language learning skills
- study a wide range of authentic language materials and acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding of Russian life and culture through the materials studied.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the course students will have acquired:

- a grasp of the basic grammatical structures and vocabulary of Russian
- comprehension of written Russian at an intermediate level
- the ability to communicate in Russian in straightforward everyday and study-related situations
- the ability to translate, summarise and retrieve information accurately
- time management skills and the ability to work to deadlines.

Teaching

Classes meet for four hours each week over twenty teaching weeks (80 hours of contact time). Depending on numbers, there will be two oral groups. For every contact hour four hours of work in the student's own time will be expected.

In class, students will be presented with the grammar and vocabulary of Russian *ab initio*. Communicative, reading and vocabulary building skills will be extended through a range of exercises, work with authentic texts and training in the effective use of a dictionary.

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 assessment. Students' progress is monitored by means of regular tests, exercises and home assignments. Students are also required to compile a portfolio of materials, in Russian, relating to their individual area of interest. This is monitored by the teacher and its satisfactory completion is a prerequisite for entry to the examination.

Examination

The course is examined by means of an oral test (25% of the overall mark) and a three-hour written paper, normally held in May.

The written examination consists of **two** sections and is worth 75% of the total mark:

Section One:

- Task A (30% of the overall mark): a text in Russian of 450-500 words for summary in English in 150-200 words
- Task B (20% of the overall mark): a section (120-150 words) of the Task A text for translation into English.

Section Two:

- a comprehension and information retrieval task consisting of a passage in Russian of approximately 400 words, followed by questions in English, to be answered in English (25% of the overall mark).

The use of dictionaries is permitted in the written examination.