

## Linguistics 185

Spring 2009

## Structure of Russian

Class Tuesday-Thursday 2:00 – 3:45

Jaye Padgett

Office: 253 Stevenson

Phone: 459-3157

Office hours: Wednesday 2:00-3:00 **or by appointment**

Email: padgett@ucsc.edu

Prerequisite: Ling 52/55 (Syntax) and Ling 101 (Phonology)

Required Texts: *To be given out during the quarter*

|               |   |       |
|---------------|---|-------|
| Requirements: | ☛ Homework problems, about 1 every week | (70%) |
|               | ☛ A final project of about 5-8 pages    | (20%) |
|               | ☛ Reading responses                     | (10%) |

*Goals of the course:*

This course is about the analysis of Russian in the context of current linguistic theory. We will study the phonetic, phonological, morphological, and syntactic properties of Russian, having two goals in mind: i) to learn about Russian linguistics; ii) to use what we discover to better understand linguistic theory. The second point is really the most important one; it is the reason why no knowledge of Russian is assumed (but syntax and phonology **are**). I happen to like Russian, but we won't be learning about Russian for its own sake, but rather for the sake of understanding how language works. This is what linguists do. Having said that, if you happen to study Russian yourself, I am sure you will find a lot of what we cover helpful to you.

*Homeworks:*

Homework assignments will (usually, probably) be given out Thursday and due the following Tuesday. As usual in our department, you are encouraged to discuss homework problems with others, in great length and detail. *But you must write up your homework alone.* Late homeworks will be marked down unless there is a legitimate reason. One homework will be dropped from the overall grade at the end of the quarter, so if you bomb or miss just one, it won't hurt you.

*Final project:*

The final project will involve researching a problem in Russian phonetics, phonology, morphology, or syntax. More on this later.

*Readings:*

There will be a reading due before some classes. 10% of the course grade will depend on short responses to the assigned readings. The object of the reading responses is to ensure that students do the readings and give some thought to them.

### Attendance:

If you miss a class, it is up to you to borrow notes from someone, get homeworks, and so on.

### Academic honesty:

UCSC does not tolerate plagiarism. People found to have plagiarized will be reported to their college, with dismissal from the university a possible consequence. It can lead to failure of the class. If you're unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, or what the consequences are, check out [http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic\\_integrity/](http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/).

### Schedule of Topics

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 3/31 | <b>Introduction.</b> Background on Russian. (Speakers, history, fun properties.)<br><b>Phonetics.</b> Transcribing Russian. Russian consonants. (Palatalization, sibilants, [x].)<br>Some acoustic properties (F2, center of gravity.) |
| 4/2  | Russian stressed vowels. Acoustic properties. (F1 & F2.) Positional variation. The vowel [ɨ].  |
| 4/7  | <b>Phonology.</b> Palatalization and velarization. Russian vowel reduction. ((Partial?) neutralization, phonological analysis, derivational opacity.)<br><i>Reading: Contrast dispersion and Russian palatalization</i>                |
| 4/9  | Final devoicing and voicing assimilation. Syllable- vs. cue-based approaches. Prosodic words and clitic groups.  |
| 4/14 | The problem of [v]. Syllables and sonority.<br><i>Reading: Russian voicing assimilation, final devoicing, and the problem of [v]</i>   |
| 4/16 | Syllables and sonority (cont.). Jers (disappearing vowels).  |
| 4/21 | Jers (cont).<br><i>Reading: TBA</i>  |
| 4/23 | Derivational opacity in Russian.   |
| 4/28 | <b>Morphology.</b> Structure of Russian verbs. Consonantal mutations.<br><i>Reading: TBA</i>   |
| 4/30 | Consonantal mutations (cont.). More derivational opacity.  |
| 5/5  | Russian case, number, and gender agreement.  |
| 5/7  | Agreement (cont.), verbless sentences  |
| 5/12 | Is Russian configurational?  |
| 5/14 | *Guest lecturer* Vera Griбанова: Russian configurationality, cont.   |
| 5/19 | *Guest lecturer* Vera Griбанова: Clause structure, case assignment, agreement  |
| 5/21 | *Guest lecturer* Vera Griбанова: Genitive of negation  |
| 5/26 | *Guest lecturer* Vera Griбанова: Argument structure  |
| 5/28 | Russian intonation   |
| 6/2  | Student presentations  |
| 6/4  | Student presentations  |
|      | <b>Final project due Thursday, June 11</b>   |