

L504: COMPARATIVE SLAVIC MORPHOSYNTAX
Spring Semester 2009

Instructor: Steven Franks (franks@indiana.edu)
Class meeting: 4:00-5:15, Monday and Wednesday, in WH106
Offices: 329 Memorial Hall, phone 855-8169 (LING)
 502 or 516 Ballantine Hall, phone 855-3272/2616 (SLAV)
Office hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course offers an in-depth introduction to the morphosyntax of the modern Slavic languages. Selected topics, depending in part on student interest, will be examined from a comparative perspective. The course serves the dual purpose of acquainting students both with current generative grammar and with a range of relevant problems posed by Slavic languages. The course will be run as a workshop, with active student participation. The workshop nature of the course means that, in addition to completing the general readings, each student will be assigned a specific Slavic language. Students will be regularly responsible for reporting back to the class on how his/her language behaves with respect to the constructions considered, as well as for following up when specific questions arise.

Language responsibilities:

Brigid: Polish
Heather: Slovenian
Ksenia: Ukrainian
Lora: Macedonian
Melissa: BCS
Michael: Hungarian
Rosie: Slovak

Texts and Readings:

Before each topic, a list of recommended and/or required readings will be distributed. For each topic, we will first overview the salient properties of each language with respect to the topic at hand, then discuss particular readings where relevant, and finally analyze the individual languages with respect to the theoretical and comparative concerns raised. Everything will be made available either as pdf or in hard copy, left in the Armstrong Library.

Required:

Franks, *Parameters of Slavic Morphosyntax*
many additional assigned readings

Recommended resource:

Comrie and Corbett, *The Slavonic Languages*.

Course Requirements:

1) Students will write a term paper on a problem relating to the course material, topic to be agreed upon by instructor.

- a. Topic to be determined by **Wednesday, 25 March.**
- b. One-page abstract to be submitted by **Monday, 8 April.**
- c. Final version of term paper due by **Thursday, 7 May.**

2) Students will write a short critical review of an article related to term paper.

Review due by **Wednesday, 17 April.**

3) Each student will lead a brief discussion of the problems treated in his/her term paper, at a special session to be arranged, probably during the week of 20 April. Presentation should provide a preliminary forum for students to air the problematics of their term paper topics.

Grading:

Term paper: 50% of grade

Critical review: 20% of grade

Presentation: 10% of grade

Homeworks and class participation: 20% of grade

L504, Tentative Schedule

NB: The following syllabus is very approximate, and will surely be revised as the course progresses. Students are responsible for any changes announced in class, including additional/alternative readings and possible homework assignments.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPICS (readings to be arranged)</u>
12 January	SURVEY Survey of Slavic speaking world and languages: geography, language groups, historical dispersement. Overview of ethnicities, religious and cultural diversity. Language sketches.
19 January	NO CLASS MONDAY CASE and CASE SYSTEMS Jakobson's case features; survey of case systems of the different languages: richness/impooverishment of morphology, comparison of lexicons, lexical case government
26 January	CASE and CASE SYSTEMS, continued
2 February	QUANTIFIERS The Russian numeral system

- 9 February QUANTIFIERS, continued
Numeral systems of other Slavic languages
- 16 February **NO CLASS MONDAY**
NEGATION and GENITIVE OF NEGATION
- 23 February CLITICS
Survey of pronominal and verbal auxiliary clitics, properties interrogative *li*
- 2 March CLITICS, continued
- 9 March VOICE
Issues of diathesis in Slavic languages, expressing and suppressing agents, promoting themes, issues of functional sentence perspective, discourse, pragmatics
- 16 March **NO CLASSES, SPRING BREAK**
- 23 March **NO CLASS MONDAY**
AGREEMENT
Subject verb agreement, conjoined subjects, mismatches, predicate adjectives and case
- 30 March AGREEMENT, continued
- 6 April ANAPHORA and REFERENCE
Survey of reflexives and reciprocals, pronominal systems in general.
- 13 April NULL SUBJECTS
Factors affecting when subjects are null or overt, recovery of information, argument ellipsis
- 20 April QUESTIONS and RELATIVE CLAUSES
Interrogation in Slavic (and Balkan) languages, special properties and groupings
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (special make up sessions)
- 27 April QUESTIONS and RELATIVE CLAUSES, continued