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 languages. 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 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.

**WEEK**  **TOPICS (readings to be arranged)**

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/impoverishment 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