Elementary Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian* I

Instructor: Marina Antić
Contact: mantic@iu.edu
Office hours: MW 10:30 - 11:30 am
Office location: GISB 4042

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This is the first course in a two-semester introduction to Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian (BCMS) language. It is designed for a student with no prior knowledge of BCMS. This course will give you introductory command of all four language skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing, as well as introduce you to the cultures of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia. The cultural element of the course is designed to supplement your linguistic skills and equip you to successfully communicate with native speakers of BCMS.
COURSE OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, students will have developed sufficient comprehension in BCMS to understand short conversations on familiar topics, such as basic personal background and needs, social conventions, and routine tasks, such as ordering meals, receiving simple instructions and directions. Students will be able to read consistently and with full understanding simple, connected texts on basic personal and social needs. They will be able to speak and maintain a limited number of task-oriented conversations in familiar situations. Writing skills will include producing short messages, notes, and e-mails within the limited number of topics and situations, and in simple sentences.

*A NOTE ON VARIANTS:

The ultimate goal of all foreign language study is to reach the near-native level of proficiency in all language and basic cultural skills. To do so in BCMS means learning to comprehend listening and reading all four variants or languages: Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian. You may or may not choose to limit your speaking and writing to only one of these four variants, but you must learn to comprehend and recognize all of them. However, you must choose between two major dialects: either ekavica or ijekavica and learn to use it consistently. To this end, we will learn both Latin and Cyrillic alphabet; two major dialects: ekavica and ijekavica; and regional lexical and grammatical differences.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Ronelle Alexander and Ellen Elias-Bursać, *Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian: A Textbook with Exercises and Basic Grammar*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2010 (available on-line through IUCAT: http://kg6ek7cq2b.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JCs&C=T C0000413079&T=marc) If you have trouble accessing it from this link, you can also try this: http://iucat.iu.edu/catalog/14560939)

COURSE POLICIES:

Note carefully the dates tests and the final exam. If you miss a quiz, test or exam without a valid excuse (illness, family emergency), you will receive a zero for this test. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of your absence before the scheduled test. If you have 3 finals within 24 hours or if you are taking another course with a final at the same time as this course’s final exam, you may elect to take the BCMS final at a later date and time on agreement with your instructor by registering for a make-up exam.

Cellular telephones, tablets, and laptop computers are NOT to be used in class. In case of emergencies, you may be allowed to leave your phone on, but you must speak with me about this before class.
Communicative approach to language learning that we use in this class is based on the practice of speaking in BCMS as much as possible during class time. **You are to attempt to speak in BCMS first, before resorting to asking questions in English.** This provides you with time and place to practice and make mistakes before you are confronted with truly communicating in BCMS in the real world. However, for this system to work, you must do your part outside of the classroom: study and memorize grammar points and vocabulary. See Study Hints for tips on how to go about these tasks.

**You are NOT to use Google translate or similar automatic translation services at any time in this course.** They are highly inaccurate to begin with, and they are not helping you learn the language. If you use them in your homework or other assignments, you will be committing plagiarism. Please familiarize yourself with the plagiarism policies and come see me with any questions.

**EVALUATION:**

- Participation and attendance: 10%
- Homework: 10%
- Hour exams (Kontrolni rad) + Culture presentation (optional): 30%
- Oral exams (Usmeni test): 20%
- Quizzes and Dictations (Test): 10%
- Compositions (Pismena vježba): 10%
- Final exam: 10%

Participation and Attendance is crucial for your success in this course not only because of the percentage it carries in the final grade, but also because poor participation and frequent absences negatively affect your overall performance in all other aspects of the course. This course is participatory in nature and your presence and preparation to participate in class are crucial to your success.

Attendance affects your grade by lowering your participation and homework points. However, **for each 6 absences following your initial 2 absences, your course grade will be lowered by one full letter grade** (e.g. from B- to C, from D to F). Since this course is a performance class, even if you are ill, when you are absent you are not participating and will receive a zero for participation that day. All absences, including ones due to illness or family emergency accrue towards your 2+6 absence penalty limit. Use your 2 “free” absences for illness or emergencies!

Participation is graded daily. Each class you will receive points on the scale of 0 (absent) to 5 (prepared and participating). **To receive full points for participation you must come to class prepared** (having completed the assigned readings and exercises) and you must be willing to participate in classroom activities. A good sign you are doing well in participation is when I don’t call on you even if you volunteer to answer.
Preparation for Class consists of a set of readings from the textbook, memorization of grammatical changes, and new words, all of which you are to complete before coming to class. The communicative nature of this course requires you to thoroughly read and study the vocabulary and grammar topics listed in the preparation part of your homework assignment. This means that you should attempt to memorize the vocabulary, understand and memorize the grammar points, and bring any questions about this material with you to class. I suggest you always first complete the written portion of your homework (exercises) before proceeding to the preparatory part assigned for next day (including the New Words List) as this will facilitate your study.

Homework will usually include exercises from the textbook and handout exercises, plus the New Words List (see below). It is important for you to complete the homework on time, as I will devote time during each class period for discussion of homework exercises. Homework will be due each day at the beginning of class. Late homework will be downgraded one point for each day it is late up to 5 days. After that I will still check your work, but you will not receive points for it.

Hour exams (kontrolni rad): I expect you to attend class for these exams as I can give make-up exams only in case of medical or family emergencies. Please plan ahead and if you anticipate any conflicts, let me know by the end of the third week of class.

Oral exams: There will be two oral examinations in the course. Both oral exams will consist of a phonetics component (reading from a familiar text) and a communication component: describing a picture, participating in a dialogue etc.

Quizzes (test): There will be 5 quizzes and they will be very similar in format to the hour exams, but significantly shorter. The lowest score among the quizzes will be dropped and the remainder averaged for a final quiz grade.

Compositions (pismena vježba): These written exercises are designed to help you develop your writing skills. These must be typed and double spaced. More information on topics will be provided later.

Culture presentation is an optional assignment. It consists of a 5 – 7 minute presentation and a 2 – 3 page paper (in English) on a topic dealing with some aspect of BCMS culture, history, politics, etc. Culture presentations must be based on some reading, listening, or viewing of texts from or about former Yugoslavia. (I will consider requests to present on topics relating to non-BCMS speakers from former Yugoslavia, i.e., Slovenian, Macedonian, Albanian, Hungarian, Roma, Italian etc. as they are also part of the culture we are studying this semester.) If you choose to do a culture presentation, it will count in the same grading category with the five hour exams and it will be graded as follows:

Thorough / Excellent understanding of the topic and good effort 100 points
Good understanding of the topic and good effort 90 points
Fair understanding of the topic and fair effort 80 points
Poor understanding of the topic and poor effort 50 points
Please note that all exam grades are averaged and if you do poorly on the culture presentation it will go into the calculation of the exam grade. This is a great opportunity to improve your grade, but you have to put in some effort to receive the reward.

Final exam is a comprehensive (cumulative) 2-hour exam. Please check the final exam times for your other courses and let me know of any potential conflict by the end of the third week of class.

GRADING SCALE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89 – 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86 – 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See attached Student Performance Record for details on how to calculate your grade

BCMS table (Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:30 pm @IMU Starbucks) is highly recommended, but not a required part of this course. Each week we will meet for an hour or so to speak BCMS in a less formal environment. At least 50 minutes of each session will be designated as a “No-English” time, while we can spend the remainder talking in either language and on topics relating to former Yugoslavia. From time to time I will arrange for a movie screening or some other cultural event.