

Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute 2008

Course Syllabus¹

INTERMEDIATE UKRAINIAN

UKRN S-B (31593) (8 units)

Instructor: Dr. Yuri Shevchuk

Class meets: M-F 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Robinson Hall, Room#106
Office hours: Wednesday 4:00-6:00 PM,
HURI, R.307
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METHOD OF LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

The course is designed to develop student's capacity to maintain a face-to-face conversation as well as written communication in a number of informal settings, to ask and answer all communicative types of questions, create with language, maintain and bring to a close simple conversations on most recurrent topics of everyday life. All four basic language skills – listening, speaking, reading, and writing – receive a good deal of attention. A special emphasis is placed on meaningful interchange and self-expression in realistic contexts of modern Ukraine. New grammatical structures are presented as opportunities for genuine communication.

A set of dialogues prepared by the instructor Yuri Shevchuk will be used to develop conversation skills on a variety of topics and thematic competencies. In addition, the core material is presented in the form of monologue, narrative, radio broadcast, etc. and serves as a point of departure for variation drills and guided conversation. A selection of readings reinforces grammar review and acquisition of new syntactic structures and vocabulary. Language games, dramatization of dialogues, brief video-programs, learning and singing of popular Ukrainian songs complement classroom activities. Throughout the course in all types of speech activities, students are encouraged to create with language, go beyond the acquired grammar and vocabulary patterns, and take risks. Role-playing is consistently used to simulate real-life communicative situations. Strategies of effectively dealing with communicatively problematic situations that arise in everyday life, ways of circumlocution, as well as maximization of the limited linguistic resources typically available at the intermediate language proficiency level, are taught. Special attention is paid to developing basic skills and strategies of navigating and using the exploding resources of the Ukrainian language Internet.

Students will write a brief 20/25-minute play in Ukrainian, which they will produce and perform at the end of the semester. This is a very important element of the language program done by the students independently from their instructor. It is designed to encourage students' creativity with language.

Students are expected to devote one hour per day (five days a week) to the interactive lexico-phonetic and grammar drills available online from the HUSI Intermediate Ukrainian website.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

To be purchased at the Harvard Coop

* Yuri Shevchuk. Conversational Topics for Intermediate Ukrainian. An Audio Course. (pilot edition). Speaking and listening comprehension exercises and manual can be accessed on-line from the HUSI website: http://www.huri.harvard.edu/husi_courses.html

* Yuri Shevchuk. A Practical Course of Ukrainian Phonetics. (Aural-oral drills and manual. A pilot edition). Can be accessed on-line from the HUSI website: http://www.huri.harvard.edu/husi_courses.html

¹ This syllabus will be modified taking into account the collective profile of the group as well as individual student's needs in order to maximize their Ukrainian language acquisition during the course.

* Assya Humesky. *Modern Ukrainian*. Toronto. Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, latest edition (after 2001). (can be purchased at the Harvard Coop).

OTHER RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS FOR RECAPITULATION AND FURTHER STUDIES

* Oksana Palka, *Modern Ukrainian Grammar in Tables. Morphology*, Lviv, 1997.

* Andrij Hornjatkevych. *530 Ukrainian Verbs Fully Conjugated in All Tenses*. Digital edition prepared and edited by Oleh Ilnytzkyj, Ukrainian Multimedia, Interactive Learning and Digital Publishing, University of Alberta, 2001 (CD can be ordered from the University of Alberta).

RECOMMENDED DICTIONARIES AND MANUALS

* M.L. Podvezko and M.I. Balla, *English-Ukrainian Dictionary*, Saphrograph Corp., ISBN 068504467X (may be purchased at the Harvard Coop Bookstore or at Amazon.com)

* Popov, Ye..F., Balla, M.I. *Comprehensive Ukrainian-English Dictionary*. Kyiv, Chumatskiy Shliakh Publishing House, 2003. ISBN 966-95747-5-7.

1. Goals:

The course starts with a review and subsequent reinforcement of grammar fundamentals and core vocabulary pertaining to the most common aspects of daily life. Principal emphasis is placed on further development of students' communicative skills (oral and written) on such topics as the self, family, meals, shopping, leisure, travel, finding one's way around, and others.

Course materials are selected with the aim of introducing students to some functional and stylistic differences in modern Ukrainian as well as distinctions between the Kyiv and Lviv literary variants. By the end of the course students will be able to pose and answer all the communicative types of questions (general, special, alternative, and disjunctive), narrate and describe in all major time frames (past, present, and future), deal effectively with unanticipated complications in most informal settings, engage in a sustained exchange on a variety of general subjects, including the self, one's studies, spheres of interests, travel, hotel, meals and food, shopping, asking and giving directions.

2. Course requirements:

Assignments and class performances are based on an expectation of approximately an hour and a half of home preparation for each classroom hour.

- a. Attendance is mandatory. Students with more than four unexcused absences will have their attendance percentage lowered according to the number of missed classes. Students who miss a class are expected to make up for all material, including home assignments, quizzes, and tests.
- b. Written homework assignments are due on the date indicated and will be returned on the following class day. Instructors will underline errors on all written assignments, quizzes, and tests. Students must correct and resubmit their work the following day in order that the grades are recorded. Assignments must be neat, legible, and written in cursive style. Each day of delay will

reduce the grade for assignment by 7 %. Home work submitted three days after the due date will be assigned the grade of “F”.

- c. Oral preparation is as important as all written work. You are required to participate in pair and/or group work on a regular basis in order to improve your speaking skills. The course heavily relies on students’ work with two sets of phonetic exercises specifically designed to facilitate the acquisition of modern Ukrainian standard pronunciation and comprehension skills (1), and of the conversational material used the most recurrent everyday life situations (2). The students will be able to work on-line with “A Practical Course of Ukrainian Phonetics” and “Conversational Topics for Intermediate Ukrainian. An Audio Course” respectively. Regular listening and speaking exercises are essential. Students will also be working on a regular basis with an array of audio and visual materials including recording of radio shows, interviews, performances, feature films, documentaries, etc.
- d. Tests and quizzes. The students will write 20-minute tests every Friday covering all the material of the previous week. No-shows will receive a grade of zero. Weekly tests must be taken on time unless a student is ill and notifies the instructor before the test. Five/ten-minute quizzes on a specific aspect of grammar and/or vocabulary will be given without an advance notice. They reveal how well students have mastered vocabulary, grammar and syntactic structures; quiz scores are part of your class work grade. Any previously assigned material can be subject-matter of such a short quiz.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

The final course grade consists of the following parts:

- 1) home preparation, class participation, and attendance – 40 % of the final grade;
- 2) average for weekly tests – 25% of the final grade;
- 3) final course examination -35% of the final grade;

As all basic courses, UKRN S-B is a training course. To ensure and evaluate the student's progress, a system of six weekly tests, each is approximately 25-30 minutes long, is used.

Home preparation, class participation, and attendance include: timely completion of all assigned exercises and their subsequent correction, and timely submission; participation in conversation sections; participation in discussions about readings and videotapes; acquisition of the phonetic and lexico-phonetic material by working on-line, participation in the production of students’ play, dramatization of dialogs, and active engagement in all types of classroom work.

The course ends with a final examination. It includes an oral part (last Thursday morning), and a written three-hour part (last Friday morning). During the oral part students are expected to demonstrate their command of the course material participating in conversation on subjects covered in the course.

Each student will be graded based on the progress s/he made compared to where s/he started and not in comparison with other students in the group. Students are encouraged throughout the course to take risks and create with language. A system of bonus points is used to encourage students’ creative approach to language learning. For example, an additional correct variant provided by a student in a test (quiz, exam) will be awarded bonus points.

A NOTE ABOUT ATTENDANCE

As all intensive proficiency oriented language courses, UKRN S-B requires regular attendance and active participation. A student who misses a class is expected to learn the material of the missed class and account for all the respective assignments (written and oral). Those who miss two days of classes will be asked to

speak with the coordinator of the Ukrainian-language program and get a permission to continue with the course.

Because unimpeded speaking is a pivotal element of language acquisition throughout the course students are asked to refrain from eating at all times during the class. Drinks are perfectly fine.

GRADING SYSTEM:

Each home assignment, quiz, weekly test, and the final examination will be evaluated on the scale of one hundred percentage points. The correlation of the scale with the letter value of the final course grade is as follows:

*****	93 - 100% = A	90 - 92% = A-
87 - 89% = B+	83 - 86% = B	80 - 82% = B-
75 - 79% = C+	72 - 74% = C	68 - 71% = C-
60 - 67% = D		
0 - 59% = F (failure)		

DETAILED OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

First week: June 23 – 27

FIRST DAY (June 23, 2008). Placement Examination. Written part from 9:00 AM to 10:45 AM, oral interview with a language instructor from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM; Evening Orientation Program.

Phonetics: General overview of the Ukrainian sound system.

Grammar: review of declension of nouns, accusative singular, genitive singular.

Topic for conversation and discussion: "Acquaintance".

Competencies: to introduce oneself and another person; to inquire about somebody's age.

Friday, June 27 by 5:00 pm

Last day for late registration and to change courses in the program.

Second week: June 30 - July 3

Phonetics: Ukrainian vowels. Stressed and unstressed position. Back vowels. Labialization of unstressed /o/.

Grammar: Review of locative and dative singular; verbal aspect. Verbs for *to study*, *learn*, and *teach*. Yes/no questions.

Topic for conversation: "University", "Map of Ukraine".

Competencies: to discuss one's studies; to discuss one's week-end/ holiday plans; to inquire about a favorite pass-time.

THURSDAY, JULY 3, by 5:00 PM - THE LAST DAY TO DROP COURSES

Third week: July 7-11

STUDENTS BEGIN TO WORK ON THEIR OWN PLAY

Phonetics: Labial consonants. Absence of palatalization before я, ю, є, ї.

Grammar: Imperfective and Perfective Aspects. Imperative. Nominative plural. Review of cardinal numerals from 1 to 99. Polite requests.

Topic for conversation: "Meals and Ordering Food in a Restaurant".

*Supplementary text: reading an authentic Ukrainian restaurant menu.

Competencies: to find out what is on the menu and order food in a restaurant; to discuss ones culinary likes and dislikes and typical Ukrainian cooking.

Fourth week: July 14-18

Phonetics: Dental consonants /d/, /t/, /z/, /s/, /dz/, /ts/.

Grammar: Ukrainian adverb. Degrees of comparison of adjectives. Locative Plural. Motion verbs. Cardinal numerals from 100 to a million.

Topics for conversation: "Shopping for food. At the Supermarket"; basics of the metric measurements and buying food.

*Supplementary readings: close examination of your options in an authentic Kyiv supermarket catalog.
Competencies: to enquire about the price of an item; to ask about the location of items in a supermarket or a marketplace; to pay for a purchase; to ask what time it is.

Fifth week: July 21-25

Phonetics: Consonants /sh/, /zh/, /dzh/, /ch/, /shch/.

Grammar: Instrumental Singular and Plural. Expressions of Approximation. Ordinal numerals.

Special questions.

Topic for conversation: "Walking around the streets of Kyiv".

*Supplementary text: navigating the city map of Kyiv. Viewing of a Ukrainian film with subsequent discussion.

Competencies: to ask and give directions to a specific place; to navigate a city map; to find out about currency-exchange rates; to inquire for directions on public transit.

Sixth week: July 28 - August 1

Phonetics: Consonants /j/, /r/, /l/, and /n/

Grammar: Impersonal construction with past participle. Dative plural.

READING: Articles from the Ukrainian press on language policies and language issues in Ukraine.

Topics for conversation: "Traveling"

*Supplementary text: reading authentic schedules of trains/ airplane flights.

Competencies: to inquire about train, bus, and airplane schedules; to purchase tickets for train, bus or airplane; to discuss the weather; to inquire about the time of day; to inquire about the date and day of the week.

Seventh week: August 4-8

Phonetics: consonants /k/, /g/, /kh/, and /h/.

Grammar: Verbal Adverbs. Declension of Numerals. Collective numerals.

Topic for conversation: "Holidays and Recreation", "At a hotel".

*Supplementary text: reading internet descriptions of accommodation options in Lviv.

Competencies: to address a letter; to order a taxi; to check in at a hotel; to interrupt politely; to ask someone to repeat what has been said.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8: STUDENTS OF THE LANGUAGE COURSE PERFORM THEIR OWN PLAYS.

Eighth week: August 11-15

Review of the grammatical and lexical material of the course.

Additional individual consultations with the instructor during office hours

FINAL EXAMINATION.

Oral part: Thursday, August 14, 9:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.;

Written part: Friday, August 15, 9:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.