Introduction to Slavic Linguistics
SLAV 20100/30100; LING 26400/36400

Yaroslav Gorbachov Tue./Thur. 9:00-10:30am
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Warning! Syllabus is subject to revision depending on the knowledge and training of class participants.

Description: This course serves as an introduction to the field of Slavic linguistics. It includes an overview of the general field of Slavic linguistics with particular attention to Russian and Slavic linguistics schools and theories (the Prague School, Jakobsonian structuralism). We will consider in detail the Slavic branch of Indo-European: the number of Slavic languages; where they are spoken today and their historical homeland; their relationship to one another, general principles of classification; and determining language/dialect boundaries.

Textbooks:

Notes on Introductory Linguistics:
In certain parts of the term, I have assigned readings from O’Grady et al. If you own a different introductory textbook, it is fine to read the relevant sections in that book. Even if you have taken introductory linguistics already, I would advise re-reading these sections, unless you have a very firm grasp of all of this information. I also included some additional suggested readings on the syllabus to provide a broader context for what we are studying in class.

This course is an introduction to Slavic linguistics. So while it is critical to know and understand basic linguistic concepts, the one course does not substitute for the other. Here we focus on the Slavic languages and how Slavic theories have informed and are informed by general linguistics. A general linguistics course provides a broader, cross-linguistic perspective.

Grading:
Class participation & attendance 20%
Written homework assignments & quick quizzes 40%
Midterm 20%
Final 20%

Note: Written homework assignments will generally be distributed on the class day before they are due and will be posted on Chalk. They are included in the syllabus on the day they are due, not on the day they are distributed.
Readings and assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week One</th>
<th>Who are the Slavs?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 01.06</td>
<td>Introduction, organization; <em>Who are the Slavs?</em></td>
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<td>Thur., 01.08</td>
<td><em>Introduction to the Slavic Literary Languages, typological characteristics of Slavic.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>readings:</td>
<td>Sussex &amp; Cubberley 2007: Ch. 0, pp. 1-18 (<em>World’s Slavic Languages</em>, etc.)</td>
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<td>Comrie &amp; Corbett 1993: Ch. 1, pp. 1-19 (<em>Intro, Salient Characteristics of Slavic</em>, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Two</th>
<th>External history. Orthography</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue., 01.13</td>
<td><em>The homeland of the Slavs, Slavic expansion, socio-historical developments. Genetic affiliation and classification of the Slavic languages.</em></td>
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<td>readings:</td>
<td>Schenker 1995: Ch. 2, sections 2.1-2.6 (section 2.7 optional), pp. 61-74 (<em>Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Proto-Slavic, the comparative method</em>, etc.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nichols 1993 or (alternatively) Schenker 1995: Ch. 1 (pp. 1-60); sections 1.1-1.11 (pp. 1-11) in Schenker 1995 are worth at least skimming through—better prior to reading Nichols 1993</td>
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<td>Thur., 01.15</td>
<td><em>Orthographies &amp; transliteration</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>readings:</td>
<td>Comrie &amp; Corbett 1993: Ch. 2 (pp. 20-59)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sussex &amp; Cubberley 2007: Appendix B (pp. 590-599)</td>
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<td><em>Warning! This is extremely dense! Don’t worry!</em></td>
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<td>quick quiz</td>
<td>draw a tree</td>
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<th>Week Three</th>
<th>Phonetics. Phonology 1</th>
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<td>Tue., 01.20</td>
<td><em>Phonetics</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>readings:</td>
<td>Ladefoged 2001, Ch. 1 &amp; 2 (pp. 1-40)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HW#1 due</td>
<td>Transliteration</td>
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<td>Thur., 01.22</td>
<td><em>Phonology</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>readings:</td>
<td>O’Grady <em>et al.</em> 2001, Ch. 3, Phonology, §1-3 (pp. 63-78)</td>
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<td>Jakobson 1976, The Concept of Phoneme</td>
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### Week Four

**Phonology 2 (Features). Markedness.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue., 01.27</td>
<td>Distinctive features. Neutralization. Archiphoneme</td>
<td>O’Grady <em>et al.</em> 2001, Ch. 3, §5-6.3 (features) (pp. 91-112)</td>
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<td>O’Grady <em>et al.</em> 2001, Ch. 3, §4 – optional</td>
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<td>Jakobson 1952, The Concept of the Distinctive Feature</td>
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<td>Townsend, Janda 1996 on Jakobsonian distinctive features, law of open syllables, and synharmony</td>
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<td>Jakobson, Halle 1957, Phonology and Phonetics (the original paper on distinctive features) – optional</td>
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<td>Darden 1976 (On Abstraction) or 1985 (Explanation and Reality in Phonology)</td>
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*HW#2 due* using sources (submit electronically)

| Thur., 01.29 | Markedness. Naturalness. Iconicity                                     | Anderson 1989, Markedness Theory: the First 150 Years                                            |
|             |                                                                       | Anderson 2007, Naturalness and Markedness                                                        |
|             |                                                                       | Haspelmath 2006, Against Markedness – optional                                                    |
|             |                                                                       | Gurevich 2001, A Critique of Markedness-Based Theories in Phonology – optional                     |

### Week Five

**Diachronic Phonology**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue., 02.03</td>
<td>Sound changes: from Proto-Slavic to the modern Slavic langs.</td>
<td>Schenker 1995, Ch. 2 (sections 2.17-2.31, 2.33-2.44)</td>
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<td><em>alternatively:</em> Sussex and Cubberley 2007, Ch. 1 (pp. 42-59)</td>
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<td>Sussex and Cubberley, Ch. 3.1-3.2 (pp. 110-143)</td>
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<td>Thur., 02.05</td>
<td>Sound changes (cont’d)</td>
<td>Press 2007, The Church Slavonic Element in Russia</td>
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<td>Carlton 1995, Synopsis of Proto-Slavic and Post-Proto-Slavic Sound Changes – optional</td>
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<td><em>NB:</em> notation in Carlton 1995 is idiosyncratic (Schenker 1995, section 2.15 partially addresses that):</td>
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<td>*ã̅ = *ã̄ (&gt; o), *ã̄ = *ã̂ (&gt; a), *ë̆ = *ë̄ (&gt; e), *ë̄ = <em>ë̂ (&gt; ě̂)</em></td>
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<td>Stankiewicz 1958 (1983), Phonemic Typology of the Slavic Languages – optional</td>
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*HW#3 due* identifying phonemes
### Week Six

**Morphology 1**

**Tue., 02.10**

*Nominal morphology. Theory of Case.*

*Readings:*

- Sussex & Cubberley 2006, Ch. 5.1-5.5.4.3 (pp. 217-278); Ch. 6.2.4 (333-342)
- Jakobson 1936/1990 (Contribution to the general theory of case)

*Supplemental*

- O’Grady et al. Ch. 4, Morphology (pp. 111-149)

**Quiz #2**

**Thur., 02.12**

*Theory of Case (cont’d). Hierarchies. Decline of Case in SESI.*

*Readings:*

- Jakobson 1958/1971, Morphological Observations…
- Chvany 1982/1996, Hierarchies in the Russian Case System
- Silverstein 1976, Hierarchy of Features and Ergativity – optional
- Friedman 1977, The Morphology of Case in in SE Serbian Dialects
- Sobolev 2011, From Synthetic to Analytic Case (Variation in South Slavic) – optional

*Midterm due*

### Week Seven

**Morphology 2**

**Tue., 02.17**

*Complications: the genitive of negation, gender, animacy/“virility”*

*Readings:*

- Timberlake 1975, Hierarchies in the Genitive of Negation
- Sussex & Cubberley 2006, Ch. 5, section 5.4.4, Gender (pp. 325-241; “virility” is treated starting at p. 238)
- Corbett 1982, Gender in Russian: An account of gender specification and its relationship to declension
- Corbett 1991, Gender Assignment: Formal Systems
- Jakobson 1960, The Gender Pattern of Russian – optional
- Janda 1999, Whence Virility
- Timberlake 1977, Templates and The Development of Animacy – optional

**Thur., 02.19**

*Issues in Slavic Linguistics: Verbs*

*Readings:*

- Jakobson 1948/1971 (Russian conjugation)
- Sussex & Cubberley, Ch. 5.5.5 (pp. 278-308); Ch. 6.2.3 (330-333)

*HW#4 due*
Week Eight  Morphology 3

Tue., 02.24  More verbs!
readings:
   Jakobson 1957/1971 (Shifters, verbal categories)
   Aronson 1991

Thur., 02.26  
reading:  Babby 1975; Gołąb 1964
supplemental  O’Grady et al. Ch. 5 (Syntax).

Week Nine  Morphology 4

Tue., 03.03  Tense/Aspect; Evolution of the perfect (reportedness, admirativity in SE Slavic)
HW#5 due  Dickey 2000. Habitual expressions
Thur., 03.05  Tommola 2000. On the perfect in North Slavic
             Lindstedt 2000. The perfect – aspectual, temporal, and evidential

Week Ten  

Tue., 03.10  Contact & Slavic
readings:
   Friedman 2006, Balkans as a linguistic area
   Grenoble forthcoming
   Lindstedt 2000, Linguistic Balkanization
   Sussex & Cubberley 2007, Ch. 11 (545-585)

Thur., 03.12  Presentations

Readings:

(SWRJ = Selected Writings of Roman Jakobson)
Rudy, eds., 111-131. New vistas in grammar: invariance & variation. Amsterdam:
Benjamins.
35:297-332.
and Emily Klenin, eds., Selected essays of Catherine V. Chvany, 175-187. Columbus, OH:
Slavica. (originally published in Russian Language Journal XXXVI/125:133-147.)


Friedman, Victor. 1977. The Morphology of Case in in SE Serbian Dialects


———. 1952/1990. The concept of the distinctive feature. In Waugh and Monville-Burston, pp. 242-258. (Originally published as Chapter 1 of Preliminaries to Speech Analysis, with Gunnar Fant and Morris Halle.)


