

# SLL 516: STRUCTURE OF MODERN RUSSIAN: MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

## Class information:

Spring 2008  
Tuesday 2-4:50  
GFS 204

## Instructor:

Prof. Roumyana Pancheva  
GFS 301S, by appt.  
*pancheva@usc.edu*

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## Class description:

This class is an overview of two major aspects of the structure of Contemporary Standard Russian: *morphology* - which is concerned with the structure of words, and *syntax* - which deals with the structure of phrases and sentences. The class will also serve as a general introduction to generative linguistics.

## Goals:

- Achieve better understanding of the morphology and syntax of Russian
- Learn to perform linguistic analysis
- Become familiar with traditional and current work in Russian linguistics

## Requirements:

- Class discussion and readings 10%
- Homework assignments 60%
- Final exam – problem sets and short questions 30%

## Readings:

### • Textbooks

Excerpts from these textbooks will be assigned:

Cubberley, P. (2002). *Russian: A Linguistic Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

Carnie, A. (2001). *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Blackwell.

Fromkin, V. (et al.) (2000). *Linguistics. An Introduction to Linguistic Theory*. Blackwell.

### • Research and review articles and book chapters

Readings will be distributed in class. Depending on the progress of the class, additional reading materials may be assigned, or some of the readings may be substituted for others.

Babyonyshev, M., J. Ganger, D. Pesetsky, K. Wexler (2001). "The Maturation of Grammatical Principles: Evidence from Russian Unaccusatives" *Linguistic Inquiry* 32, 1-44.

- Baylin, J. (1995) "Underlying Phrase Structure and "Short" Verb Movement in Russian" *Journal of Slavic Linguistics* 3, 1, 13-58.
- Baylin, J. (2004) "The Case of Q" *Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics* 12, O. Arnaudova et. al. eds, U. Michigan Press.
- Baylin, J. (2006). "Slavic Generative Syntax" *Slavic Linguistics 2000*, S. Franks, ed. *Glossus* 8.
- Chomsky, N. (1986). *Knowledge of Language: Its Nature, Origin, and Use*. Praeger. Ch. 1 and 2.
- Halle, M. (1994). "The Russian Declension: An Illustration of the Theory of Distributed Morphology" In J. Cole and C. Kisseberth (eds.) *Perspectives in Phonology*. 29-60. CSLI. Stanford.
- Halle, M. and O. Matushansky (2006). "The Morphophonology of Russian Adjectival Inflection" *Linguistic Inquiry* 37: 351-404.
- Moore, J. and D. Perlmutter (2000). "What does it Take to be a Dative Subject" *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 18: 373-416.
- Rappaport, G. (1986). "On Anaphor Binding in Russian" *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 4, 1, 97-120.
- Stepanov, A. (1998) "On Wh-fronting in Russian", *NELS* 28.

• **Additional books you may find useful as reference**

- Hart, D. (1996). *Topics in the Structure of Russian: An Introduction to Russian Linguistics*. Slavica Publishers.
- Hamilton, W. (1980). *Introduction to Russian Phonology and Word Structure*. Slavica Publishers.
- Levin, M. (1978). *Russian Declension and Conjugation*. Slavica Publishers.
- Timberlake, A. (2004). *A Reference Grammar of Russian*. Cambridge University Press.
- Townsend, C.E. (1980). *Russian Word-Formation*. Slavica Publishers.
- Wade, T. (2000). *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Blackwell.

**Course Outline:**

This will likely undergo some change.

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**Tuesday January 15**

**INTRODUCTION. PROPERTIES OF NATURAL LANGUAGE.**

1. Goals, contents, and structure of the course
2. Natural language - Brief overview

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**Tuesday January 22**

**INTRODUCTION TO GENERATIVE LINGUISTICS.  
OVERVIEW OF RUSSIAN SYNTAX AND MORPHOLOGY.**

1. The subject matter of linguistics. Types of grammars.
2. Morphology and syntax – subject matter; place in the architecture of the grammar.
3. Russian: Language family, brief history, major aspects of its morphology and syntax.

Required reading:

Fromkin et al. (2000) Ch 1: “Linguistics: The Scientific Study of Human Language”  
Chomsky (1986) Ch 1: “Knowledge of Language as a Focus of Inquiry”  
Cubberley, P. (2002) Ch 1: “Introduction”

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**Part I: Syntax**

**Tuesday January 29**

**INTRODUCTION TO GENERATIVE SYNTAX WITH SPECIAL  
REFERENCE TO RUSSIAN**

1. Descriptive overview of Russian syntax, with emphasis on typological characteristics.
2. An overview of the major theoretical developments in generative syntax with examples from Russian

Required reading:

Carnie (2001) ch. 1 “Preliminaries”  
Cubberley (2002) Ch. 4 “Syntax”  
Baylin, J. (2006) “Slavic Generative Syntax”

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**Tuesday February 5**

**ESSENTIALS OF PHRASE STRUCTURE**

Basics of the phrase structure of Russian

Required reading:

Carnie (2001) ch. 2 “Rules, Trees and Parts of Speech”  
Carnie (2001) ch. 3 “Structural Relations”  
Carnie (2001) ch. 5 “X-bar Theory”

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**Tuesday February 12**

**FUNCTIONAL PROJECTIONS AND ARGUMENT STRUCTURE**

1. Russian clause structure
2. Thematic roles and syntactic positions

Required reading:

- Carnie (2001) ch. 6 “CP, TP, and DP”  
Carnie (2001) ch. 7 “Theta Roles and the Lexicon”  
Baylin (1995) “Underlying Phrase Structure and “Short” Verb Movement in Russian”

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**Tuesday February 19**

**CONTROL AND A-MOVEMENT**

1. Case in Russian
2. Passives and unaccusatives
3. Control infinitives

Required reading:

- Carnie (2001) ch. 9 “NP/DP Movement”  
Carnie (2001) ch. 10 “Raising, Control and Empty Categories”

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**Tuesday February 26**

**CASE**

Required reading:

- Moore and Perlmutter (2000) “What does it Take to be a Dative Subject”  
Baylin, J. (2004) "The Case of Q"

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**Tuesday March 4**

**WH-MOVEMENT**

Single and multiple wh-movement, clause-bounded and long-distance extraction, islands

Required reading:

- Carnie (2001) ch. 11 “Wh-Movement”  
Stepanov (1998) “On Wh-fronting in Russian”

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**Tuesday March 11**

**BINDING**

Conditions A, B, and C of the Binding Theory; reflexives vs. reciprocals; long-distance binding

Required reading:

- Carnie (2001) ch. 4 “Binding Theory”  
Rappaport (1986) “On Anaphor Binding in Russian”

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**Tuesday March 18**

**SPRING BREAK**

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## **Part II: Morphology**

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**Tuesday March 25**

**OVERVIEW OF NOMINAL INFLECTION**

Required reading:

Cubberley (2002) Ch. 3 "Morphology" pp. 102-146

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**Tuesday April 1**

**NOUN DECLENSION IN DISTRIBUTED MORPHOLOGY**

Required reading:

Halle (1994) "The Russian Declension: An Illustration of the Theory of Distributed Morphology"

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**Tuesday April 8**

**ADJECTIVAL INFLECTION**

Required reading:

Halle and Matushansky (2005) "The Morpho-Phonology of Russian Adjectival Inflection"

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**Tuesday April 15**

**INFLECTIONAL MORPHOLOGY - VERBS**

Required reading:

Cubberley (2002) Ch 3 "Morphology" pp. 146-175

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**Tuesday April 22**

**DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY**

Required reading:

Hart (1996) ch.7 "Derivational Morphology"

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**Thursday April 29**

**Final Exam**