



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Russian Phonetics, Advanced II
Course number:	RUSI 3022 RLPR
Programs offering course:	St. Petersburg Russian Language Program
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45 U.S. 50-minute contact hours / 52 Russian 45-minute contact hours
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

The course introduces students of Russian as foreign language to the foundations of Russian phonetics and intonation. It seeks to improve students' competence in phonetics and intonation, and it focuses on the specific problems in Russian phonetics typically experienced by native speakers of English.

Learning Objectives

The main objective of this course is the acquisition of phonetic norms of modern Russian language and the development of listening skills. This includes mastering the peculiarities of the Russian speech, such as vowel reduction, the opposition of voiced/silent consonants, the stress accentuation in the word, as well as the knowledge of seven main intonation patterns of the Russian speech.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designated for students with basic knowledge of Russian. Students' placement is also contingent upon a written and an oral exam.

Methods of Instruction

The coursework involves theoretical presentations of various topics in phonetics, as well as exercises in phonetic transcription, listening and imitation of speech samples, followed by the instructor's correction of the student's pronunciation, self-recording and listening of the recorded samples, creating dialogues at home and in the classroom. The following types of texts will be used as learning material: Russian tongue twisters, proverbs, quotes, poems, songs, samples of intonation patterns, dialogues, short texts, audio and video fragments.

Assessment and Grading

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Class Participation 25%
Homework 20%
Quizzes 30% (15% each)
Final Exam 25%
Total: 100%

Course requirements

Class participation. Students are expected to participate actively and intelligently in the classroom, to come to class having done all home assignments.



Homework. Doing homework is essential for your progress. Home assignments will typically include a text or a poem, which you will be asked to read at home several times, in order to master correct pronunciation.

Two quizzes will be given during the semester, which will test the students' knowledge of vowel reduction, hard and soft consonants, Russian intonation construction and other aspects of Russian phonetics

Final exam will include: 1) transcribing a sentence (non-familiar); 2) re-citing of a poem (chosen by the student); 4) analyzing a dialogue (non-familiar): find intonation construction and its center.

Class Attendance

Attendance is crucial for successful completion of the class. Students are allowed to have two unexcused absences for each course for the whole semester program. These allowed unexcused absences should be used for situations such as minor illnesses without a doctor's note or personal situations that prevent the student from attending the class. Allowed unexcused absences should not be used in a planned way for travel or other activities.

Unexcused absences beyond the limit of two will lower a student's grade by 2 points on the 100-point scale each. For example, if your overall score in the class is 90 (an equivalent of A-) and you have had three unexcused absences, your final score will be 88 (B+).

Weekly schedule

Week 1.

Class 1. Introduction
Vowels and Consonants

Class 2. The rhythmic of words, rhythmic models.

- Reduction of o and a when unstressed.
- Reduction of я, е, and и when unstressed.
- The vowels Я, е, ё, ю at the beginning of the word.

The intonation of the Russian language. Intonation construction

Week 2.

Class 1. The vowels y, o, and ы.

Class 2. Positioning and reinforcement of pronunciation patterns with the vowels: м, п, б, в, ф. Intonation construction 2.

Week 3.

Class 1. Positioning and reinforcement of pronunciation patterns with the consonants д, т, с, з, and н.

Class 2. Intonation construction 3.

❖ **Quiz #1**

Week 4.



Class 1. Positioning and reinforcement of pronunciation patterns with the consonants к, г, and х.

Positioning and reinforcement of pronunciation patterns with the consonants р, and л.

Class 2. Intonation construction 3 in interrogative sentences expressing request or evaluation. Comparison with Intonation construction 2.

Week 5.

Class 1. Positioning and reinforcement of pronunciation patterns with the consonants ж, ш, ч, and ц.

Class 2. Pronunciation of the consonant combinations сч, зч, шч, жч, сщ, зщ, тс, дс, гк, гч, тч, and дч.

Intonation construction 4:

- in interrogative construction with the conjunction «а»;
- with expressions of dissatisfaction, astonishment, edification, desire;

in narrative registers.

Homework: First reading of a chosen play.

Week 6.

Class 1. Pairs of consonants between vowels.

Intonation construction 5:

- in constructions expressing emotions
- in constructions expressing astonishment, dissatisfaction, desire
-

Class 2. Intonation construction 6:

- In emotional constructions or constructions expressing evaluation
- In interrogative constructions
- In constructions expressing desire
- In constructions meant to attract attention

Homework: Reading through the play.

Week 7.

Class 1. Intonation construction 7

- in expressing emotional negation, doubt, and confirmation
- in expressions underlining opinions.

Class 2. Comparison of intonation constructions 3, 5, 7. Semantic differences

Comparing phonetics with graphics. Peculiarities of literary pronunciation.

Phonetics of fast oral speech.

Reading rehearsal.

❖ **Midterm exam**

Week 8.

Class 1. Comparing phonetics with graphics. Peculiarities of literary pronunciation.

Phonetics of fast oral speech.

Class 2. Reading rehearsal. Exam.

Week 9.

Class 1. A rhetorical approach to public speaking.



Canons of rhetoric.

Class 2. Stylistic language, stylistic devices. Delivering your style well.

Introductory speech.

❖ **Quiz #2**

Week 10.

Class 1. Designing impromptu speeches

Outlining the elemental components in a speech.

Class 2. Elements of arguments: claim, support, warrant.

Inventing, arranging, and phrasing your main points in an impromptu.

Supporting your claims with evidence. Discussing Your Evidence.

Week 11.

Class 1. Delivering impromptu speeches.

Speech structure: introductions, transitions, and conclusions.

Class 2. Delivery: breathing; pacing and pausing; movement and gesture.

Evaluating impromptus.

Week 12.

Class 1. Informative Speech

A speech preparation process.

Class 2. Constraints and opportunities. Topic, audience, speaker, occasion and setting, time.

Informative delivery. Citation, note use, pausing.

Vocal variety and pausing.

Week 13.

Poem reading workshop.

❖ **Final exam**

Course Materials

Textbook

Odintsova, Irina Vladimirovna. *Zvuki, ritmika, intonacia: Uchebnoe posobie*. Moskva: Flinta, 2011.

Authentic texts: plays, poetry, video of public speeches, Russian songs of various genres, movies and cartoons

Teacher's materials (texts, dialogs, tongue twisters)

On-line sources

Phonetics site from Middlebury college <<http://sites.middlebury.edu/rusphonetics/>>, assessed January 10, 2019