University of Pittsburgh
Summer Language Institute
SLAV 0213: BEGINNING INTENSIVE BULGARIAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2002</th>
<th>Instructor: Petre Petrov, Teaching Fellow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 10—July 19</td>
<td>Office: CL 1417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon—Fri 9:00 AM—3:00 PM</td>
<td>Tel: 412-441-8139 (home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2318 CL (mornings)</td>
<td>412-624-5715 (office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5P57 Posvar Hall (afternoons)</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:petrov@pitt.edu">petrov@pitt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRN: 13112</td>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.pitt.edu/~slavic/sli/bulgarian/">http://www.pitt.edu/~slavic/sli/bulgarian/</a></td>
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OTHER CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(name)</th>
<th>(phone#)</th>
<th>(E-mail)</th>
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CREDITS, PREREQUISITES, AND FORMAT

This course carries five credits and satisfies the undergraduate requirement in foreign language. It is intended for a wide audience of language learners and has no prerequisites (except those taken into account for admittance to the Summer Language Institute [SLI]). Previous knowledge of other Slavic languages (Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian, and Russian, in particular) is advantageous, but by no means necessary.

The class meets for (doubtfully humane) five hours every day, Monday through Friday, over the course of six weeks. It combines lecture and recitation format and relies on a variety of extra-curricular activities administered within the framework of the SLI. Since this is a course that presumes no previous knowledge of Bulgarian, the use of English as a language of instruction is inevitable. It will serve mostly for introducing concepts, focusing on problem areas, and answering questions concerning the course material. One of our goals, however, will be to gradually intensify the use of Bulgarian in class and, correspondingly, reduce that of English.

RATIONALE AND GOALS

To be a part of an intensive summer course means, in a way, to be enrolled in a paradox. Both you and I will face the challenge of having to work very hard at a time when other people take their leave from work. The key to defeating this paradox is to make our hard work meaningful and enjoyable.

I can only hope that you have chosen this course with some idea of how the knowledge of Bulgarian would contribute to you personal and professional development. Thus, I would like to hear from you the “whys” of this course. Depending on what you want to do with your language skills once the course is over, we will place emphasis on this or that aspect of the language-acquisition process. The only non-negotiable
The most important asset of the SLI is the opportunity it offers its students to be in constant contact with native speakers and enthusiastic learners of the particular East European language. To not take full advantage of this opportunity would be foolish. Starting from this common-sense agreement, we can then agree on the exact profile of the course. We can place emphasis on a more colloquial Bulgarian or on a more literary usage. At a later point, we may select readings and translate texts that suit your personal goals better. The list of course objectives given below is, therefore, provisional. It will undergo an inevitable adjustment once I learn about your particular goals and expectations.

By the end of the course you will be able to

- Participate in simple conversations on topics from every-day life, stating facts, narrating experiences, expressing opinions
- Apply your language skills to solving practical situations
- Translate with a dictionary non-specialized (and non-artistic) literature in Bulgarian
- Write in Cyrillic cursive

**Required Text**


This is the only required text for the course. The introduction to Bulgarian grammar is accompanied by a continuing story dialogue in colloquial Bulgarian, which will be our main reading this semester. The book features, among other things, a vocabulary containing all the words used in the readings and exercises, and sections called “Cultural commentary” containing brief explanations of the cultural facts encountered in the readings.

**Recommended Texts**


This is quite simply the only more or less adequate Bulgarian-English/English-Bulgarian dictionary for under $30 available on the American market.


I am recommending this book as a relatively recent reference material on Bulgarian grammar. Those of you who are well-familiar with linguistic terminology will probably find its language difficult. Unfortunately, the other grammars of Bulgarian available in English are either more cryptic, outdated, or inadequately simplified.


A classic reference for those experiencing problems in foreign-language classes.
**Course Requirements and Grading**

You are required to

- Complete the homework assignments for each class meeting
- Participate actively and intelligently in class activities
- Take the 3 scheduled written exams
- Take the 3 scheduled oral exams
- Take at least 4 of the 5 unannounced quizzes administered during the semester
- Practice actively your Bulgarian outside of class (in informal conversations with other members of the class, other speakers of Bulgarian, and me)

Your grade will be determined by the following components

- 20 best homework assignments = 40 pts
- 3 written exams
  - 20 pt
  - + 30 pts = 95 pts
  - + 45 pts
- 3 oral exams
  - 5 pts
  - + 10 pts = 35 pts
  - + 20 pts

TOTAL = 170 pts

**Grading scale:**

| 170-166 pts = A+ | 150-146 pts = B+ | 130-126 pts = C+ | 110-106 pts = D+ |
| 165-156 pts = A  | 145-136 pts = B  | 125-1106 pts = C | 105-96 pts = D |
| 155-151 pts = A- | 135-131 pts = B- | 115-111 pts = C- | 95-91 pts = D- |
| 90 pts and below = F |

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned for each day of class except exam days and must be turned in on the day it is due. It may take various forms: from the traditional written exercises to more interactive (and less boring) assignments like enacting a pre-scripted or invented situation, responding to pre-recorded questions and tasks, etc. Since we will drop the lowest 4 homework grades, late homework will not be accepted. I will return your homework promptly. All stress must be marked on written homework, as well as on tests and quizzes.
WRITTEN EXAMS

The written as well as the oral exams will be cumulative—something inevitable in language learning where in order for you to say something like “I am trying to imagine where I would have been had I not taken Bulgarian,” you first have to know how to say “I am.” This explains the increasing number of points for each subsequent exam. All exams will be administered during regular class time, in the room where we usually meet. Please note the exam dates and make sure you are present in class on the particular day. The fast pace of the course, as well as our tight schedules during these six weeks, would make the administration of make-up exams problematic. Requests for make-up exams will be accommodated only in extreme circumstances such as death in the immediate family or serious illness on the day of the exam.

ORAL EXAMS

These will be administered immediately before or after the written exams and may take the form of dialogues with me or your classmates on a given topic, improvising in a given situation, etc. You will be evaluated on the basis of your performance only. That of your partner will have no bearing on your grade.

ORAL PRACTICE OUTSIDE OF CLASS

I would not be exaggerating if I say that this is the most important component of the course. Although not accounted for in the grade scheme, your interaction in Bulgarian in informal circumstances is the cement of everything you will be building this semester. I realize that this is also the most “touchy” aspect of the program. Your willingness to practice your language skills outside of our classroom will depend heavily on the attitudes and relations build inside this very classroom, but also on the degree to which you manage to overcome the usual frustrations of the beginning speaker of a foreign language. Yes, you will be making mistakes, but these are probably the only mistakes from which you profit rather than lose; yes, you will not be able to express all your thoughts and feelings instead of giving up or turning to English, say that which you can, rather than that which you want to say. Whenever I try to imagine the perfect language learner, I see her/him as somewhat of a jester: not afraid that s/he may sound silly, s/he juggles the limited words s/he knows, arranges and rearranges them, says things for the sake of saying them, and enjoys the game. I hope you will enjoy it too.

ATTENDANCE

Although attendance is not formally mandatory, it is of crucial importance to your success in the course. The reasons are obvious: with the pace for which this course is designed, the daily interactive exercise of your newly acquired linguistic knowledge is the only way to retain that knowledge.

In the case of absence, it is your responsibility to obtain from your classmates any information or materials handed out during the session that you have missed. You are, therefore, encouraged to exchange telephone numbers and e-mail addresses with your classmates (use the space provided on the first page of this syllabus to note down the relevant contact information).

If you are experiencing special problems in the course, do not hesitate to make an appointment with me.
WEB SITE

The course has a web site containing the course’s syllabus, general description of the Bulgarian program at the SLI, links to sites related to the Institute, as well as various links to Bulgarian sites on the web. The address of the site is http://www.pitt.edu/~slavic/sli/bulgarian

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By remaining enrolled in this course, you not only agree to abide by the above stipulations, but also understand that I will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the Handbook on Integrity regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and observe them. Any infraction will be penalized accordingly.

DISABILITY POLICY

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, please notify both me and Disability Resources by the end of the first week of class. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 412-648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The Internet address is http://www.pitt.edu/~osaweb/drs/drs.html. The office is located in the William Pitt Union, Room 216.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE SLI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where?</th>
<th>What?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri, June 14; 2:00—3:00</td>
<td>Bellefield Hall Gym</td>
<td>Slovak/Hungarian Dancing Class</td>
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<td>3:00—4:30</td>
<td>Polish/Ukrainian Happy Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, June 17; 3:15—4:30</td>
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<td>Polish/Ukrainian Dancing Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, June 21; 2:00—3:30</td>
<td>Bellefield Hall Gym</td>
<td>Serbian/Bulgarian Happy Hour</td>
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<td>3:00—4:30</td>
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<td>Mon, June 25; 3:15—4:30</td>
<td>CL 1220</td>
<td>Serbian Cooking Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, June 28; 2:00—3:30</td>
<td>Bellefield Hall Gym</td>
<td>Serbian/Bulgarian Dancing Class</td>
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<td>3:00—4:30</td>
<td>Slovak Happy Hour</td>
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<td>Mon, July 1; 3:15—4:30</td>
<td>CL 1220</td>
<td>Slovak Cooking Club</td>
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<td>Thu, July 4; 3:15—4:30</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Independence Day Barbeque and Farewell to</td>
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<td>Moscow Group</td>
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<td>Mon, July 8; 3:15—4:30</td>
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<td>Fri, July 12; 2:00—3:30</td>
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<td>3:00—4:30</td>
<td>Hungarian Happy Hour</td>
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<td>Mon, July 15; 3:15—4:30</td>
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<td>Hungarian Cooking Club</td>
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<td>Tue, July 16; 2:30—3:15</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>All-Institute Lecture</td>
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<td>Fri, July 19; 12:00—3:00</td>
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<td>Final Luncheon Reception</td>
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# GENERAL CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MON, JUNE 10</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>SLI Orientation, Visit to ID center and bookstore</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TUE, JUNE 11—</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Practical matters, Introduction, Syllabus, rules, and responsibilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WED, JUNE 12</td>
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<td>Alphabet, pronunciation, writing in Cyrillic cursive</td>
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<td></td>
<td>THU JUNE 13—</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
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<td>FRI JUNE 14</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
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<th>Lesson 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TUE, JUNE 18</td>
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<td>Lesson 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WED, JUNE 19—</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Review session</td>
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<td></td>
<td>THU, JUNE 20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Preparation for the Bulgarian happy hour</td>
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<tr>
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<td>FRI, JUNE 21</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>MON, JUNE 24</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Exam I (written &amp; oral)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>TUE, JUNE 25</td>
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<td>Lesson 5</td>
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<td>THU, JUNE 27</td>
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<td>Extended lunch</td>
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<td>FRI, JUNE 28</td>
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<td>Lesson 7</td>
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<td>WED, JLY 3</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Review session</td>
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<td>Film screening: The Goat Horn (dir. Metodii Andonov)</td>
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<td>THU, JLY 4</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Exam II (written &amp; oral)</td>
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<td>FRI, JLY 5</td>
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<td>Review session</td>
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<td>Film screening and lecture</td>
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<td>MON, JLY 15</td>
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<td>Lesson 12</td>
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<td>TUE, JLY 16</td>
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<td>Lesson 13</td>
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<td>WED, JLY 17</td>
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<tr>
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<td>FRI, JLY 9</td>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Sleeping late</td>
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SLI 2002, Beginning Bulgarian 6