

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Spring Semester 2019
Advanced Slovak 0410

Time: MW 4:30- 5:45
Classroom:..... MW 136CL

Instructor:.....**Maryann Sivak**
Office:.....**CL 1209**

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Office Hours:..... **By appointment**

The instructor will provide the entire material for this semester (CourseWeb).

Foreign Language Course Goals: Foreign language courses develop your skills in communication across ethnic, cultural, ideological, and national boundaries, and help you develop an understanding of other cultures and patterns of thought.

Learning Objectives: During this we will focus on various aspects of Slovak syntax, stylistics and discourse grammar in context. This course is based on various authentic materials in different media developing listening, reading, writing, and speaking in Slovak. You will familiarize yourself with the Slovak culture even more and increase your ability to use **effective strategies for language learning and communication.**

The instructor's role: As a language teacher (and a native speaker and native of Slovakia) I will do my best to make our time in the classroom interesting, inspiring, and productive. We will evaluate the result at the end of the semester.

The Students' role: By registering for this course, you have chosen an opportunity to learn a Western Slavic language. The learning process requires your complete cooperation inside and outside the classroom. A very important part of your work is homework; to this, I will add that it is expected for students to hand in their homework on the day for which it was assigned. However, **if the instructor assigned it on Monday, January 7, last day to hand the homework in is Monday, January 14, otherwise you will receive no credit for the homework.**

Auditors must speak to the instructor to discuss the terms of the audit as soon as possible.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. Since in-class practice is a part of the learning process, it is not possible to “do the work” without physically being in class. According to the policy commonly applied in the Slavic Department, absences are only excused due to personal ill health and other documentable extenuating circumstances.

Instructor will not review or re-teach material to students who were absent from class. Students absent from class will receive a zero for that day.

Participation: Students should come to class fully prepared. Active class participation is important to your skill development and to the success of the course. Class participation and preparation will be assessed every class meeting.

CELLULAR PHONE POLICY

All cellular telephones must be switched off before coming to class. The use of all mobile devices during class is prohibited. Absolutely no text-messaging will be allowed. Deductions in the participation grade will be taken for each infraction.

SLOVAK RULE

You are required to use Slovak in the classroom. While English is occasionally necessary, we will be using exclusively Slovak more and more as the class’s proficiency advances.

GROUP WORK AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS

This class relies heavily on all students working together. Some students will quickly grasp a given grammar concept or memorize new vocabulary while others might require more time to process language information. Personality types can also play a role in how people learn languages. Please be patient and respectful to your peers at all times. Remember that you need interaction with your classmates to activate what you have practiced in written work. Students are expected to work on class activities in pairs and groups comprised of any of their peers. Disrespectful attitudes to others’ learning is counterproductive and will not be tolerated.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Those students who require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications are encouraged to notify their instructor and must notify the Office of Disability Resources and Services no later than the end of the first week of classes. Students may be asked to provide documentation of their disabilities to determine the appropriateness of their requests. The Office of Disability Resources and Services is located in 216 William Pitt Union and is available by telephone (voice or TTY) at 412-648-7890.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned for practically every class meeting and must be turned in on the day it is due. Late homework will not be accepted. Instructors will return homework promptly.

Last, but – by no means – least, your own ideas are always more than welcome – only through open and creative interaction can we hope that to be successful.

Please feel free to ask for clarification on any part of the syllabus or other instructor's explanations.

Tests: Quizzes and Tests

TESTS: There will be five tests after each lesson.

QUIZESS: There will be two oral quizzes during the semester (to be scheduled later). The instructor may conduct short written quizzes, but only with the prior announcement. The test dates are as follows:

TEST 1: Monday, January 28, 2019

TEST 2: Wednesday, February 13, 2019

TEST 3: Monday, March 4, 2019

TEST 4: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

TEST 5: Monday, April 15, 2019

Conversation Sessions

There will be five conversation sessions in Slovak with the given topics (Tentative Classroom Syllabus will be available shortly).

Students must prepare for each conversation session by providing (1) a list of at least twenty terms pertinent to the theme that is being discussed and explanations of those terms, as well as (2) their own opinions, from various sources, about the theme. Students should try to anticipate relevant issues that might come up in conversations, so that they could argue either for or against certain points brought up by other participants. The students will be provided with special forms, by the instructor, for writing their conversation session plans. The form should be submitted to the instructor after each conversation session.

Presentations

Students are expected to prepare one presentation for each theme on a topic of their choice related to the theme. The topic of each presentation should be confirmed with the instructor.

In presentation sessions, students will act as both presenters and audience, though never both at the same time.

As presenters, students should, but do not necessarily have to, follow the following format:

- 1) Prepare a 10-minute presentation in Slovak on a topic pertinent to the theme. The topic may be as general as the theme itself, or as narrow as any particular part of the theme. All the topics must be approved by the instructor.
- 2) The presentation should have one major point to be explained.
- 3) The presentation should address at least four different aspects of the major point.
- 4) The presentation should explicate the presenter's opinion about the major point.

As an audience, the students should, but do not necessarily have to, follow the following format:

- 1) Listen carefully to the presentation.
- 2) Using special forms provided by the instructor, prepare for the question-and-answer discussion after each presentation.
- 3) Participate in the question-and-answer discussion.

Paper: Students are required to write paper in Slovak. This paper has to be written and submitted as a hard copy in class. Students should collaborate and discuss all important issues with the instructor. At the end of the semester students will present their papers/topic to the class.

In submitting the paper, students should follow the given list of deadlines:

1. **Monday, January 21, 2019**: submit the proposed topic together with some initial ideas to be discussed in the paper;
2. **Wednesday, January 30, 2019**: submit a source list (in close collaboration with the instructor);
3. **Wednesday, March 13, 2019**: submit the first draft of the paper;
4. **Monday, April 1, 2019**: submit the second and final version of the paper.

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

Tests	35%
Oral Quizzes	10%
Paper	10%
Conversation Sessions	10%
Presentations	10%
Participation	15%
Written Homework	10%

and your final percentage will determine your final grade, as follows:

93-100 A	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-69 D+
90-92 A-	83-87 B	73-77 C	65-67 D
80-82 B-	70-72 C-	64&below E	

