

BCS 301
Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures
Fall 2024

Days & Time: MWF, 10:00AM-10:50AM

Location:

Instructor: *Peter Wright*

Email: pqwrigh2@illinois.edu

Office: FLB 3007

Office Hours: Tues., Wed., 11:00-12:00 pm & by appointment

Course Description:

The pedagogy of our course will focus on reading, writing, and conversing about important topics in places where BCS is spoken. We will discuss topics regarding the politics, history, music, cuisine, religion, literature, and art of the region. Our material will include written texts, music, news videos, cinema, and other audio-visual material. Our objective is to improve our reading and listening comprehension, speaking skills, and writing competency as we discuss important issues of the region.

In addition, we will focus on learning how to speak, write, and comprehend four different styles of oral and written language:

1. Everyday/casual/colloquial
2. Academic
3. Journalistic
4. Literary

Our class curriculum will be organized around texts and audio-visual material representing language from these different registers, or styles, of language. Alongside these different *styles* of language, our class readings and other material will represent the different language standards and dialects of the region. We thus have material standard Croatian, Bosnian, Serbian and Montenegrin, as well as dialects such as Čakavski, Kajkavski, and other regional idioms.

Course Expectations. All participants in this course will show mutual respect for one another and for course instructors and guest speakers at all times. Students are expected to **arrive to class on time and be prepared to participate actively** in class activities. Students should expect **1-1.5 hours** of homework **per night** for this course, including reading, writing, studying vocabulary, and preparing for the next class.

BCS in the Classroom. We will use exclusively BCS in the classroom. We will be focusing our class experience on *using* BCS and to do that, we have to speak BCS. We will have some pair

and group activities when you will discuss issues in BCS; you are expected to use BCS in these situations, even if you have to work your way around a word or concept you don't know. (When you go to Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, or Montenegro, you will have plenty of opportunities to work your way around words you don't know!)

Online Resources

Englesko-srpski rečnik: <https://recnik.krstarica.com/>

English-Croatian rečnik: <http://www.englesko.hrvatski-rjecnik.com/Default.asp?lang=en>

Vukajlija: <https://vukajlija.com/>

<https://sr.m.wiktionary.org/sr-ec/>

Course website: The course website on Canvas will be regularly updated with useful information: unit test study guides, links to interesting websites, and relevant course announcements.

Attendance. Regular attendance is crucial for mastering a foreign language. You are allowed **4 unexcused absences** in the course of this semester. After that I will need to be informed by email on before the day that you plan to be absent. **Students with 6 or more absences (total) will receive an F in the course.** In the cases of illness, religious holidays, family emergencies, or university obligations, please notify me in advance and provide a written note when appropriate. Otherwise this absence, as any other unexcused absence, will lower your attendance/participation grade. You may be asked to obtain a letter from the Emergency Dean:

300 Turner Student Services Building
610 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 333-0050

Course Grades. Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

97% - 100% = A+
93% - 96% = A
90% - 92% = A-
87% - 89% = B+
83% - 86% = B
80% - 82% = B-
77% - 79% = C+
73% - 76% = C
70% - 72% = C-
67% - 69% = D+
63% - 66% = D
60% - 62% = D-
Below 60% = F

Course grades will be based on the following components, each of which is explained below:

1. Preparation and class participation	20%
2. Homework	15%
3. Friday Presentations	25%
4. Short Responses/Compositions	25%
5. Final Essay and Presentation	15%

1. Class participation. You must come to class **on time** and prepared even if you were absent at the previous class. You should **bring your textbook to class every day**. Your detailed course plan (**plan rada**) has all the information on the material covered on each particular day and the assigned homework. Your daily participation will be graded on a 5 point scale:

5 points	Present, on time, fully prepared, actively and thoughtfully participating in class discussions and activities (this doesn't mean you answer every question correctly, merely that you are ready to try to answer every question), staying in Russian in pair and group activities when this assigned
4 points	Present, on time, partially prepared, minimally participating in class discussions and activities and/or using English when Russian is required
3 points	Present, on time, partially prepared, not participating in class discussions and activities and/or using English when Russian is required
2 points	Present, on time, unprepared, minimally participating in class discussions and activities
0 points	Absent

2. Assignments. Your detailed course plan (**plan rada**) lists your homework assignments. Your homework will consist mostly of reading texts, writing responses/compositions (*sastavi*), and preparing comments and presentations for class.

Weekly Homework:

Each week, you will read one or two texts or watch a film or short video. Your weekly assignment is to prepare a ½ - 1 page response to this reading or film/video. You must come to class each Friday prepared to discuss the reading/video and your coalescing response. You will be graded on your grammar and vocabulary as well as the level of your analysis/engagement with the ideas of the material. These responses will be due each Monday at the beginning of class.

Friday Presentations

Each of you will be responsible for leading a discussion of our reading/audio-visual material two times during the semester. This presentation must include a summary of the reading/film/video, your thoughts/analysis, and questions for your fellow students. I will grade you on your level of preparation, your questions, and your own analysis

Film transcription

A list of films is included on Canvas. Please select a film (without subtitles) and transcribe a complete ten-minute section of the film. You must choose a portion of the film with substantial dialogue and try your best to transcribe every word. This assignment will be due the last class period before Thanksgiving break.

Final Presentation and Composition

In lieu of a final test, you will need to prepare a presentation and composition about one of the films, novels, or readings on our master list that we have not discussed in class. Your presentation must be 10 minutes long and include a vocabulary list. Your composition must be three pages long (approximately 900-1000 words). Your presentation and composition must be focused on the use of language of the reading/film, the ideas it presents, or both. A grading rubric will be provided on Canvas.

Policy on Religious Holidays. If you will be observing any religious holidays this semester which will prevent you from attending a regularly scheduled class or interfere with your fulfilling any course requirement, inform your instructor of the dates of your religious holiday(s) within two weeks of the beginning of the semester or immediately if your holiday is near the beginning of the semester so that we may make appropriate alternative plans.

Policy on Cell Phones. *Cell phones must be turned off during class* except with special permission from your instructor. Use of cell phones during class will result in a reduction of the day's class participation grade.

Academic Integrity.

Cases of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to university policy. Please read the note on Academic Dishonesty very carefully:
<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-402/>

For your homework assignments you should feel free to consult your textbooks, dictionaries, grammar books, or notes that might help you. **You may not seek outside assistance** (e.g., friends, family, native speakers, etc.) for completing graded assignments, including homework. You are also **only allowed to use computer-assisted translators or online translating programs** for individual words and short phrases. You cannot use auto-translators to write full sentences or your entire essays.

Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin-related events and activities.

I will be holding film nights and a BSC conversation hour throughout the semester. You are encouraged to attend these events and will receive small extra participation credit for attending or participating. Schedule TBA.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

I am committed to supporting students with disabilities. If you have questions about participation, exams, or assignments due to any sort of disability, please email or discuss this with me as soon as possible and provide appropriate documentation from DRES.

Syllabus Changes

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus and the requirements of the course during the semester. All updates to the syllabus will be represented in the syllabus posted to the course's Canvas website.