

SOUTH URAL STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Linguistics and Cross-Cultural Communication

45.03.02 Linguistics

45.05.01 Translation and Theory of Translation

SYLLABUS

Practical Course of the First Foreign Language

Listening Comprehension

2nd Semester

Instructor: Finaeva Tatyana Vladimirovna

Office: 460

Room number: 478 (multimedia classroom)

Learning Resources: local network program Lingvo v.4.0, electronic multimedia textbook developed by the instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Course *Listening Comprehension* is aimed at developing the perceptive competence in discourse, which is a crucial professional requirement for an interpreter or an English teacher. Perceptive competence is an integral part of the communicative competence. It is an active process of perception and comprehension of discourse resulting in the communicative behaviour of the listener. Understanding discourse means understanding oral speech as a complex unity of text, situational context, cultural context and interactivity simultaneously.

Consequently, the course has the following learning objectives:

- to develop skills in understanding discourse on the linguistic level (L);
- to develop skills in understanding discourse on the communicative level (S);
- to develop skills in understanding discourse on the pragmatic level (P);
- to develop skills in understanding discourse on the socio-cultural level (C);
- to develop skills in understanding discourse on the psychological level (E).

The course consists of 16 independent units with a Mid-term Test in between and a Final Test at the end of the course. In each unit you are required to complete listening tasks on the computer and take part in class discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Classroom Discussion

Each class begins with a class discussion, which serves as an introduction to the topic and allows you to get familiar with some concepts and linguistic features of the Unit to study. The topic for the discussion is given as homework, so you will have enough time to prepare properly. I strongly recommend you to come to the class ready with your homework, because it will facilitate your understanding of the unit. Participation in the classroom discussion is also part of

your final grade in Listening Comprehension. Discussion points are scored according to the Scoring Rubric.

Computer-based learning

You have a working place with a multimedia electronic textbook. You are also allowed and even encouraged to make use of all necessary Internet resources, including dictionaries and encyclopaedias. However, I strongly recommend not to use Google Translate to translate your answers from Russian into English, because it gives stupid translations. You may discuss some difficult points with your partner.

Multimedia textbook

The tasks in the program are arranged in the order which is supposed to be the best for understanding. It will be better if you observe it. However, you may do the tasks in the order which you prefer. You may return to the task previously done and change your answer if you think it necessary. You can listen to texts as many times as it is necessary. However, listening more than three times does not improve understanding. If you fail to answer the question of the task after listening to it three times, and you fail to figure out the answer by compensatory strategies, I advise you to pass over to the next task.

Checkpoints

Two units will serve as checkpoints and will be graded. The maximum number of points for each is 20. The units for the checkpoint will be chosen on a random principle for each student.

Mid-term test

Mid-term test consists of tasks on listening comprehension which you are allowed to listen to only once or twice. The score is calculated on a Correct/ Incorrect basis automatically by the computer program. There is no make-up for the missing or deficient test unless you provide a proof that you had a very serious reason to stay away from class.

FINAL GRADES

All units must be completed as a condition for passing the course.

For a credit a student is required to do a test on listening comprehension. The student is allowed to listen to texts once or twice maximum. The score is calculated on a Correct/ Incorrect basis automatically by the computer program. The maximum number of points for the credit is 20.

The final grade for the course is calculated as the sum of all the checkpoints and the final test. The maximum number of points equals 100 (2 Checkpoints x 20 = 40) + (Mid-Term Test x 20 = 20) + (2 Discussion Questions Checkpoints x 10 = 20) + (Final Test x 20 = 20).

If the student gets 60 points or more, the mark “Credit” is provided in the grade-form with the number of points in brackets. The course Listening Comprehension is part of Practical Course of the First Foreign Language, the final grade in Listening Comprehension is considered as an integral grade for this course.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

According to the policy of South Ural State University, students are required to attend all classes. If you have a reason to stay away from class, you are required to complete the unit that you have missed after classes in the given time (1 period every week). No make-ups are allowed after the end of the semester.

If you are late for the class, you are required to get permission to enter from the Dean’s office.

Students are not allowed to enter the multimedia classroom in outer clothing, with heavy bags, with food or drink. You must leave your outerwear in the cloakroom. You can leave your bag on the shelf at the entrance to the classroom.

All students are required to observe safety measures. If something is not working on your working place, you should call the teacher and explain the problem. All students are required to handle all devices with care. We cannot afford to buy new equipment very often.

SCORING RUBRIC

Discussion points are scored according to the Scoring Rubric.

10 points	Highly skilled presentation of ideas, not fewer than 15 coherent sentences. The student provides support for opinions. Ideas are relevant to the topic. There are no errors in pronunciation, grammar or style.
8 points	A logical presentation of ideas, not fewer than 10 coherent sentences. Ideas are relevant to the topic, but the student provides little justification for them. 3-5 minor errors in pronunciation, grammar or style are acceptable.

6 points	A logical presentation of ideas, not fewer than 8 coherent sentences. Ideas are relevant to the topic. 5-7 errors in pronunciation, grammar or style are acceptable.
0 points	Limited ability to convey ideas. Ideas irrelevant to the topic. Numerous errors (more than 10) in pronunciation, grammar or style are noted. No answer is given.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Grading	Level of Focused Instruction	Assignment
1	Punishing Children		P, E, C	<i>Think of good and bad points of punishing children</i>
2	Good Luck!		C	<i>Think of omens of 'bad' and 'good luck'</i>
3	To Be or Not to Be?		L, P	<i>Think of the things that affect the 'health' of our planet and ways to 'heal' it</i>
4	Know-How		S, C	<i>Think of some unique or difficult skill that you possess. Can you teach it to your groupmates?</i>
5	Sporting Moments	Checkpoint 1 is due	E, P, S	<i>Describe your experience of going on a picnic / hike / camping trip or rafting</i>
6	Jobs, Desirable and Undesirable (1)		P, C, S	<i>Describe your idea of a dream job (its characteristics)</i>
7	Jobs, Desirable and Undesirable (2)		E, L, P	<i>Compare the jobs of an interpreter and a teacher</i>
8	Weird British		C, P, L	<i>Describe a typical Englishman or Englishwoman</i>

9	Puzzles	Discussion evaluation is due	C, L	<i>Make up a small crossword with questions on history and geography</i>
10	MIDTERM TEST 2	Mid-Term Test is due	L	<i>Get ready for the Mid-Term Test</i>
11	Butterfly Effect		E, P	<i>Think of some event from the past that you think is influencing your life now</i>
12	Peace?		C, P	<i>Think of a conflict situation and the ways to resolve it</i>
13	Urban Revolution		E, P	<i>Describe a typical big city. What interesting things can people do?</i>
14	Celebrities		C, S, P	<i>If you could meet a famous person who would you like to meet? What would you do if you met this person?</i>
15	Modern or Classical?	Checkpoint 2 is due	L, P, S	<i>Are you good at literature? Prepare a quiz for your fellow-students about classical and modern literature</i>
16	Life in the Blue		E, L, C	<i>What do you think is the most beautiful place in the world? Why do you think so?</i>
17	Believe It or Not?	Discussion Evaluation 2 is due	P, C, S	<i>Make a list of your national habits and traditions that foreigners may find funny or confusing</i>
18	FINAL TEST 2	Final Test is due	L, S, C, P, E	<i>Get ready for the final test</i>