

Course Outline

Course number	RBM101				
Course title	Elementary Latvian (A1)				
Credit points	3 ECTS				
Total hours	32				
Lecture hours	4				
Seminar and other hours	28				
Course level	Bachelor, Master				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	Free elective	X

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Iveta Grīnberga	Mag. Philol.	Visiting Lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

The course *Elementary Latvian (A1)* will concentrate on contemporary Latvian, fundamentals of the grammar system, with due attention to all four language skills – reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The aim of the course is to give the students grounding in all of these skills. The classrooms are oriented to communication and maximum use of Latvian, while English-language explanations of grammatical structures and occasional translations are not avoided altogether.

This course provides a systematic overview of the basic linguistic characteristics of the Latvian language. The course uses a series of thematically arranged, structurally graduated readings, conversation topics, individual and group assignments to enable students to acquire an ability to speak Latvian. Language learning in this course is closely tied to learning about culture, and through culture. Authentic cultural materials – song lyrics, short stories, and movies will be introduced every week.

Teaching philosophy

Elementary Latvian (A1) strives to be at all times a student-centered course, encouraging students to take control of their own learning, to be active, engaged, curious, and questioning about this subject matter as well as the wider world it fits into. Teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect among students and between the instructor and students. The instructor strives to accommodate and assist students of different cognitive abilities and different learning styles.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Knowledge

During the studies students are expected to acquire:

- *new vocabulary and communicative phrases,*
- *understanding the basics of the Latvian grammar as a system.*

- Competencies

By completing this course, successful students will be able:

- to introduce and give information about oneself,
- greet, ask and answer simple questions about familiar topics,
- talk about weather, family, food, likes/dislikes, traveling, hobbies etc. in a simple way.

- Skills

Students are expected to develop:

- basic reading skills for simple authentic Latvian literary texts,
- listening, speaking and writing skills.

Students will have an idea of main cultural trends in the post-war Latvia.

They will be equipped with the necessary basic concepts to continue language acquisition.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Final Exam (oral and written)	60%
Mid-term	30%
Attendance	10%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Introduction. Latvian language. We are students. Latvian word classes – nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. Noun and adjective ending agreement.	4
2	Books and cinema. What do you like. Our interests, hobbies. Direct object or Accusative case. Indirect object or Dative case.	4
3	Countries and languages. Different nationalities, different traditions. Traditional Latvian food. How to order food. Polite questions. Comparative degrees.	4
4	Traveling around Latvia. Visiting Jūrmala. Prepositions. Verb Present and Future tense.	4
5	Family, professions. Short story reading. Latvian singing traditions. Genitive case.	4
6	Education and future career. How to express necessity. How to express my wishes.	4
7	Latvian culture. Discussion about the movie “Nori un Ručs”	4
8	Review.	4