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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA
(RUDN UNIVERSITY)**

FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Comparative and Historical Linguistics

(title of the discipline)

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

45.04.01 Philology

**The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme
of higher education:**

“Language and Culture: Theory and Practice”

(in English)

2025

1. COURSE GOAL:

The main goal of the course is to introduce students to the comparative-historical method and its results in modern world linguistics. The discipline Comparative and Historical Linguistics involves an integrative approach to the studies of the language genealogical classification, related languages and families of languages. The discipline includes studies based on historical principle.

The course focuses on the comparison of languages on phonetic and grammatical level and genealogical classification of languages. Based on the works by W. Humboldt, F. Bopp, R. Rask, J. Grimm, A. Schleicher, G. Paul, G. Schuchardt it uncovers the mechanisms of languages historical development.

The course is designed to teach highly skilled specialists in theoretical and applied linguistics, capable of taking into account scientific and research expertise and apply their knowledge and skills in their future professional activities. The objective of the course is to produce original scientific research contributing to the generation, expansion and development of the scientific knowledge as well as the formation and development of the students' competences.

2. REQUIREMENTS TO LEARNING OUTCOMES

The process of studying "Comparative and Historical Linguistics" is aimed at the development of the following competences:

Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire:

Code	Competence	Competence achievement indicators (within the discipline)
PC-2	Has the skills of independent research of the language system in synchronic and diachronic aspects; studying oral, written and virtual communication with the presentation of reasoned conclusions	PC-2.1. Able to solve research problems in the field of synchronous analysis of the language system, speech and acts of communication. PC-2.2. Knows how to solve research problems in the field of diachronic analysis of the language system, the development of speech genres and the evolution of the communicative environment.
PC-3	Possesses the skills of qualified analysis, commenting and summarizing the results of scientific research using modern techniques and methodologies, advanced domestic and foreign experience	PC-3.1. Able to present the results of research in the form of a scientific publication, oral presentation, abstract and summary. PC-3.2. Correctly analyses the history of the study of the scientific problem.

3. COURSE IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:

The course is a part of the elective component (Block 1) of the educational programme academic curriculum.

As part of the Educational programme, students also master other disciplines and / or practices that contribute to the achievement of the planned results of mastering the discipline "Comparative and Historical Linguistics".

Table № 3.1. List of the Educational Programme components contributing to the achievement of the planned results of mastering the discipline

Code	Previous disciplines / modules, practice	Subsequent disciplines / modules, practice
PC-2	General Linguistics, Theory of intercultural communications	Research work, Scientific and Research Training
PC-3	Theory and History of Linguistics	Research work, Scientific and Research Training

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND TYPES OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total course workload is 4 credit units.

Table 4.1 Types of academic activities by periods of the Academic Programme mastering for full-time education

Types of academic activities		Total	Semesters
			3
<i>Classroom-based studies, academic hours</i>		51	51
<i>including:</i>			
Lectures (L)		17	17
laboratory work (LW)			
practical work (PW)/ seminars (S)		34	34
Self-studies, academic hours		75	75
Control, academic hours		18	18
Total	academic hours	144	144
	credits	4	4

5. COURSE CONTENT

5.1. Content of the course by the type of educational work:

Title of course unit	Content of the course unit	Type of academic activities
Basic concepts and history of comparative-historical linguistics	Basic concepts of comparative-historical linguistics. Kinship of languages, genealogical classification, methods and techniques of proving kinship. Reconstruction. The main stages of the method development. Achievements of scientists from Russia and abroad, development of scientific knowledge about the history of languages and language kinship.	L, S

Phonetic laws. Proto-language reconstruction	The concept of phonetic law among neogrammarians and in modern linguistics. Phonetic laws in groups and families of related languages. Results of research in the field of Indo-European studies. Grammatical and lexical reconstruction. Modern ideas about proto-linguistic states.	L, S
Current issues of comparative-historical linguistics	The limits of the possibilities of the comparative-historical method in linguistics. Principles of scientific etymology. Criteria of scientific competence in comparative linguistics. Forms of language interaction: substratum, superstratum, adstratum, and language unions. Pidgins and Creoles. Linguistic geography: problems and methods. Language areas. Correlation of comparative-historical and typological methods in linguistics.	L, S

8. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

It is necessary to have a computer or a laptop (with installed licensed software and the Internet) and a projector in a classroom.

Table 6.1. Technical Support of the course

Type of the classroom	Classroom equipment	Specialized educational / laboratory equipment, software and materials for mastering the discipline (if necessary)
Classroom for Lectures	A classroom for lecture-type classes, equipped with a set of furniture; board (screen/ smart board) and technical means for multimedia presentations.	—
Classroom for seminars	A classroom for conducting seminar-type classes, group and individual consultations, current control and intermediate certification, equipped with a set of specialized furniture and technical means for multimedia presentations.	—
Classroom for self-studies	A classroom for independent work of students (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of specialized furniture and computers with access to the electronic educational system.	—

7. EDUCATIONAL-METHODOLOGICAL AND INFORMATION SUPPORT OF THE COURSE

Books and manuals:

Main

Valentinova, Olga I.; Preobrazhenskii, Sergey Iu.; Rybakov, Mikhail A. Explanatory

possibilities of G.P. Mel'nikov's system linguistics: updating of unknown // Journal of Siberian Federal University. Humanities & Social Sciences 12 (2017 10) 1950-1956 – http://elib.sfu-kras.ru/bitstream/handle/2311/68777/14_Valentinova.pdf;jsessionid=0D6CC07B5256F81DFF61213378BC2E8C?sequence=1

Valentinova, Olga I.; Rybakov, Mikhail A. Basic Principles of Analysis of the Inner Determinant in Linguistic Systemology // Journal of Siberian Federal University. Humanities & Social Sciences 2020. № 13(3). Pp. 413–422. – <http://elib.sfu-kras.ru/handle/2311/135168>

Parihar Uma. The world beyond the words: an axiological comparative study of zoonyms of russian and hindi // Russian Linguistic Journal. – 2015. – № 3. – С.54–71.

http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/UserEntry?Action=Rudn_FindDoc&id=467283&idb=0

Additional

An Introduction to Language and Linguistics / Fasold Ralph W., Connor-Linton Jeff. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. – 540 p.

Clackson J. Indo-European Linguistics: An Introduction. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Fortson B. Indo-European Language and Culture: An Introduction. – Oxford: Blackwell, 2010.

Hock H.H., Brian J.D. An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics. – Berlin, 2009.

Lass R. Historical Linguistics and Language Change. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Lehmann W.P. Theoretical Bases of Indo-European Linguistics. – London: Routledge, 1993.

Internet resources

RUDN library online site <http://lib.rudn.ru>

The Free Encyclopedia www.wikipedia.org

Databases, search engines and reference data:

<https://scholar.google.com/>

<https://www.researchgate.net/>

Educational and methodological materials for independent work of students in the development of the discipline/module:*

1. A course of lectures on the discipline “Comparative and Historical Linguistics”.
2. Guidelines for the implementation of a final assignment of the discipline “Comparative and Historical Linguistics”.

- all educational and methodological materials for independent work of students are placed in accordance with the current procedure on the page of the discipline in RUDN TEIS!

8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM* FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES

The assessment toolkit and the grading system* to evaluate the level of competences (competences in part) formation as the discipline results are specified in the Appendix to the internship syllabus.

* The assessment toolkit and the grading system are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of RUDN University (regulations / order).

DEVELOPERS:

Associate professor of the General & Russian Linguistics Dept.		Rybakov M.A.
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HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT:

Head of the General & Russian Linguistics Dept.		Denisenko V.N.
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HEAD OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM:

Associate professor of the General & Russian Linguistics Dept.		Aleksandrova O.I.
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