

What is so hard about the subject?

1. It is rather new and demanding a good deal of knowledge and effort. And it is an intellectually challenging subject.
2. It is only partly based on ready-made knowledge. And it has a large **learning to learn** sector. In a way it is more like a meal you have to cook than a collection of junk food store items.
3. It is not all dogmatic. It involves student's critical thinking capacity for taking a stand in an issue and defending it.
4. It needs constant concentration on new pieces of information.
5. It demands studying and sometimes contrasting many different sources of information.
6. You have to keep your personal glossary and portfolio.
7. Tests (sometimes a lot of).
8. Presentations.
9. Essays.
- 10. Course paper!**

Key Methodological Principles of the Course Study

- 1) We use **active learning** approach. The principle of learning activity is not the same as the principle of learning passivity (That of a mug and barrel type)! And if you want to get a positive result, you should **work out** in the classroom no less than a lecturer.
- 2) We use **competence-based** approach (so we don't teach parroting, but we teach scientific approach and reflective task-solving skills).
- 3) We aspire for your developed **reflective / critical thinking abilities**, always proving to be a reliable source of fostering your new knowledges and skills. So you are expected to be able to collect and process necessary information, analyze various data and synthesize new knowledge of the matter.
- 4) You are also expected to choose or elaborate **learning strategies** for solving academic tasks.
- 5) We use **meta-language** to master the subject. So it is not like retelling an old tale in English. Quite on the contrary, it is more like learning a new language. You have to learn **new terms and collocations** to express your understanding of the matter. So you need to have an individual glossary of terms and learn to operate them.
- 6) We pursue **new knowledges**. And if you pursue a particular topic, you try to find out more about it **by asking /and answering/ questions**. And if your original

request is denied in the textbook, don't be afraid to further pursue the matter. And new knowledges often demand a flexible approach to some *seemed-to-be eternal truths!*

7) We use **score-based** / scoresheet approach, reflected at official IEI site.

8) We use **research-based learning** approach. And we rely on 'additional' resources and sources of information to make your vision of the subject more complete.

9) We use **text-based activities learning** approach (So you are expected to write a synopsis [-'na:psis], a precis ['preɪsɪ], a summary of the text and answer questions.).

10) We use **learning by doing** approach (So you have to do exercises, write essays and summaries, make reports and presentations, take part in discussion, ask and answer questions etc.).

11) We use **learning by teaching approach** (e.g. Students make reports, presentations and even quizzes for their peers. And they speak out their expert opinions).

12) We use **checking points and revision points** regularly (As a matter of fact your knowledge will be checked at least four times – as your home assignment, at classes, at revision point, at the exam).

13) And we practice **home assignments** each time without exception. *So there is no such thing as “Nothing has been assigned”!*

14) We opt for your **self-governed learning abilities** that will get better development in the course of study. This means proper understanding your own responsibility for your academic results and sound time-management in doing preparations for the classes. It is assumed that you plan well your study time and you don't start doing your home assignment for 'Intro to Linguistics' in the dead of the night just a few hours before the classes.

15) We also aspire for your **cooperative learning abilities**. This means that you can communicate with your teacher and other students and you can share, accumulate, circulate, process and produce reliable information and knowledges in the networking regime in group of students. This also admits your participation in group work and doing projects together with your fellow-students.

16) We opt for your **creative learning abilities**. The latter will be in great demand in writing your **Course Paper**.

17) It is a good idea **to speak English** at classes or elsewhere, but you may be asked to do some exercises, to read and even to speak other languages. You may also be asked to read some scientific articles or books in Russian. All languages are equal for Theory of Language and moreover for Applied Linguistics. True Science is about universal knowledge, not about just one and only language.

Standard Forms of learning activities in the classroom^

- 1) Asking (clever) questions;
- 2) Listening and Answering Teacher's questions;
- 3) Taking part in Discussion;
- 4) Presenting a written report and / or spoken report on the topic in public;
- 5) Performing /or taking part in Students' Presentation;
- 6) Testing;
- 7) Web-quest activities;
- 8) Quiz (individual or group work);
- 9) Dictation;
- 10) "Students teach Students" activities: e.g. Project-based work instances;

Standard Forms of learning activities before the classes

- 1) Reading; answering questions;
- 2) Studying maps, texts, maxims,
- 3) Analytical Thinking. Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking;
- 4) Writing an essay;
- 5) Doing exercises;
- 6) Passing tests;
- 7) Doing task-solving assignments;
- 8) Preparing individual or collective reports and presentations;
- 9) Organizing a personal **Glossary of Terms**;

E.G.

Acculturation [əˈkʌltʃ(ə)'reɪʃən] is the process by which people get adapted to a new culture by internalizing its system of thought and beliefs together with its system of communication through its language.

A creole ['kri:əul] is a language developed from a pidgin by acquiring a more complex grammar and it can have native speakers.

A pidgin ['pɪdʒɪn] is a simplified version of a non-native language that developed in colonial contexts

Your glossary can include diagrams, tables, schemes, pictures etc.

- 10) Producing some "Students teach students" materials;
- 11) Doing extra research and production activities;

Writing a Course Paper and defending it in public.