

FINNISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

This course aims to provide a competent reading knowledge of Finnish and basic communicative skills in the language. Students who complete the course successfully will be able to assure both potential employers and academic supervisors that they possess the necessary foundation-level Finnish language skills to work with original Finnish texts and to enable them to undertake study and/or research in Finland. The course provides an intensive introduction to Finnish grammar, a knowledge of basic vocabulary, practice in the skills of oral communication in Finnish in straightforward situations, translation and information retrieval skills, using Finnish texts on Finnish and international cultural, political and social themes.

The course is designed for beginners, i.e. for students who do not already speak or understand Finnish. It requires intensive study and applicants must provide evidence of language learning ability. Progress is carefully monitored, in particular in the early stages of the course.

Key Reference Works

Course materials produced by the teacher will be provided.

Material from the following will also be used in class:

- From Start to Finnish by Leila White, Finn Lectura, 2007. ISBN 9789517921053.
- Harjoituskirja suomen kielen perusopetusta varten by Leena Silfverberg, Finn Lectura, 2001. ISBN 9517920369.
- Hyvin menee! Suomea aikuisille by Satu Heikkilä, Pirkko Majakangas, Otava, 2002. ISBN 9511171178.
- Hyvin menee! Suomea aikuisille CD 1/2 by Satu Heikkilä, Pirkko Majakangas, Otava, 2002. ISBN 9511181300.
- Kieli käyttöön – Suomen kielen alkeisoppikirja by Marjukka Kenttälä, Helsinki University Press, 2002. ISBN 9515704634. + CDs.
- Kuulostaa hyvältä – Sounds good by Lili Ahonen, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 2005. ISBN 9517464932.
- Kuulostaa hyvältä video by Lili Ahonen, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 2007. ISBN 9510001011.
- Sounds good – Kuulostaa hyvältä by Lili Ahonen, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 2005. ISBN 9517464940.
- Suomi sujuvaksi by Marjukka Kenttälä, Gaudeamus Kirja, 2006. ISBN 9789524950237.

Students will find the following useful for independent study:

- A Grammar Book of Finnish by Leila White, Finn Lectura, 2006. ISBN 9517921462.
- Colloquial Finnish – The Complete Course for Beginners by Daniel Abondolo, Routledge, 1998. ISBN 0415113903.
- Finnish – An Essential Grammar by Fred Karlsson, Routledge, 1999. ISBN 0415207053.
- Teach Yourself Finnish – A Complete Course for Beginners by Terttu Leney, Teach Yourself Books, Hodder Education, 2005. ISBN 0071451080.

A list of relevant websites and online reference materials will be provided at the start of the course.

Students will require a dictionary at an early stage in the course. The following are recommended:

- Gummeruksen suuri suomen kielen sanakirja by Timo Nurmi, Gummerus, 2004. ISBN 951206541X.
- Nykysuomen keskeinen sanasto by Timo Nurmi, Gummerus, 2004. ISBN 9512066866.
- Suomi-englanti-suomi sanakirja by Raija Hurme *et al.*, WSOY, 2007. ISBN 9789510319031.

NB: Students will be informed at the start of the course which textbooks they should purchase.

Course Details

Title	FINNISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE
Course Code	SEES GE72
Course Value	40 credits
Duration	Taught in the Autumn and Spring Terms
Availability	Open to students of most SSEES taught postgraduate programmes, including MA, IMESS and MRes
Prerequisites	Open to students who have no knowledge of Finnish
Course Leader	Dr Riitta Valijärvi

Aims

The course aims to enable students to:

- develop competence in and use of Finnish to a pre-intermediate level
- develop basic communicative skills of aural comprehension and oral production
- develop the comprehension skills of reading, retrieving key information and translating from Finnish, through the use of a range of stylistically diverse materials, drawn in the main from contemporary sources
- acquire the basic writing skills necessary to facilitate language learning and support a period of study and/or research in Finland
- develop a knowledge of grammar and syntax, lexis and register, as well as language awareness and language learning skills
- study a wide range of authentic language materials and acquire a deeper knowledge and understanding of Finnish life and culture through the materials studied.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the course students will have acquired:

- a grasp of the basic grammatical structures and vocabulary of Finnish
- comprehension of written Finnish at a pre-intermediate level
- the ability to communicate in Finnish in straightforward everyday and study-related situations
- the ability to retrieve information and translate accurately
- time management skills and the ability to work to deadlines.

Teaching

Classes meet for four hours each week over twenty teaching weeks (80 hours of contact time). Additionally, students will be expected to spend, over the whole teaching year, an average of four hours' independent study per contact hour.

In class, students will be presented with the grammar and vocabulary of Finnish *ab initio*. Communicative, reading and vocabulary building skills will be extended through a range of exercises, work with authentic texts and training in the effective use of a dictionary.

Assessment

Coursework

The regular, punctual and satisfactory completion of weekly assignments is a prerequisite for completion of the course, but does not contribute to the final assessment. Students' progress is monitored by means of regular tests, exercises and home assignments.

Students are also required to compile a portfolio of materials, in Finnish, relating to their individual area of interest. This is monitored by the teacher and its satisfactory completion is a prerequisite for entry to the examination.

Examination

The course is examined by means of an oral test (25% of the overall mark) and a three-hour written paper, normally held in May. The written examination consists of:

- a set of comprehension tasks assessing knowledge of Finnish grammar and syntax, approximately 450 words in total, in the target language (30% of the overall mark).
- a comprehension and information retrieval task consisting of a passage in Finnish of approximately 400 words, followed by questions in English, to be answered in English (25% of the overall mark).
- a translation into English of a passage of Finnish of 200-250 words (20% of the overall mark).

The use of dictionaries is permitted in the written examination.