In-Class Methods Meet On-Line Tools: A Hybrid Class

Teaching and Learning Technology Conference

April 9, 2009

Irina Ivliyeva

Arts, Languages, and Philosophy
Content

• Class participation, learning outcomes and the role of communication technologies in language learning and teaching.
• Traditional in-class activities are examined through the prism of internet-based, multi-user, interactive learning tools.
• The role of Survey Monkey, Blogs, Wiki, Audacity on Blackboard in creating and maintaining interactive collaborative learning environments.
Examples

Fall 2008

Elementary Russian 001 (language class, instruction in Russian) – 23 students

Spring 2009

Elementary Russian 002 (language class, cont. of Russian 001, instruction in Russian) – 11 students
Russian Civilization 360 (upper level humanities class, instruction in English) – 23 students
Seven Principles for Good Practices in Undergraduate Education at Missouri S&T

1) Encourage student-faculty contact
2) Encourage cooperation among students
3) Encourage active learning
4) Give prompt, frequent, informative feedback
5) Emphasize time on task
6) Communicate high expectations
7) Respect and encompass diverse talents and learning styles

Academic Council (4/17/03)
What Students Expect from their Professors
(James Woner, S&T Student Council, 2007)

This annual survey, conducted by Student Council between Thanksgiving and Finals, consisted of 30 questions and nearly 500 responses.

1. Has a well thought out and accurate syllabus
2. Posts class materials on Blackboard or class website
3. Posts lecture notes online before class, or provides them during class
4. Answers emails and course related questions in a timely manner
5. Promotes and supports learning centers for classes that have them (LEAD)
Course Structure

Introduction. Teaching principles and students’ needs

Part I. Before class begins
• Who are your students?
• What students want

Part II. During class
• Speaking skills with Audacity
• Creating sense of community with Blogs
• From individual paper to group project (Wiki)
• Follow up email after each class session

Part III. Before class ends
• Before the final grade
• Teaching evaluation and students’ self-assessment

Conclusion. Foreign languages and higher education

Bibliography
Course Structure
Part I. Before class begins

• Who are your students?
• What do students want?
Missouri S&T “Seven Principles for Good Practices in Undergraduate Education”

**Principle 1: Encourage Student-Faculty Contact**

Student-instructor interactions must begin before the semester starts:

1. Enrollment screening *(JoeSS)*
2. Email invitation to class and Blackboard postings (syllabus, etc.)
3. Request to fill out a survey online *(SurveyMonkey)*
4. Print out, sign and bring to class “Permission to use” forms
5. Finally, the first face-to-face meeting in class
Welcome to Russian Civilization 360 in the Spring semester 2009!

Please explore on Blackboard all current course postings listed below.

1) Under “Course information” you will find your syllabus. Please print all documents and bring all papers with you to class on Tuesday, January 13.

2) Under “Course information” you will find “Permission to Use Form”. Print it out, fill it out and bring with you to your first class meeting.

3) Under “Course information” you will find “Student Information Form”. Print it out, fill it out and bring with you to your first class meeting.

4) Under “Staff Information” you will find your instructor’s weekly schedule and contact information.

Please fill out this confidential online survey within the first week of class:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YAVUsHthKmDpwUu7zWOoDQ_3d_3d

I am looking forward to seeing you in class on Tuesday!
Please contact me if you have questions.

-- Irina Ivliyeva
Welcome to Russian Civilization 360 in the Spring semester 2009!

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3) Under “Course information” you will find “Student Information Form”. Print it out, fill it out and bring with you to your first class meeting.

4) Under “Staff Information” you will find your instructor’s weekly schedule and contact information.

5) All lecture notes, handouts, reference materials, and tests will be posted under “Course Documents”.

6) For Discussion questions (blog entries) go to Tools, then to Blog Tool. Follow the instructions.

7) For Final Presentations go to Tools, then to Wiki Tool. Follow the instructions.

I am looking forward to seeing you in class on Tuesday!

-- Irina Miyeva
Syllabus

Elementary Russian 002 - Syllabus
run002_WS09.doc (270.5 KB)
Please print out the syllabus and bring it to class on Tuesday, January 13.

Permission To Use Form
Permission to use.doc (24.5 KB)
Please print out the form, fill it out, sign and return to your instructor during the first week of classes.

Taman: Reading and Submission Schedule
taman_schedule_09.doc (64 KB)
Course Information

Syllabus

Permission To Use Form
Permission to use_Civ.doc (24.3 kb)
Pleas fill out and bring to your first class meeting.

Student Information Form
Personal info_in class.doc (24.5 kb)
Bring out, fill out and return to your instructor.

Groups for Final Presentation / research projects

Group 1
Al Hagan, Wael
Alhowaidi, Abdulmajid Mohammed
Alzidany, Mohammed Mahfoudh

Group 2
Al Thobaiti, Bader Saud Saad
Almousa, Hussain Mahdi
Binshehiwin, Nasser Mohammed
Please contact your instructor via email to ensure appointment time availability.

Dr. Irina V. Ivliyeva

Spring 2009

Office Hours: Wed. 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., LEAD Learning Center, 202 HSS
Wed. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. 214 HSS and/or by appointment

Phone: 341-4627
E-mail: ivliyeva@mst.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:15</td>
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</table>
Course Documents

Useful classroom expressions
- Useful classroom expressions: text and sound file

Translations
- Translations: texts and audio files

Cultural handouts

Assignments

Test Submission Schedule and Handouts

Tests

Misha Fayor
- Texts, practice and sound files

Poem “Bagazh”
- bagazh.pdf (107.163 KB)
Student Permission-to-Use Form

Date __________________________
Student’s Name __________________________
Course and Term __________________________
Instructor’s Name __________________________

I grant the instructor identified above unlimited permission to make public or reference those items checked in the list below. This permission applies to work I have completed in the course indicated.

_______ Sound recordings of my voice
_______ Examples of my written work
_______ My comments in e-mails
_______ My comments in chats
_______ My comments in electronic forums
_______ My name as part of a directory listing of students in the class
_______ My blog postings on Blackboard
_______ My postings on Wiki pages on BlackBoard

I understand that when my work is used, if possible, an acknowledgement identifying the work as mine will be included.

Signature __________________________
Elementary Russian 001 (Fall 2008)
Missouri S&T “Seven Principles for Good Practices in Undergraduate Education”

Principle 7: Respect and Encompass Diverse Talents and Learning Styles

My students: who are they?
What do they want from my class?

Survey Monkey:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?s=sm=YAVUsHthKmDpwUu7zWOoDQ_3d_3d
10 questions in on-line format
(before Fall 2007 administered on paper in class)

1. Gender
2. Year in school
3. Major
4. Is English your native language?
5. **Foreign languages studied**
6. Current course level
7. **Give at least one example of an image, impression, bias, or concept of Russian culture you may have had before signing up for this course.**
8. **Please give one idea, concept, or image from the readings or lectures that has particularly interested or intrigued you.**
9. Current work load
10. **Please give your reason for taking this course.**
Question 5. Foreign languages studied
Question 7. Give at least one example of an image, impression, bias, or concept of Russian culture you may have had before signing up for this course.
Question 8. Please give one idea, concept, or image from the readings or lectures that has particularly interested or intrigued you.
Question 10. Please give your reason for taking this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment Text</th>
<th>Response Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Russia is the world's current largest producer of oil.</td>
<td>Sun, 8/31/08 3:18 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I like the sound and look of the Russian language and think it would be</td>
<td>Wed, 9/27/08 8:40 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fun and challenging to learn.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I love languages and have a goal of learning 10 during my life. I have</td>
<td>Wed, 9/27/08 2:17 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>wanted to learn Russian since about 8th grade, and so l am excited and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ready to learn now.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Russian is considered a critical language for DOD and personal interest.</td>
<td>Wed, 9/27/08 12:45 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. To learn Russian.</td>
<td>Wed, 9/27/08 10:25 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. To satisfy a language requirement. Positive opinions of the teacher's</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 16:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ability/style.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I want to become fluent in the language and be able to teach Russian at</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 9:57 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a high school level, or to teach a Russian history/European History classes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I was required to take a foreign language for my degree and Russian</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 6:15 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intrigued me the most.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I find it interesting.</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 7:11 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Air Force pays well for the knowledge, and it is a personal interest I</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 3:50 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>had for a while.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I met a Russian woman who convinced me that I should take this course.</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 3:37 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. I would like to know a different language.</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 2:34 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. I needed a foreign language course to graduate in December, my advisor</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 1:47 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and a former student of yours referred this course to me.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Last humanities course for majors; wanted to take a useful and</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 1:43 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interesting class; uncommonly taught language.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15. I'm required to take a foreign language for my math major. Russian is</td>
<td>Tue, 9/25/08 1:41 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>probably the most challenging of the languages offered here, and, I'm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>interested in better understanding the Russian culture.</td>
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</table>
The advantages of online evaluations

“Having students complete the ratings outside of class not only minimizes disruption, but also tends to facilitate the production of needed information. When filling out paper forms in class, students must do so within a narrow time span (usually 10 to 20 minutes). In contrast, online ratings can be completed anytime over a period of weeks, and students can take as long as they like to complete individual rating forms. Several studies have shown that students using an electronic course-rating format of course-rating forms tend to provide longer and more frequent written responses than students using the paper-based system in class.” [Williams, p. 68]
Course Structure
Part II. During class

• Speaking skills with Audacity
  – Principle 5: Emphasize time on task
• Creating sense of community with Blogs
• From individual paper to group project (Wiki)
  – Principle 2: Encourage cooperation among students
• Follow up email after each class
  – Principle 1: Encourage student-faculty contact
### Foreign Language Skills

<table>
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<th>Passive</th>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Elementary Russian 001 (Fall 2008)
Elementary Russian 001 (Fall 2008)
Audacity

Audio File can be:

1. saved
2. edited
3. sent
4. evaluated
5. shared
6. demonstrated (e-portfolio, presentations)
Lab work on Oct. 15, 2008
Voice recording: Elementary Russian 001

Unscripted narrative
Male student
Subject: Greetings and Introductions

Unscripted narrative
Female student
Subject: Greetings and Introductions
Lab work on Oct. 22, 2008
Voice recording: Elementary Russian 001

Scripted narrative
Male student
Subject:
Introduction and greetings

Scripted narrative
Female student
Subject:
Introduction and greetings
Blogs vs. face-to-face discussions

• Online discussions are primarily text-based.

• Discussions may lack immediate responses and significant points may be lost because of lack of vocal emphasis or body language.

• Participants need to allow time for reading and responding to multiple discussion threads.

• Instructors need to establish clear guidelines for students.
The Blogs

- Blogs help students develop their critical thinking and writing skills.
- Blogs allow students to write for a broader audience than their instructor alone and encourage them to develop a unique voice.
- Instructor’s and peers’ ability to provide regular, dynamic feedback helps students grow as writers and thinkers.
Blog entries (2.5% each): Throughout the semester you will be responsible for maintaining a blog on the Blackboard site for this course. You will be required to write a minimum of two blog entries, each **worth 2.5 % of your final grade. The first Blog is due by noon on Thursday, February 26; the second Blog is due by noon on Thursday, May 7.** Late blogs, posted within a week of the due date, will receive 50% credit, after which they will not be accepted.

For each blog entry, you will write a minimum of 300 words in several well-developed paragraphs. Your entry should be a summary of what you feel were the most important points covered in the course discussions about Russian culture, customs and/or current events....
Post on January 6 2009 (permalink) - edit | history | delete
Created on Tuesday, 01/06/2009 8:45 PM by Irina Niyeva

Here is where you will post your answers to the discussion questions.

This message is to remind you how to post your blogs on the Blackboard site. Once you have entered the course, click on the Tools folder. At the bottom of the list you will find “Blog Tool”. Click on this. Here you will see what your classmates post and any comments that have been added. To add your own blog entry, click on “new entry” under the Actions heading in the right-hand panel. Type your entry and click on “save.”

Although it is not required, I strongly encourage you to read (or at least skim) each others’ blogs, and to comment where you feel you have something to add. These blogs will give us a starting point for discussions in class, but they will also provide us with a place to exchange ideas and interact with each other outside of the classroom. It does not need to be a polished essay but you should read it over at least once before posting to check for readability and grammatical errors.

Submission deadlines and guidelines can be found in the Syllabus posted under “Course Information” (on the left side of the screen).

Happy Blogging! Please email your instructor if you have any questions.

Irina Niyeva
RUSSIAN 360: RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION (LEC 1A) SP2009

Post on March 31 2009 (permalink) - edit | history | delete
Created on Tuesday, 03/31/2009 4:46 PM by: Swatoslav Purst
Updated on Tuesday, 03/31/2009 5:48 PM by: Nasser Binshtehwin

There are many differences and a big competition between Moscow and St. Petersburg. This reflected positively on the city of Moscow and St. Petersburg, which gave Russia two major European cultural centres.

In 1716 Jean-Baptiste Alexandre Le Blond was the chief architect of St. Petersburg by Peter the Great. The style of Petrine Baroque, developed by Trezzini and other architects and exemplified by such buildings as the Menshikov Palace, Kunstkamera, Twelve Colleges, which became prominent in the city architecture in the 18th century. The style of Baroque dominated the city architecture during the first sixty years, culminating in the Elizabehan Baroque, represented most notably by Bartolomeo Rastrelli, with such buildings as the Winter Palace. Now, Saint Petersburg has no skyscrapers or skyline. The current rules forbid construction of high buildings in the city centre. The 122.5 m Peter and Paul Cathedral is the highest building in the city, while The 310 metre tall Saint Petersburg TV Tower is the tallest structure.

In Moscow in 1156, Prince Yuri Dolgoruki of Rostov ordered the construction of a wooden wall, which had to be rebuilt multiple times, to surround the city. After the Mongols burned the city to the ground and killed its inhabitants in 1237. In now days Moscow is well known as the site of Saint Basil’s Cathedral, with its elegant onion domes, as well as the Cathedral of Christ the Savior and the Seven Sisters. The look of the city changed during Soviet times by Joseph Stalin, who oversaw a large-scale effort to modernize the city. He built broad avenues and roadways, some of them over nine lanes wide, but he also destroyed a great number of historically architectural works.

Post on March 31 2009 (permalink) - edit | history | delete
Created on Tuesday, 03/31/2009 4:46 PM by: Swatoslav Purst
RUSSIAN 002: ELEMENTARY RUSSIAN II (LEC 1A) SP2009

Post on February 26 2009

Russia has a diverse range of minerals with reserves that made my jaw drop. In 2002 Russia was producing approximately 20% of the world's nickel and palladium. Russia was ranked: number one for nickel and palladium, two for aluminum and platinum groups of metal, third for potash, and sixth for gold, and seventh in mine copper. Also, there are a bunch of really 'shiny' numbers that involve Russia's overall reserves. One of the more real or apparent figures is that Russia's Kaindy region contains 96% of the world's Amber deposits. I have found that Russia is considered an oddity of sorts to the mining industry of America. They have the natural resources that bring in money, but there is an overall reluctance to form a symbiotic relationship. Further more, I found that although Russia's output was comparable--that only 10% of their mining operations were world class and that, "...labor productivity was one third below that of advanced industrialized countries, and energy expenditures were 20%-30% higher." Another notable problem was the quality of the material exported. So... if America has the money, and the tools, and Russia has the natural resources and labor force--why is there no contract signing? I found my answer in 2 different places. The first I found while reading an internet article at http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/Russia-MINING.html.

"Russia has not been successful in attracting foreign investment for developing its mineral deposits, because of high and unpercievable taxes, an unreliable legal system, insecure licensing, inequality of the treatment of domestic foreign partners, a weak banking system, and the inability to directly export commodities."

My second answer came in class today. When Dr. Niyevs was speaking on the different cultural influences making up the construct of our behavior in society. With these two influences and a closer look at my department I found a conclusion. The American and Russian mining industries are perfect examples the cultural opposites. Russian mining business mentality is a very formal and serious setting where--Not so much with the U S 's mining industry. In my department we have CoOp reps recruit at offcampus after hour parties. That's how the differences start and they end somewhere inbetween why are you taking russian? and 'a CoOp is looking for russian speaking mining engineers'. The previously cited statements from the national encyclopedia are opinion slanted. The major problem right now is the lack of communication and collaboration between the two countries. The differences in the two industries could turn into a new strength.

*R.M. Skipper
Group Projects
Missouri S&T “Seven Principles for Good Practices in Undergraduate Education”
Principle 2: Encourage Cooperation among Students
Principle 4: Give Prompt, Frequent, Informative Feedback

How to help student teams to succeed:
• Establish teams and allow students to work together.
• Monitor progress on Blackboard throughout the semester.
• Students will post a final revised response on Wiki. This results in fewer messages for instructor to read.
• Consider size and number of teams. Try to have no more than seven students on a team.
• Create clear guidelines for collaborating online and working in teams.
• Missouri S&T Center for Educational Research and Teaching Innovation (CERTI) Wiki http://mst-certi.wikispaces.com/
What Is a Wiki?

- “wiki” is Hawaiian for “fast”
- “Wiki allows visitors to add, remove, edit and change content…. It also allows for linking among any number of pages. This ease of interaction and operation makes a wiki an effective tool for mass collaborative authoring”. (*Wikipedia)
- Free of charge and available on Blackboard at MS&T

* http://ig.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki
RUSSIAN 360: RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION (LEC 1A) SP2009

Home (permalink)

RUSSIAN Civilization 360, Spring 2009  Instructions for Final Presentations
Instead of comprehensive exam at the end of the semester you will complete a group presentation on one of several topics in class. The list of proposed topics will be posted on Blackboard.

During the first week of class, you will be assigned to teams. As a group, you will choose a topic that will provide the basis for your project for the semester. The topic must be approved by instructor in advance. All topics must be selected and approved by Tuesday, February 17.

An outline of your final presentation (including bibliography / resources) must be posted on Blackboard by Tuesday, March 31. It will be worth 5% of your grade. Your final group presentation will be worth 15% of your grade. Your final presentation day will be assigned at a later date and will take place during the last 2 weeks of the semester.

You will present your findings during a specified class period. Your presentations must include the following information about your chosen / assigned research topic: a brief outline, basic information, bibliography / resources. Your group is responsible for dividing up the workload and for presenting it in a coherent manner.

The purpose of this assignment is to:
  • help you develop skills in the following areas:
    o critical thinking
    o public speaking
    o research
    o teamwork
RUSSIAN 360: RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION (LEC 1A) SP2009

Outline - Group 2

Part 1: Introduction - Overview of Russia and its legal system throughout the history and Great Britain's legal system.

Part 2: Russian Justice - Comparison of Russian Justice and the additions made by Monomakh to the contemporary laws of Great Britain.

Part 3: Sudebnik - Comparison of Sudebnik of 1497 to the similar British laws.

Part 4: Domostroi - Comparison of Domostroi to the similar civil laws in the Great Britain

Part 5: Legal Code of Pskov and Law on Fugitive Peasants - those two legislatures and the conditions of the serfs are compared to those of Great Britain and its peasants.

Part 6: Sobornoye Ulozhenie - Compared to the similar laws in Great Britain.

Part 7: Work in Progress - For any additions

Part 8: Conclusion - Points out the main similarities and differences between the legal systems of two countries.
From: Irina Ivliyeva [mailto:ivliyeva@mst.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 1:13 PM
To: "MST-RUSSIAN-002-1A-71359-SP2009"
Subject: Russian 002 - Update: MST-RUSSIAN-002-1A-71359-SP2009

1) Today in class we reviewed the test results ("prepositions" and "aspect" files WERE posted on Bb in Unit 18/19).

2) For Wednesday, April 1:
   Today in class we translated page 17, please continue 18-20 (inclusive) of "Taman".

   Please continue your work on corresponding handouts and follow the submission dates.

3) Thursday, April 2: Fayer Unit 21, texts 1 and 2. Sound files are posted on Bb. File "Professions" as well.

4) Today in class we discussed the final composition topics. Final composition topics are posted on Bb in "Tests" (print it out, please). Due date is the last day of classes – May 6/7th at the time of your individual review (see Syllabus).
   Start working on your compositions early. I will work with each student on their drafts, if requested. You need to choose the topics different from your midterm composition.

5) Check out the Russian news on Web: www.lenta.ru Consider writing the second blog soon.

6) Assignment 3 will be corrected in class on Thursday, April 9.

I would like to stress out the importance of attending class regularly and following the coursework closely. Contact me if you have questions.
Irina Ivliyeva
Follow up emails after each class session
Missouri S&T “Seven Principles for Good Practices in Undergraduate Education”

Principle 1: Encourage student-faculty contact
Principle 2: Encourage cooperation among students
Principle 4: Give Prompt, Frequent, Informative Feedback

• Promote faculty–students contact, create feeling of connection and inclusion
• Create common frame of reference for all instructor and students
• Eliminate non-productive students inquiries (e.g. “I missed your class today. Did you talk about anything important?”)
• Remind about: material covered in class, submission dates, homework due, tests etc.
From: Irina Ivliyeva [mailto:ivliyeva@mst.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2009 1:50 PM
To: "MST-RUSSIAN-360-1A-71361-SP2009"
Subject: Russian Civilization 360- Update: MST-RUSSIAN-360-1A-71361-SP2009

1) Lecture notes on Ivan the Terrible are posted on BB for review. Next week we will discuss the Time of Trouble and 17 century legal documents. Please follow the syllabus and read the designated pages form the textbook.

2) The final project topics are selected and approved. I am asking each group to post topic titles on individual group pages in Wiki (both in Outline and in Group sections).

Please continue your research by collecting the resources, assigning the roles for presentation part, and composing an outline.

Outline and bibliography has to be posted on BB by March 31.

3) Discussion question 2 / blog 2 due Tuesday, February 24.

Thank you for great questions during class discussions. You are a great group to work with.

Have a safe week-end!

- Irina Ivliyeva
Course Structure
Part III. Before class ends

• Before the final grade
• Students’ self-assessment
Exit Interview.

1) Be prepared to read aloud with expression the Bagazh poem and to make its audio recording by May 7, 2008. The sound file and the text file will be posted on Blackboard for your practice.

2) Please write a short self-assessment statement (по-английски!) about your learning experience in Elementary Russian 001 and/or 002. Bring the essay with you to your individual appointment (the schedule will be given in advance) on May 7, 2008.
Self-assessment guidelines:
Describe your reasons for taking the class, your goals and expectations, and compare them with practical outcomes/results. Describe (briefly) your reading, writing, comprehension and speaking skills in Russian. Please share when and how you may be able to use the skills (job, graduate school, further studies, studies abroad, interpersonal communication etc.). Please tell us about your future plans (if any) regarding Russian and anything else you think is relevant.
Self-assessment example: Male student (Mining Engineering Major), Russian 001, Fall 2008

“I think that over the past semester I have learned quite a bit about Russian culture and language. I have had an interest in both for several years now since Russia is a growing center for scientific research in my fields of interest and the scientific community is moving more strongly towards integrated global collaboration. I enjoyed the pace of the class and feel that I learned substantially more in one semester of Russian than I did in my first year of Spanish....”
“....Though I will not be returning for Russian 2 (due to time constraints next semester) I feel that Russian 1 has given me an excellent basis for continuing to learn on my own, which I hope and plan to do. My ultimate goal is to be able to one day travel to Russia and be able to converse with Russians in their own language. To this end, I feel Russian 1 was extremely valuable and set me on the path to achieving this goal. Thanks for a great semester.”
“Reasons for taking the course:” I needed to take 8 hours of a language to meet the degree requirements in mathematics, and it was a toss up between Russian and Spanish. I chose Russian because it would be more of a challenge (I’ve already taken two years of Spanish in high school) and because I liked the times at which the course was offered.

Goals and expectations: I didn’t really have many goals or expectations going into the course, although after taking the first semester of the course I have a goal of being able to read the news in Russian after the second semester.

Reading skills: with a dictionary I can (slowly) read Russian texts and get a general idea of what is being conveyed…..”
“...Writing skills: I can compose simple Russian statements that can convey what I want to convey, even if they do not follow perfect grammar rules.

Comprehension: the words that I know I can generally comprehend in the spoken text, although it may take a while for my brain to translate it into English.

Speaking skills: by far the hardest of the four skills, I can slowly read aloud written texts and can compose simple sentences.

In the future I plan to take the second semester of basic Russian and hopefully start browsing through Russian news articles without constantly referring to a dictionary.”
Ideas for future classroom activities using technology

1) Pen pals (through email)
2) Chat rooms (on Blackboard)
3) Wimba and voice tools on Blackboard
4) YouTube clips (interviews, music, international news, songs etc.)
5) Online newspapers (e.g. www.lenta.ru)
Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World (MLA)

“...Culture is represented not only in events, texts, buildings, artworks, cuisines, and many other artifacts but also in language itself. .... As recent world events have demonstrated, deep cultural knowledge and linguistic competence are equally necessary if one wishes to understand people and their communities.”

MLA report: http://www.mla.org/flreport
References


Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World, MLA recommendations for teaching language:  [http://www.mla.org/flreport](http://www.mla.org/flreport)


Questions?