

Title: Studgorodok : Web-based Multimedia Program for Intermediate and Advanced Learners of Russian

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Studgorodok is a web-based multimedia project designed for intermediate and advanced learners of Russian at American colleges and universities. Based on a series of video segments from the popular Russian TV show “Students”, the program introduces authentic language material in the context of college student life in Russia. Cultural commentaries and activities that accompany each video clip allow learners to acquire new words and expressions indispensable for a college student in Russia, review and practice various grammar areas in the context of day-to-day university life, as well as discover various aspects of what it means to be a university student in Russia. The program utilizes a number of media (video clips, audio, animation, photographs, graphics) and a variety of interactions and activities (multiple choice mini-quizzes, drag & drop activities, fill-in the blanks and others).

The program is recommended as a web-based supplement for intermediate and advanced level Russian language study, to be used at the teacher’s discretion. This CALL material may also be used as a preparatory course for Russian learners who plan to complete a study abroad program in a Russian college and who need an introductory exposure to the “culture” of a Russian university, including student jargon and idiomatic expressions commonly used among students and professors in a Russian academic setting. The minimum competencies required for successful completion of this program are knowledge of essential Russian grammar, the ability to understand simple authentic conversations by native Russian speakers and write/type short story summaries in Russian.

Presenters will start by demonstrating the program and its potential use in college-level Russian language classes. This will be followed by a discussion of the advantages and difficulties of the use of authentic audio and video materials in language teaching.