Title: Online Film Course: Integrating Video and Metadata
Author: Daria Shembel, San Diego State University

The paper reports on the design of an online film course for the intermediate/advanced students of Russian. The course is planned as an independent communicative course targeting intermediate and advanced students in their 3/4/5 semesters of studying Russian. The primary goals of the course are to improve students Russian-language skills and engage students directly and meaningfully with the Russian language and culture through accessing authentic Russian materials: cinema and cyberspace.

The course content will be divided into lessons, each presenting a certain theme, such as introduction, family, shopping, education, etc. Each lesson will include multiple film clips (about 15–20) on the given topic representing various genres of Russian cinema, including feature films, documentaries and animation. Each video segment will be supplemented by transcripts and glossary lists, as well as additional materials on the subject derived from authentic social media sources (Wikipedia articles on the films, directors, actors, places, cultural information, Youtube interviews with the creators/ actors, Facebook discussions, LiveJournal entries, etc). In the introduction to every lesson, basic vocabulary and structure needed for discussion will be provided.

A variety of authentic net materials will allow incorporating different types of activities related to four basic language skills. A major component of this online course will be the implementation of new video production software — Mozilla Popcorn — that allows to integrate multiple metadata (Wikipedia articles, Youtube videos, Facebook discussions, chats, blogging, microblogging, as well as language materials, such as assignments, glossary, grammar references, etc.) into the video segments.

Such software platforms could provide L2 learners with even richer interactions with the Russian web culture, explore all capabilities of web browsers, bring live data into the film clips, personalize them and make them social.

The paper will address the challenges of integrating language, web and film history/film theory material into one unified language learning environment.