

Title: Keeping the Classroom Current: Incorporating News and Cultural Events in First and Second-Year Russian Curriculum

Author: Maria Khotimsky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Abstract:

The ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages place high emphasis on cultural and communicative competence, as well as ability to compare and relate to different cultures and societies. In order to achieve these goals, students require access to up-to-date cultural and social information, which is always a challenge for existing textbooks, many of which date back to the early 2000s, or 1990s. In this presentation, I explore strategies and approaches that allow to introduce current events and cultural developments in the Russian language curriculum for first and second-year Russian. I will discuss potential uses of presentations, audio and reading, and discussion assignments based on current events. I will also address the challenges presented by keeping up with the ongoing social, political, and cultural changes.