Bringing Language Alive:
Advancement of Foreign Language Instruction through Literature and Culture
Language Issues

Cat 1: Romance languages, Swahili, Dutch, Scandinavian languages
Cat 2: German, Indonesian, Hindi, Hebrew, Bulgarian
Cat 3: Russian, Czech, Yoruba, Thai
Cat 4: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean

(Defense Language Institute Classification of Languages)
Cultural Issues: Russia

- Impenetrability to an outsider
- Perceived scarcity of local resources
- "Lack of time"
- Russia is distant and expensive!
“Project-based learning is a comprehensive perspective focused on teaching by engaging students in investigation. Within this framework, students pursue solutions to nontrivial problems by asking and refining questions, debating ideas, making predictions, designing plans and/or experiments, collecting and analyzing data, drawing conclusions, communicating their ideas and findings to others, asking new questions, and creating artifacts” (Blumenfeld, 1991)
Integrating Culture into Foreign Language Instruction

- Real-life interactions with speakers of target language through participation in groups and events (concerts, festivals, shops, restaurants, sports)

- Participation in technology-mediated communities

  a) Local groups by and for non-native speakers

  b) International groups primarily for native speakers
• Interviews with local native speakers
• Reports on cultural events and concerts
• Volunteering at local organizations
• Participation in celebrations sponsored by the department