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Integrated Visual Learning: Using Google Earth to Co-construct Literary Trips

Luba Iskold
Daniel Cojocaru
Muhlenberg College

Presentation Outline

- **Background**

- **Why use Literary Road Trips?**

- **Software Options**

- **Examples of Student Work**

- **Student Guide**

- **Project Demo**

- **Findings from Student Surveys**

- **Discussion & Conclusions**

Research on New Literary Hybrids in the Age of MM Expression

- **Maps present a means of visualization of knowledge**

- **The sense of territory, frontier & place is powerful on the Internet**

- **It is amplified by the development of global positioning technologies that allow to experience reality in virtual spaces**

- **The convergence of technology & culture explains the trend toward "geospatial Humanities"**

Research on New Literary Hybrids in the Age of MM Expression

Fundamental types of literary maps:

- **Separate literary works**

- **Real & fictional routs of particular writers**

- **Global positioning of a national literature**

- **Literary places in different cities & regions**

- **Fictional space in literary works/fantasy worlds**

Why Literary Road Trips?

Purpose of the Project

To help students with visualizing literary texts in their geographical, historical, political, and cultural contexts

- **Geographical locations**

- **Historical events relevant to the plot**

- **Everyday cultural practices**

- **Cultural artifacts**

		Bunin Sholokhov
		Pasternak Solzhenitsin
		Brodsky Alexievich

20TH CENTURY

Mapping Tools: Google MyMaps

What can we do with Google [MyMaps]?

- **Create a map, draw lines, shapes, or place marks on it**
- **Import geographically-specific data: address or coordinates**
- **Organize the map with layers to hide or show content**

My Maps: Create custom maps
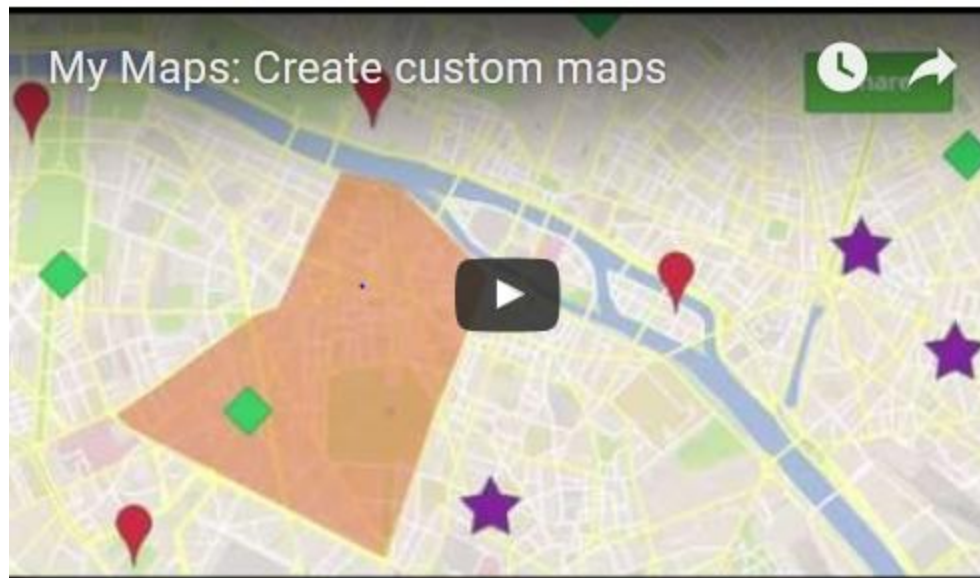
Mapping Tools: ArcGIS Story Maps

- **ArcGIS Story Maps** **combine maps with text, images & MM**
- **Story Maps can be used for virtual tours, travelogues**
- **Story Maps Gallery with a large collection of examples**

Mapping Tools: Night Lab StoryMapJS

- **Night Lab StoryMapJS -free tool**
- **Highlights locations of events**

   Main features:

   - **Gigapixel - can tell stories with large photographs, works of art, historic maps, and other image files**
   - **SnapMap - helps create a StoryMap**
   - **Places 20 most recent geo-tagged Instagrams on a map**
   - **Can be shared instantly**
   - **Can be edited in StoryMap's authoring tool, adding media from other sources**

Mapping Tools: Tour Builder Beta

Tour Builder Beta **(a Google Earth Experiment)**

- **Shows the places visited & the experiences had**
- **Uses Google Earth**
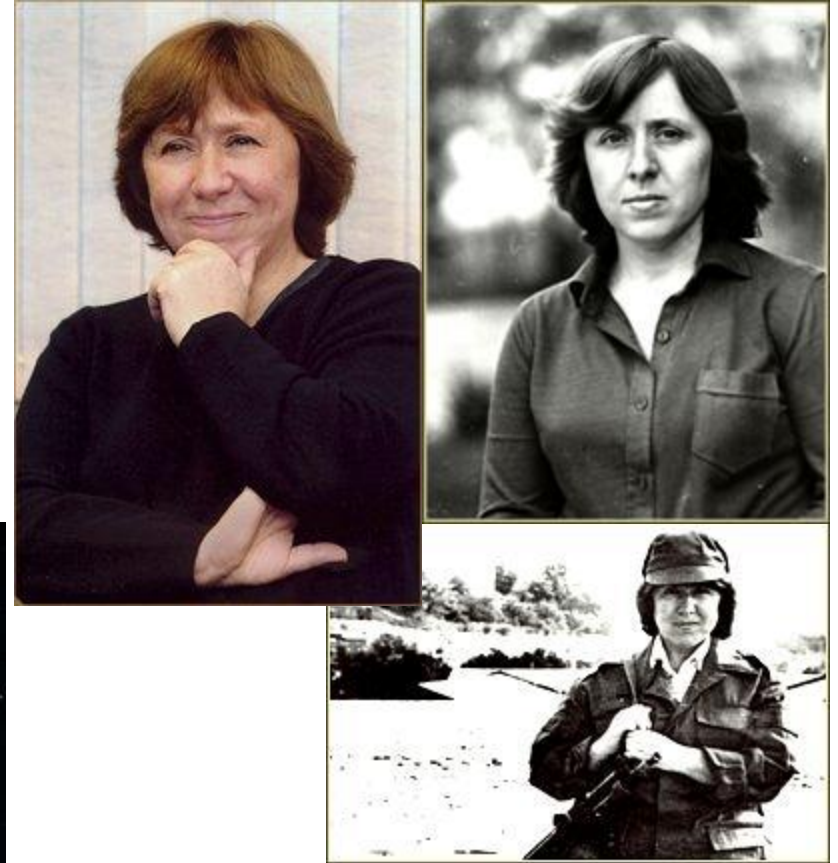- **Allows to pick the locations right on the map, add in photos, text, and video, and then share with others**

Google Earth and *The Chernobyl Prayer*

Famous works:

- *The War's Unwomanly Face*
- *Last Witness*
- *Zinky Boys*
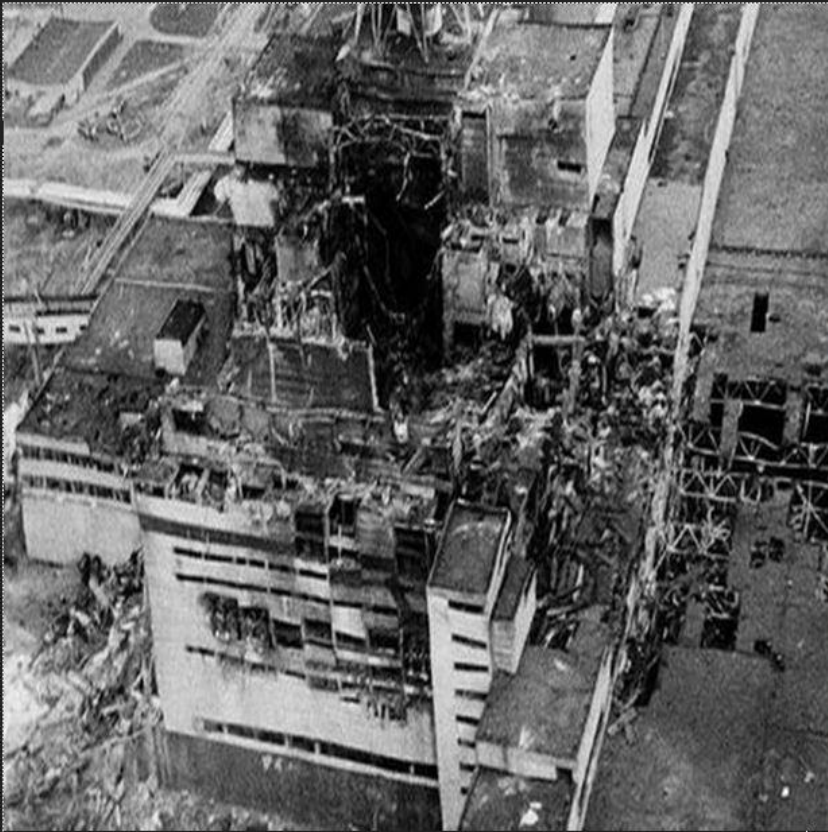- *The Chernobyl Prayer*

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Chernobyl Prayer Literary Tour

Svetlana Alexievich
Recipient of 2015 Nobel
Prize in Literature

Examples of Student Work

Facts on Chernobyl

Asa Saidman
Spring 2016

Examples of Student Work

Chernobyl   Fukushima

Examples of Student Work

ENVRIONMENTAL IMPACT OF CHERNOBYL

By: Ryan Torres

5/4/2016

Examples of Student Work

Long Term Impact

- There is now an impressive biodiversity in the exclusion zone
  - The animal population is thriving
- How?
  - The exclusion of human activity in the area is more beneficial than the radiation is harmful
  - many of the most significant radioisotopes have short half-lives in the range of hours or days, most have decayed away by now

Examples of Student Work

The Cultural Legacy in the West of the Chernobyl Disaster

Kirill Tighe

Examples of Student Work

Pripyat as Prototypical "Apocalyptic Wasteland"

Throughout contemporary media, in particular film, we have a recurring trope of the "post-apocalyptic cityscape" as setting for a film.

This unique setting, I would argue distinctly developed as a trope in reaction to investigation of the Pripryat site.

Some Examples: Children of Men, 28 Days Later, Transformers, Die Hard

Each of these either takes place in part in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone or has a direct inspiration from the architecture and aesthetic of Pripyat.

The consequences of this are a portrayal of the post-apocalypse that is distinctly Eastern European and Soviet in its flavor.
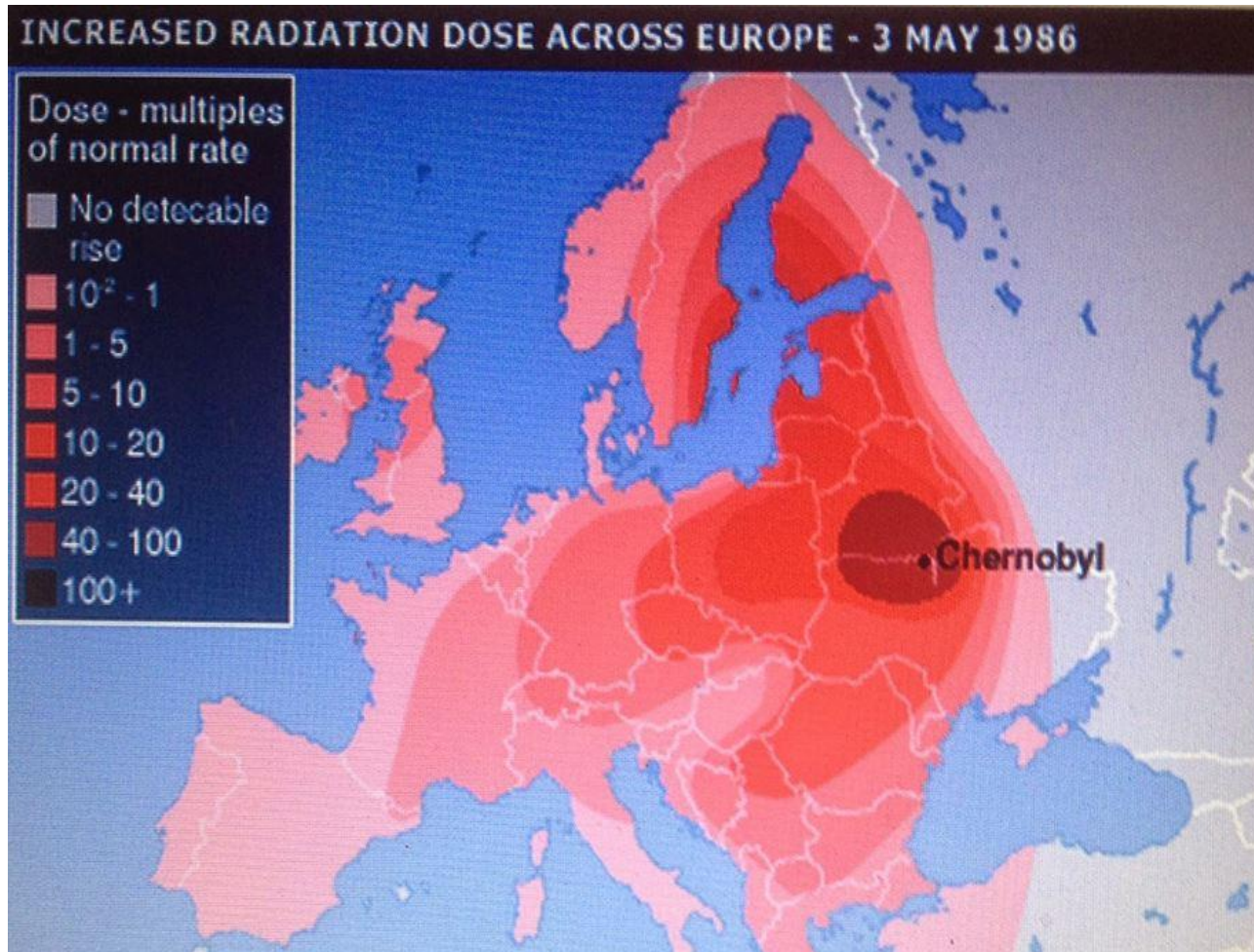
Examples of Student Work

USA vs. USSR
Media Perspective of Chernobyl Aftermath

By:
Michele Volchonok and
Macayla Baer

Examples of Student Work

INCREASED RADIATION DOSE ACROSS EUROPE - 3 MAY 1986

Dose - multiples of normal rate

- No detecable rise
- 10^2 - 1
- 1 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- 40 - 100
- 100+

Chernobyl

Examples of Student Work

Chernobyl Monuments

Presentation by Adam Elwood & Michelle Haykin
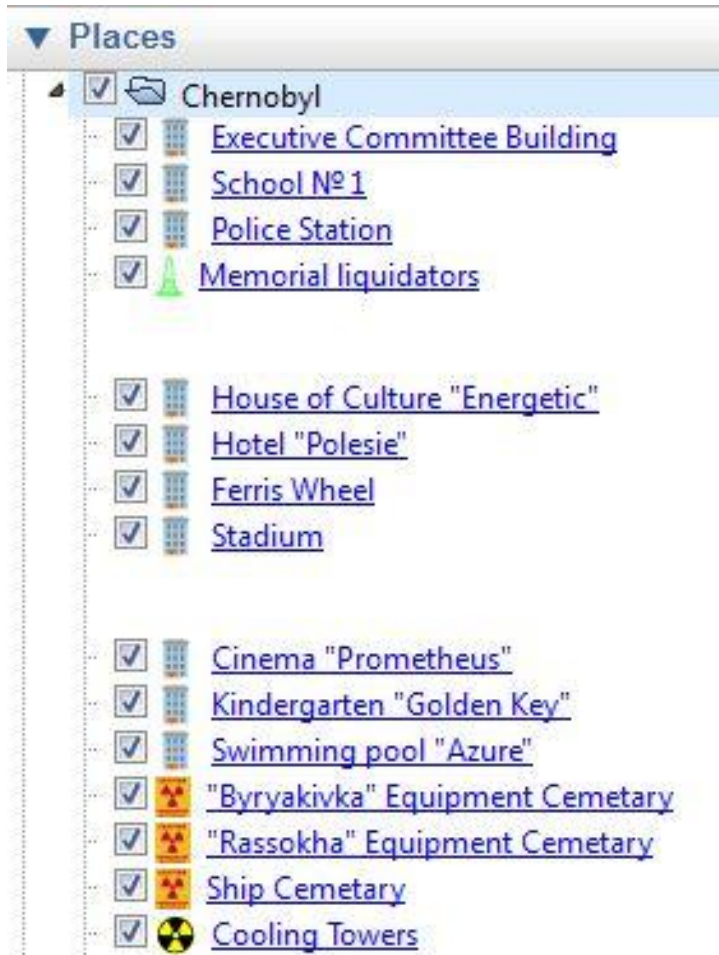
Examples of Student Work

Evstafiev Chernobyl Monument

- ◈ Located in Moscow
- ◈ Commemorating the firefighters and all those who died
- ◈ Shows that everyone was disturbed- not just the local people

55°52'22.8"N 37°20'48.6"E

Chernobyl Prayer Virtual Tour: Student Research

User Guide:

Google Earth Basic User Guide

8) Explore your desired locations. The custom marked locations are distinguished by specific icons.
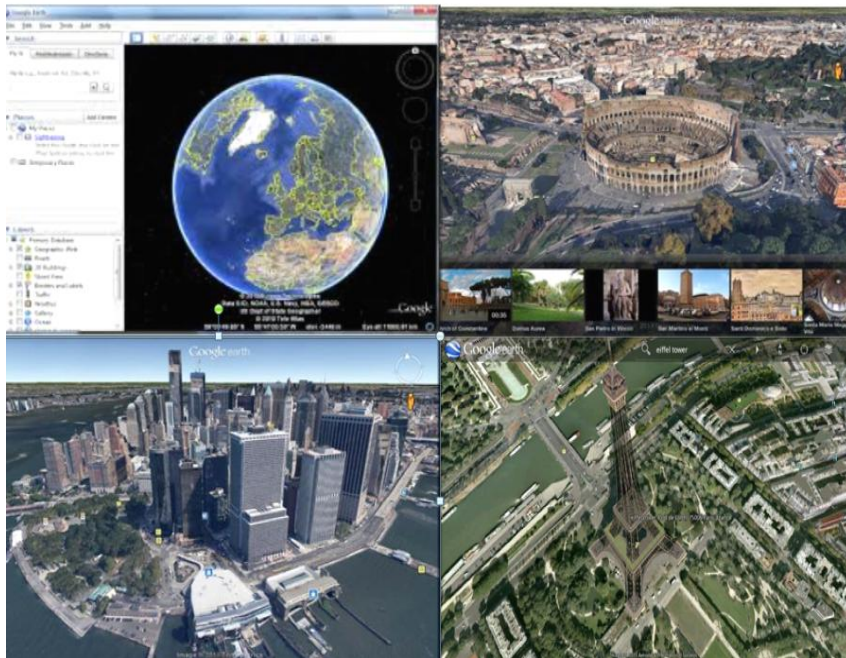
Start Exploring

Start Exploring: Understanding the Icons

- Zoom in on marked locations to explore available photo galleries

- Drag and drop the Guide   to explore available street views

- Click on the Building icon   to explore different abandoned structures

- Click on the City icon   to explore the cities

- Click on the Biography icon   to learn more about the author

- Click on the Clock icon   to view a detailed timeline of the Chernobyl disaster

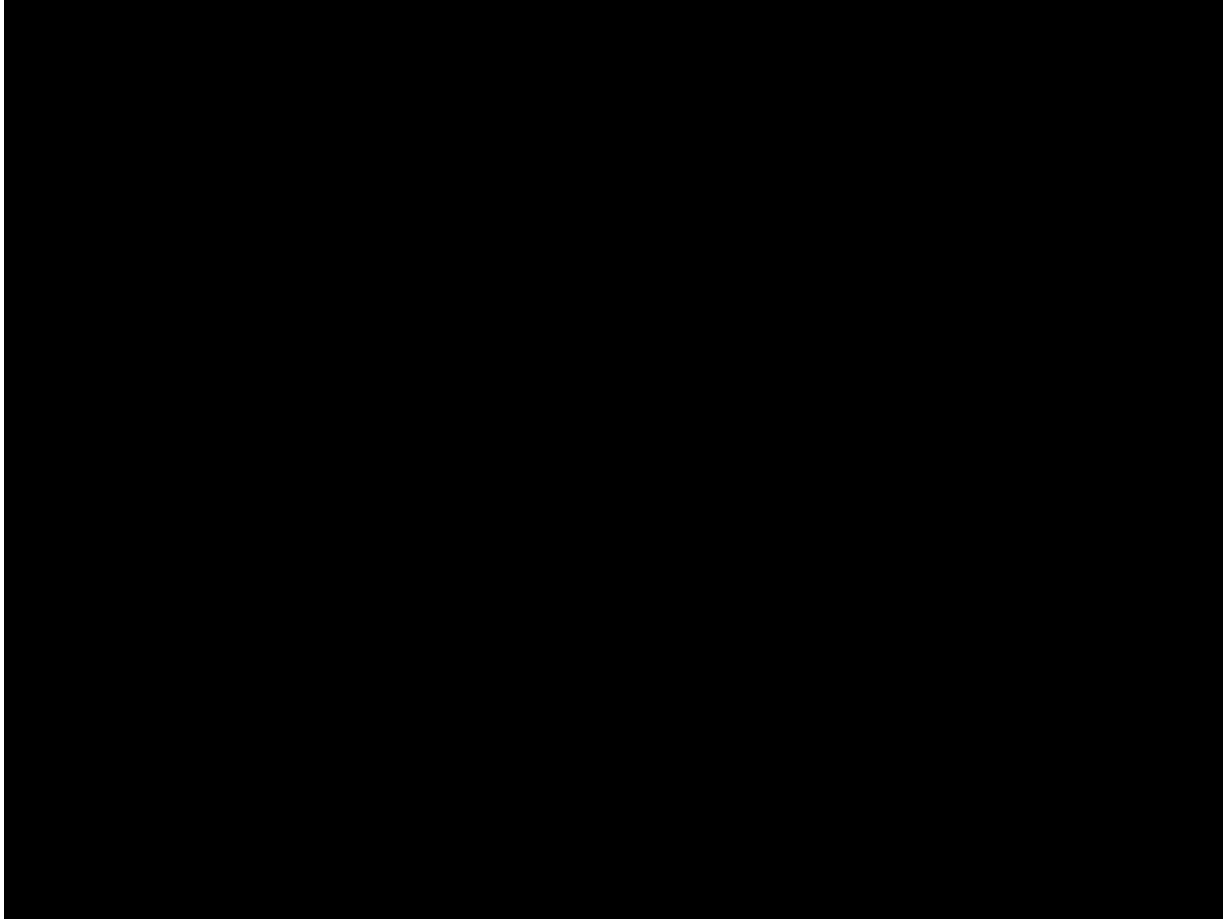- Click on the Memorial icon   to see examples of Memorials

- Click on the Caution icon   to explore contaminated areas

- Click on the Radiation icon   to explore different areas of the power plant

Get a bird's eye view of the reactor
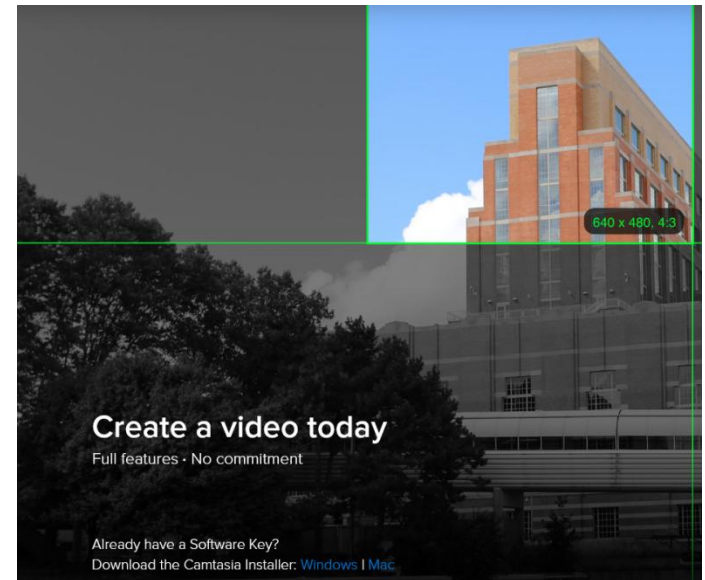
Video Tour Sample:

Video Recording: CamTasia Studio

Camtasia

- **Lets to produce/edit videos in one app**
- **Records on-screen activity**
- **Adds imported media**
- **Creates interactive content**
- **Allows sharing high-quality HD video**

Create a video today
Full features · No commitment

Already have a Software Key?
Download the Camtasia Installer: Windows | Mac

Exit Student Survey

Judgments were made on a 5-point scale (5 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree); n = 14

Question	Mean
My work on the project helped me	
1. Understand specific aspects of the Cossack culture better	4.44
2. Understand the historical context of the *Quiet Don* better	4.44
3. Spend more time thinking about the assigned topic	4.63
4. Consumed too much time relative to other assignments	2.22
5. Learn from my peers in class	4.33
6. Overall, the Literary Trip project is useful for RUS 402	4.52
7. My collaborative work with a partner(s) was productive	4.00
8. I am interested in using Google Earth with other readings	4.22
9. The project can be expanded in the future	4.63

Academic Benefits

Students:

- **Collaborated with peers**
- **Integrated peers' perspectives into own learning experience**
- **Spent more time on the assigned topic**
- **Developed critical thinking skills**
- **Were motivated since they knew others will see their work**
- **Uploaded images, PPTs, PDFs, web links, video**

Faculty:

Materials can be:

Accessed online

Edited & expended in the future

Used for flipped/hybrid/online teaching

Discussion: How can we use Literary Road Trips Effectively?

- **Use projects that support course objectives**
- **Develop brief tasks tied to topics covered in class**
- **Explain the connection to students**
- **Discuss upcoming projects and potential problems**
- **Specify expected quality of student submissions**
- **Consider showing/discussing projects in class**
- **Ask students to evaluate what makes a good virtual tour**

Contact Information:

Luba Iskold
Professor of Russian
Director Language Learning Center
Muhlenberg College

Phone: 484-664-3516

E-mail:
iskold@muhlenber.edu

Daniel Cojocaru
Presidential Assistant
Language & Culture Commons
Muhlenberg College