STARTALK
Critical Language Assessment Program (CLAP)
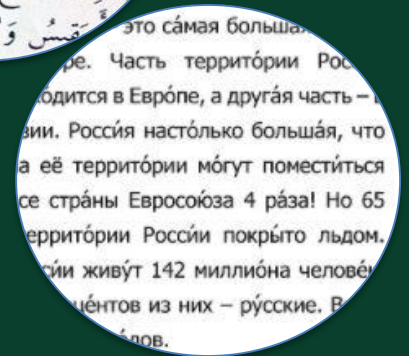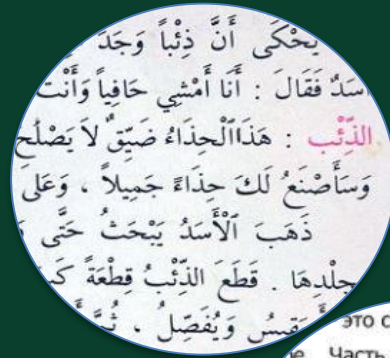
Fully online, synchronous, June 7 – 30, 2021
https://sls.msu.edu/startalk-clap/

DESCRIPTION:
The Second Language Studies Program and the Department of Linguistics & Languages at Michigan State University are pleased to offer a STARTALK synchronous online workshop on language-assessment development for teachers of Arabic and Russian. The workshop runs June 7 to 30, 2021, with follow-up components during the 2021-2022 academic school year. By the end of STARTALK CLAP, teacher participants will be able to identify best practices in foreign language assessment, fully implement online assessment tools they developed in the workshop, communicate effectively with students and other stakeholders (for example, parents, supervisors, administrators) concerning assessment processes and results, and share their assessment instruments with colleagues and other instructors of Arabic and Russian.

ELIGIBILITY:
STARTALK CLAP is open to teachers of Arabic and Russian who will be teaching in U.S. middle schools (6th grade or above), high schools, community colleges, colleges, or universities during the 2021-2022 academic year.

PROGRAM FEATURES:
Program participants receive a _**full scholarship**_, which includes:
- All course materials mailed in a bound packet to you at your domestic home address toward the end of May, to arrive at your home least one full week before the workshop starts June 7, 2021.
- One graduate-course credit from Michigan State University, which is transcripted and transferable.

2021 CLAP SCHEDULE

Each week, participants will learn about a different type of language assessment as well as develop their own assessment instruments for their classrooms. Additionally, guest speakers from Michigan State will provide insights from their areas of teaching and research expertise.

Week 1 (Mon. June 7, and Wed. June 9), 6 to 8 PM Eastern Standard Time
Topics:
- Interactive and presentational speaking
- Group oral assessment
- Assessments in Task-Based Language Teaching

Instrument Development:
Group oral assessments for measuring interactive speaking

Week 2 (Mon. June 14, and Wed. June 16), 6 to 8 PM Eastern Standard Time
Topics:
- Presentational speaking in the form of multimodal assessment
- Universal Design for Language Assessment
- Instructed Language Acquisition and Assessment

Instrument Development:
Multimodal speaking tasks for measuring presentational speaking

Week 3 (Mon. June 21, Wed. June 23), 6 to 8 PM Eastern Standard Time
Topics:
- Self-assessments part I
- Assessing heritage language learners

Instrument Development:
Oral-skills-based self-assessments for promoting learner agency and for measuring proficiency growth on the ACTFL scale (part 1)

Week 4 (Mon. June 28, Wed. June 30), 6 to 8 PM Eastern Standard Time
Topics:
- Self-Assessments part II
- Piloting assessments (alpha testing)

Instrument Development:
Oral-skills-based self-assessments for promoting learner agency and for measuring proficiency growth on the ACTFL scale (part II)

Fall 2021: Implementation Logistic Sessions

- Participants will pilot (beta test) their tools with their actual language students.
- Participants will meet with CLAP instructors during fall virtual office hours to discuss how the tool implementation is progressing, and to troubleshoot issues.
- In December, participants will share anonymized assessment results with CLAP for evaluation.

Spring 2022: Implementation Feedback Sessions

- CLAP instructors, in conjunction with MSU's graduate students in Dr. Paula Winke's spring language assessment class, will analyze test-score data and provide targeted feedback on how well individual items and rubrics are able to assess the Arabic and Russian students' language proficiency.
- Participants will again revise their instruments based on this feedback.
- Participants will also be asked to share their tools with the world by placing them on The Modern Language Association's Commons CORE, an open-source repository for humanities' syllabi, materials, and language-related assessments and self-publications.
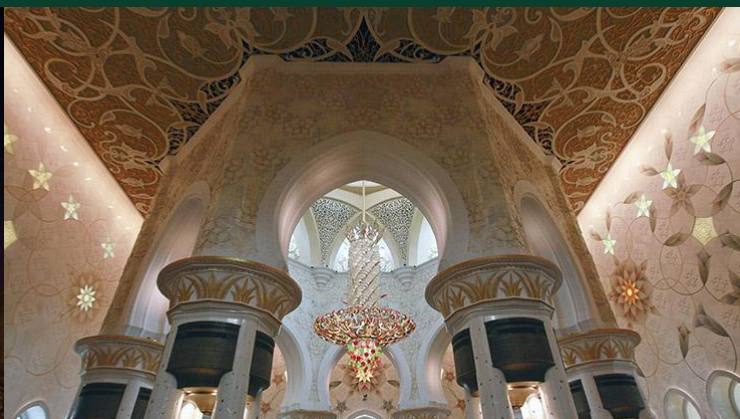
HOW TO SIGN UP

Applications are being taken now, and places in and scholarships for the workshop are being given out, competitively, on a rolling basis until 10 Arabic teachers and 10 Russian teachers are fully enrolled. Each teacher-participant must do the following:

- Apply online using the online form at **https://sls.msu.edu/startalk-clap/**
- Within the online form, upload your resume or CV
- Supply the contact information of one professional reference, preferably your current supervisor at the institution where you teach now, and where you will teach in 2021-2022.

As individuals are fully enrolled, their contact information will be listed on the STARTALK CLAP website.

QUESTIONS?

Send your questions to **Paula Winke**, the STARTALK CLAP Director, at: winke@msu.edu
If you have questions you would like to pose in Arabic or Russian, please contact the lead language instructors:

- **Elizabeth Huntley**, *Arabic*; huntle21@msu.edu
- **Dmitrii Pastushenkov**, *Russian*; pastushe@msu.edu

We can't wait to hear from you!

LEADERS

Paula Winke, MSU STARTALK CLAP Director

Dmitrii Pastushenkov, Lead Russian Teacher

Elizabeth (Lizz) Huntley, Lead Arabic Instructor

GUEST SPEAKERS

Meagan Driver, Assessing Heritage Learners & Multilinguals

Caitlin Cornell, Universal Design & Testing Accommodations

Shawn Loewen, Instructed Second Languages

Koen Van Gorp, Task-based Language Assessment

Jason Merrill, Placement Testing Diagnostics

Ayman Mohamed, Vocabulary Assessment

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