

Title: Old Church Slavic as a Window to Second Slavic Language Study
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Abstract:

This poster offers a framework for presenting Old Church Slavic as a window to second Slavic language study, promoting the less commonly taught Slavic languages while enhancing student motivation. The course builds on students' prior familiarity of another Slavic language (Russian), as well as foundational cultural knowledge that provides an entry point for cross-linguistic comparison. The study of Old Church Slavic texts is presented as a process of decoding and deciphering on the basis of linguistic and cultural clues, with gradually increasing linguistic sophistication. Within this framework, in the process of reading the core OCS texts, students become familiar with adaptations across time in literature, music, and the visual arts, examples of which are drawn from various Slavic languages and cultures. This not only emphasizes the broader relevance of OCS, but also offers students a stepping stone of familiarity to these other cultures, encouraging them to broaden their Slavic and East European horizons.