

RUSS 4302-001 & ENGL 4337-001: RUSSIAN AND SOVIET CINEMA



The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Modern Languages
Fall 2015

T/Th 2:00-3:20pm
Pickard Hall 107

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Office hours: MWF 1-2pm
www.uta.edu/modl/russian

Description of Course Content

This course surveys the Russian cinematic tradition from its origins through the first decades following the disintegration of the USSR. Special attention is paid to avant-garde film and theory of the 1920s; the totalitarian aesthetics of the 1930s-40s and the ideological uses of film art; the “New Wave” of the 1950s-60s; contemporary cinema in post-Soviet Russia, and cinema as a medium of cultural dissent and witness to social change.

No prior knowledge of Russian language or culture is required for Interdisciplinary students. Russian majors and minors complete coursework in Russian. Films are in Russian with English subtitles. The course is taught in English, with additional instruction in Russian for students of the language.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will gain a broad knowledge of Russia and the Soviet Union through the cultural medium of film. In addition, a major objective is to acquire basic skills of film analysis through reading assignments, class discussion, and written tasks.

By the end of this course you should expect to have:

- become acquainted with some of the most outstanding Russian and Soviet filmmakers and their best known films;

- developed the language and skills of formal film analysis and a keen awareness of the language of film as an artistic medium;
- developed broad knowledge of the themes and tendencies which the films represent, as well as the social and historical contexts to which they respond.

Students of Russian will also:

- considerably expand your Russian vocabulary;
- significantly improve your listening comprehension of spoken Russian;
- gain deeper and wider understanding of Russian parts of speech, the case system, and syntax;
- increase your ability to think analytically in Russian and express your ideas in written Russian.

Interdisciplinary students will also:

- significantly improve your scholarly research and writing skills.

Description of major assignments and examinations

Both groups will contribute to discussion threads on Blackboard to write ongoing impressions and responses to the films viewed and readings posted to Blackboard.

Russian majors and minors work on weekly assignments from *Cinema for Russian Conversation* involving language tasks based on the films. A final writing project is written in Russian, edited and re-submitted in stages towards completion for a project grade at the end of semester.

Interdisciplinary students work on weekly readings from *Film Art* and other course materials posted to Blackboard, as well as complete take-home written assignments based on films viewed in class and outside viewing. A 10-12 page research paper is written in English on a topic of your choice. Additional research beyond the assigned readings is required for a successful paper.

Grading

Attendance is mandatory and forms part of the final grade. See the attendance policy below.

Grades are apportioned as follows:

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|--|-----|
| Class participation (attendance, preparation, participation) | 20% |
| Discussion threads | 20% |
| Assignments | 30% |
| Final paper/project | 30% |

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, journaling, viewing films, completing assignments, etc.

FILMS and SCHEDULE (Selections and dates are subject to change)

August 27

Course introduction

Sep. 1 & 3

Excerpts from Early Russian Cinema:

Vladimir Romashkov, *Stenka Razin* / **Стенка Разин** (1908)

Wladyslaw Starewich, *The Dragonfly and the Ant* / **Стрекоза и муравей** (1913)

Yakov Protazanov, *Queen of Spades* / **Пиковая дама** (1916)

Sep. 8 & 10

Sergei Eisenstein, *Battleship Potemkin* / **Броненосец «Потёмкин»** (1925)

Sep. 15 & 17

Dziga Vertov, *Man with a Movie Camera* / **Человек с кинокамерой** (1929)

Sep. 22 & 24

Sergei Eisenstein, *Ivan the Terrible, Part 1* / **Иван Грозный, Часть 1** (1944)

Sep. 29 & Oct. 1

Leonid Gaidai, *Ivan Vasiljevich Changes Profession* / **Иван Васильевич Меняет Профессию** (1973)

Oct. 6 & 8

Mikhail Kalatozov, *The Cranes Are Flying* / **Летят журавли** (1957)

Oct. 13 & 15

Grigorii Chukhrai, *Ballad of a Soldier* / **Баллада о солдате** (1959)

Oct. 20 & 22

Vladimir Menshov, *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears* / **Москва слезам не верит** (1979)

Oct. 27 & 29

Vasilii Pichul, *Little Vera* / **Маленькая Вера** (1988)

Nov. 3 & 5

Pavel Chukhrai, *The Thief* / **Вор** (1997)

Nov. 10 & 12

Alexei Balabanov, *Brother* / **Брат** (1997)

Nov. 17 & 19

Aleksandr Sokurov, *Russian Ark* / **Русский ковчег** (2001)

Nov. 24 & Dec. 1

Anna Melikyan, *The Mermaid* / **Русалка** (2007)

Dec. 3 & 8 – course wrap-up. **Final Projects and Research papers due.**

READINGS and COURSE MATERIALS

For purchase, available at the UTA Bookstore:

(Required for INTERDISCIPLINARY students ONLY. Optional for RUSSIAN MAJORS and MINORS)

Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. Ninth Edition, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006.

NB: If you acquire *Film Art* from another source, be sure to obtain a recent edition. **Eighth to Tenth Editions** are suitable.

(Required for RUSSIAN MAJORS and MINORS ONLY)

Kagan, Olga et al. *Cinema for Russian Conversation*. Vol. 1. Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing, 2005.

Additional reading from the following materials will be made available for both groups:

Atwood, Lynne with Maya Turovskaya et al. *Red Women on the Silver Screen: Soviet Women and Cinema from the Beginning to the End of the Communist Era*. London: Pandora, 1993.

Beumers, Birgit, ed. *Russia on Reels: The Russian Idea in Post-Soviet Cinema*. New York & London: I.B. Tauris & Co., 1999.

Golovskoy, Valery S. *Behind the Soviet Screen: The Motion-Picture Industry in the U.S.S.R., 1972-1982*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1986.

Kenez, Peter. *Cinema and Soviet Society, 1917-1953*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge UP, 1992.

Lawton, Anna. *Imaging Russia 2000: Film and Facts*. Washington DC: New Academia Publishing, 2004.

Stites, Richard. *Russian Popular Culture: Entertainment and Society Since 1900*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge UP, 1992.

Taylor, Richard and Derek Springs, eds. *Stalinism and Soviet Cinema*. London and New York: Routledge, 1993.

Taylor, Richard and Ian Christie, eds. *Inside the Film Factory: New Approaches to Russian and Soviet Cinema*. London & New York: Routledge, 1991.

Taylor, Richard and Ian Christie, eds. *The Film Factory: Russian and Soviet Cinema in Documents 1896-1939*. London & New York: Routledge, 1994.

Woll, Josephine. *Real Images: Soviet Cinema and the Thaw*. London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2000.

Youngblood, Denise. *Movies for the Masses: Popular Cinema and Soviet Society in the 1920s*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge UP, 1992.

Regulations and Guidelines

Attendance: Regular classroom attendance is expected of all students. All assignments and evaluations are based upon that assumption. You are responsible for acquiring class notes if you have to miss. Ultimately you will find that regular attendance is essential for successful completion of the assignments and satisfactory grade performance.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering.

Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wwwb.uta.edu/aaofao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts

and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

Research Help: You are strongly encouraged to make use of the following library resources.

Modern Languages subject guide: <http://libguides.uta.edu/modlang>

Modern Languages Librarian: Diane Shepelwich – dianec@uta.edu; 817-272-7521

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In **Quick Hits** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>.