

Introduction to Russian Cinema

Russ 3300

T/TH 2:00-3:15 (Joe Brown Hall 117)

Times and location of screenings to be announced

Charles Byrd, 119 Joe Brown Hall; Tel 583-8169; e-mail: byrdc@arches.uga.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 2:15-4:15, and by appointment

Requirements

A discussion-oriented, historical survey of Russian cinema, with particular attention to questions of cultural definition. Regular required viewing of films with English subtitles. Screenings (times and locations to be announced) and copies of films available at the library's media desk. Required textbook and additional readings on library reserve. Two tests. Four informal paragraph responses to individual movies (posted on the course WEBCT site or submitted by e-mail), one short formal essay (3-5 pages), and a longer final paper (6-10 pages) to be prepared in consultation with the instructor.

Evaluation

Attendance and class participation (including website discussions)	10%
4 informal paragraph responses to films	15%
1 short (3-5 pages) essay	20%
1 longer final formal paper (6-10 pages)	30%
2 tests	25%

Writing and Test Guidelines

Informal written responses to films: To be posted on the course website or submitted by e-mail directly to the instructor within two days of a scheduled screening. Describe and try to explain your emotional response to the film or comment on an important theme or device. Alternatively, outline an argumentative position evaluating or interpreting the work. Responses may be used to generate classroom discussion. A single paragraph will suffice, but writing more may be helpful as you define topics for the formal essays. No letter grades will be given.

Short formal essay (3-5 pages): To be written on a single film. Use a prior informal written response to develop your own topic or follow suggestions handed out in class. Use of secondary literature optional. Due Fri. Oct. 15.

Final paper (8-10 pages): Define a specific area of interest in Russian cinema, and submit a proposal for your paper no later than Tues. Nov. 9. Follow the instructor's recommendation for further reading and/or viewing before completing the essay, due Thurs. Dec. 16.

Tests: Will evaluate knowledge of required films and readings as well as topics covered in classroom discussion. More specific guidelines will be given.

Twilight of an Empire (All films shown at class meetings)

Thur. Aug. 19: Introduction.

Drama in A Gypsy Camp Near Moscow (1908)

The Dragonfly and the Ant (1913)

Tues. Aug. 24: *The Peasants' Lot* (1912)

Thur. Aug. 26: *The Cameraman's Revenge* (1912)

Revolutionary Experiments (Schedule of screenings to be announced)

Reading: Kenez, Peter. *Cinema and Soviet Society*, pp. 28-49.

Tues. Aug. 31: *The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks* (1924)

Thurs. Sept. 2: *Aelita* (1924)

The Golden Age

Reading: Kenez, 50-98

Tues. Sept. 7: *The Battleship Potemkin* (1925)

Thurs. Sept. 9: *The Battleship Potemkin*

Tues. Sept. 14: *Bed and Sofa* (1927)

Thurs. Sept. 16: *The Man with the Movie Camera* (1929)

Tues. Sept. 21: *The Man with the Movie Camera*

Thurs. Sept. 23: Test 1

Socialist Realism and the Stalin Era

Reading: Kenez, pp. 101-206

Tues. Sept. 28: *Chapaev* (1934)

Thurs. Sept. 30: *Chapaev*

Tues. Oct. 5: *Circus* (1938)

Thurs. Oct. 7: *Circus*

Tues. Oct. 12: *She Defends the Motherland* (1942)

Thurs. Oct. 14: *She Defends the Motherland*

Fri. Oct. 15: Formal Essay Due

The Thaw and *Glasnost*'

Tues. Oct. 19: *The Cranes Are Flying* (1957)
 Thurs. Oct. 21: *The Cranes Are Flying*
 Tues. Oct. 26: *Andrei Roublev* (1966)
 Tues. Nov. 2: *Andrei Roublev*
 Thurs. Nov. 4: *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears* (1980)
 Tues. Nov. 9: *Sideburns* (1990)
 Thurs. Nov. 11: *Sideburns*

Post-Soviet Cinema

Tues. Nov. 16: *Burnt by the Sun* (1994)
 Thurs. Nov. 18: *Burnt by the Sun*
 Tues. Nov. 23: Test #2
 Tues. Nov. 30: *Brother* (1997)
 Thurs. Dec. 2: *The Russian Ark* (2002)
 Tues. Dec. 7: No Class (Friday Schedule)
 Thurs. Dec. 9: *The Russian Ark*

Thur. Dec. 16: Final Essay Due

Readings (All will be placed on library reserve)

Required:

Kenez, Peter. *Cinema and Soviet Society: 1917-1953*.

Additional required readings to be announced and placed on electronic library reserve.

Recommended:

Gillespie, David. *Russian Cinema*.

Lawton, Anna. *Kinoglasnost: Soviet Cinema in Our Time*.

Leyda, Jay. *Kino: A History of the Russian and Soviet Film*.

Woll, Josephine. *Real Images: Soviet Cinema and the Thaw*.

Zorkaia, Neia. *The Illustrated History of the Soviet Cinema*.