

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 2639: Stalin at the Movies: Soviet Cinema 1934-1953
Fall Semester 2009
Wednesdays 2:30—6:25
CL 1218

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:00—11:00, Tuesdays 11:00—12:00, Thursdays 10:00—11:00,
and by appointment

I. REQUIRED TEXTS IN BOOKSTORE:

Kaganovsky, Lilya. *How the Soviet Man was UnMade: Cultural Fantasy and Male Subjectivity Under Stalin*. Pittsburgh: U of Pittsburgh P, 2008.
[Stites, Richard. *Russian popular culture: Entertainment and society since 1900*. London: Cambridge UP, 1992.]

II. REQUIRED TEXTS ON 3-DAY RESERVE IN HILLMAN LIBRARY:

Dobrenko, Evgeny. *Stalinist cinema and the production of history: Museum of the revolution*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2008.
Groys, Boris. *The Total Art of Stalinism: Avant-garde, Aesthetic Dictatorship, and Beyond*. Trans. Charles Rougle. Princeton: Princeton, UP, 1992.
Taylor, Richard and Derek Spring, eds. *Stalinism and Soviet cinema*. London: Routledge, 1993.

On reserve in Microform Room (ground floor):

Soviet Cinema: Film Periodicals, 1918-1942. Part One: Journals
Iskusstvo kino (1936-1941): 96 microfiches
Repertuarnyi biulleten (1936-1942): 36 microfiches
Sovetskoe kino (1933-1936): 49 microfiches
Soviet Cinema: Film Periodicals, 1918-1942. Part Two: Newspapers
Kinomekhanik-stakhanovets (1940)
Rot-fil'm (1933-1936)
Za bol'shevitskii fil'm (1932-1953)

III. REQUIRED READING TEXTS IN LARGER WORKS:

Beumers, Birgit. *A History of Russian Cinema*. NY: Berg, 2009.
Budiak, L.M., ed. *Istoriia otechestvennogo kino*. Moskva: Progress-Traditsiia. 2005.
Clark, Katerina and Evgeny Dobrenko, eds. *Soviet Culture and Power: A History in Documents, 1917- 1953*. Trans. Marian Schwartz. New Haven: Yale UP, 2007.

- Davies, Sarah. "Stalin as patron of cinema: creating Soviet mass culture, 1932-1936." In *Stalin: A New History*. Ed. Sarah Davies and James Harris. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005. 202-225.
- Haynes, John. *New Soviet man: Gender and masculinity in Stalinist Soviet cinema*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2003.
- Liehm, Mira and Antonin J. *The Most Important Art: Soviet and East European Film After 1945*. Berkeley: U of CA P, 1977.
- Tolstoi, Aleksei. "Aleksei Tolstoi's Remarks on the Film *Peter I*." In *Epic Revisionism: Russian History and Literature as Stalinist Propaganda*. Ed. Kevin M.F. Platt and David Brandenberger. Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 2006. 69-74.
- Troshin, Aleksandr S., introduction and commentary. "'Kartina sil'naia, khoroshaia, no ne Chapaev...'" Zapisi besed B.Z. Shumiatskogo s I.V. Stalinym poslekinoprosmotrov 1935-1937 gg." *Kinovedcheskie zapiski* 62 (2003): 118-188.
- Zorkaya, Neya. *The Illustrated History of Soviet Cinema*. NY: Hippocrene Books, 1989.

IV. INVALUABLE RESEARCH RESOURCE:

While the hardcopy of the seven-volume encyclopedia Arkus, Liubov', ed. *Noveishaia istoriia otechestvennogo kino, 1986-2000. Kinoslovar'*. 3 vol. St. Petersburg: Seans, 2001; and *Kino i kontekst*. 4 vol. St. Petersburg: Seans, 2002-2005 covers only the period 1986-2000, the web site established by *Seans*

<http://www.russiancinema.ru>

provides an exhaustive database on individuals and topics through the entire history of Russo-Soviet cinema. While research can never be limited to this site, it provides an excellent point of departure.

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY ON RUSSO-SOVIET CINEMA:

Bibliographic information (crudely divided by subject, time period, and specific cultural producer) on the history of Russo-Soviet cinema can be located on the web site:

http://www.pitt.edu/~slavic/video/cinema_biblio.html

The list requires up-dating, reformatting, and maintenance. All suggestions for additions/changes to the list are welcome. Please provide me with specific bibliographic information.

Many of the texts in the bibliography are available in the University of Pittsburgh's Hillman Library. All suggestions for adding materials to the collection are welcome. Please fill out a library order form and submit it to me for immediate processing. The library will try to expedite all orders.

In addition to checking PittCatPlus for catalog numbers for videos and DVDs, students should consult the list of all Russian/NIS and Central and Eastern European films available in Hillman Library at:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~slavic/video/>

VI. DISABILITY:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both the instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

VII. READING and VIEWING ASSIGNMENTS, VIEWING and DIRECTOR REPORTS:

The Schedule of Assignments provides an itemization of reading and viewing assignments, viewing reports (13), and director reports (18) for the entire semester. All reading and viewing assignments must be completed prior to the next scheduled meeting of the course; all viewing and director reports must be presented in class on the day indicated. Since students will receive a number of grades for each meeting of the course (preparation, participation, oral presentation, and handouts), students are encouraged not to attend any session for which they have not thoroughly prepared.

Reading assignments: students are required to purchase the course texts listed above and to make use of the books placed on three-day reserve in Hillman Library. Photocopies of articles and/or chapters will be distributed in class the week before the assigned reading is due. Any student not present in class when photocopied materials are distributed must obtain a copy of the materials from another student before the next scheduled meeting of the class.

Viewing assignments: students are required to view all assigned films prior to the next meeting of the class. Students should arrange a convenient time and location for the assigned viewings, and are encouraged to view the films as a group. Students are responsible for sharing all materials in a way that allows each student to view the assigned film. The instructor will provide video- or dvd-copies of the films assigned for out-of-class viewing. All videos and dvds must be returned to the instructor no later than the following meeting of the class.

Director reports: There will be two director reports during the first eight weeks of the semester (one on the director of the film for the viewing assignment and one for the director of the film to be screened in class during the meeting). In all, there will be 18 director reports, of which the instructor will do the first one. Each report will last a maximum of ten minutes and must include at least two handouts: (1) a complete filmography (films directed, scripted, etc.) with Russian and international release titles, and years; and (2) a bio line for the director. The oral presentation of the report must address the importance of the director in the history of Soviet cinema and must include a specific set of references to one additional film by that director. In other words: a director report requires the viewing of one additional film by that director! Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor about the selection of the additional film.

Viewing reports: Each meeting of the course will contain one viewing report for the film screened outside of class. The report (complete with handout that includes complete production information) can last a maximum of 15 minutes, followed by a discussion of the film (and the report) by the members of the course for an additional 15 minutes. The report must address not

only formal aspects of the film itself, but also the role and significance of the film in the history of Soviet cinema. There will be 13 viewing reports

VIII. ABSENCE AND ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absence due to personal illness, as well as illness or death in the family, must be documented. Absent students are required to obtain all in-class handouts and class notes for the session they missed from another student in the class; all missing assignments must be made up. All unexcused absences will receive a grade of "UA" for that session. Three such unexcused absences will result in an "F" for the course.

IX. QUIZZES:

At any point in the semester if the instructor suspects that students are not or any one student is not keeping up with the reading or viewing assignments, there will be an unannounced quiz. No quizzes will be re-scheduled and no make-up quizzes will be given.

X. RESEARCH PAPER:

All students must submit a final research paper (20-30 pages) on Wednesday, 9 December 2009. Topics for the research paper must be discussed with the instructor before beginning work on the project. All research papers must conform in layout, documentation, and works cited to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (6th edition).

XI. EVALUATION AND GRADES:

Grades will be calculated using the following percentages: preparation and participation (10%), director reports and handouts (20% and 5%), viewing reports and handouts (20% and 5%), and final research paper (40%). Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor periodically to review their grades and progress in the course.

XII. SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

week 1: Wednesday 2 September 2009: 1932-1934

Introduction, syllabus, and schedule of assignments

director report: Igor' Savchenko

screening: Igor' Savchenko: *The Accordion* (1934)

reading assignments for week 2: Wednesday 9 September:

Groys 3-74; [Stites 64-97]

viewing assignments:

for students not in enrolled in Lumière to Lenin:

Vasil'ev Brothers': *Chapaev* (1934)

for all students:

Grigorii Aleksandrov: *The Jolly Fellows* (1934)

week 2: Wednesday 9 September 2009: 1934-1935

director report: Grigorii Aleksandrov

viewing report: Grigorii Aleksandrov: *The Jolly Fellows* (1934)

director report: Aleksandr Dovzhenko

screening: Aleksandr Dovzhenko: *Aerograd* (1935)

reading assignments for week 3: Wednesday 16 September:

Groys 75-120; Davies 202-225; Troshin 123-126

viewing assignment: Fridrikh Ermler: *The Peasants* (1935)

week 3: Wednesday 16 September 2009: 1935-1937

director report: Fridrikh Ermler

viewing report: Fridrikh Ermler: *The Peasants* (1935)

director report: Grigorii Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg

screening: Grigorii Kozintsev and Leonid Trauberg: *The Youth of Maksim* (1935)

reading assignments for week 4: Wednesday 23 September:

Beumers 75-111; Turovskaya (Taylor and Spring) 34-53; Tolstoi 69-74

viewing assignment: Vladimir Petrov: *Peter the First*, part one (1937)

week 4: Wednesday 23 September 2009: 1936-1938

director report: Vladimir Petrov

viewing report: Vladimir Petrov: *Peter the First* (1937 and 1939)

director report: Efim Dzigan

screening: Efim Dzigan: *We Are From Kronstadt* (1936)

reading assignments for week 5: Wednesday 30 September:

Dobrenko 1-64; Kenez (Taylor and Spring) 54-68; Zorkaya 107-165

viewing assignment: Sergei Eisenstein: *Aleksandr Nevskii* (1938)

week 5: Wednesday 30 September 2009: 1938

director report: Sergei Eisenstein

viewing report: Sergei Eisenstein: *Aleksandr Nevskii* (1938)

director report: Mark Donskoi

screening: Mark Donskoi: *My Childhood* (1938)

reading assignments for week 6: Wednesday 7 October:

Dobrenko 65-141; Haynes 115-153

viewing assignment: Aleksandr Medvedkin: *New Moscow* (1938)

week 6: Wednesday 7 October 2009: 1939-1940

director report: Aleksandr Medvedkin

viewing report: Aleksandr Medvedkin: *New Moscow* (1938)

director report: Ivan Pyr'ev

screening: Ivan Pyr'ev: *Tractor Drivers* (1939)

reading assignments for week 7: Wednesday 14 October:

Dobrenko 142-190; [Stites 98-122]; Taylor (Taylor and Spring) 69-89

viewing assignment: Leonid Lukov: *A Great Life* (1940)

week 7: Wednesday 14 October 2009: 1941

director report: Leonid Lukov

viewing report: Leonid Lukov: *A Great Life*

director report: Mikhail Kalatozov

screening: Mikhail Kalatozov: *Valerii Chkalov* (1941)

reading assignments for week 8: Wednesday 21 October:

Dobrenko 191-255

viewing assignment: Konstantin Iudin: *Hearts of Four* (1941)

week 8: Wednesday 21 October 2009: 1942-1943

director report: Konstantin Iudin

viewing report: Konstantin Iudin: *Hearts of Four*

screening: Leonid Lukov: *Two Soldiers* (1943)

reading assignments for week 9: Wednesday 28 October:

Kaganovsky 1-66; Zorkaya 167-193

viewing assignment: Fridrikh Ermler: *She Defends the Motherland* (1943)

week 9: Wednesday 28 October 2009: 1943-1944

viewing report: Fridrikh Ermler: *She Defends the Motherland*

director report: Aleksandr Stolper

screening: Aleksandr Stolper and Boris Ivanov: *Wait for Me* (1943)

reading assignments for week 10: Wednesday 4 November:

Kaganovsky 67-118; Clark and Dobrenko 432-458; Kozlov (Taylor and Spring) 109-130

viewing assignment: Sergei Eisenstein: *Ivan the Terrible*, part one (1944)

week 10: Wednesday 4 November 2009: 1945-1946

viewing report: Sergei Eisenstein: *Ivan the Terrible*
screening: Sergei Eisenstein: *Ivan the Terrible*, part two (1946)

reading assignments for week 11: Wednesday 11 November:
Kaganovsky 119-174; Liehm 47-75

viewing assignment: Fridrikh Ermler: *The Great Turning Point* (1946)

week 11: Wednesday 11 November 2009: 1946-1947

viewing report: Fridrikh Ermler: *The Great Turning Point*
director report: Mikhail Chiaureli
screening: Mikhail Chiaureli: *The Vow* (1946)

reading assignments for week 12: Wednesday 18 November:
Budiak 205-239

viewing assignment: Boris Barnet: *The Scout's Exploit* (1947)

week 12: Wednesday 18 November 2009: 1948

director report: Boris Barnet
viewing report: Boris Barnet: *The Scout's Exploit*
screening: Aleksandr Stolper: *Story of a Real Man* (1948)

reading assignments for week 13: Wednesday 2 December:
Budiak 239-293

viewing assignment: Mikhail Romm: *Russian Question* (1948)

week 13: Wednesday 2 December 2009: 1949-1950

director report: Mikhail Romm
viewing report: Mikhail Romm: *Russian Question*
screening: Mikhail Chiaureli: *Fall of Berlin* (1949)

reading assignments for week 14: Wednesday 9 December:
Budiak 293-328

viewing assignment: Vladimir Petrov: *Battle of Stalingrad* (1950)

week 14: Wednesday 9 December 2009: 1950-1952

viewing report: Vladimir Petrov: *Battle of Stalingrad*

screening: Ivan Pyr'ev: *Cuban Cossacks* (1950)

reading assignment for week 12: Wednesday 16 December:
Budiak 339-358

viewing assignment: Grigorii Aleksandrov: *Glinka* (1952)

writing assignment: final papers are due

week 15: Wednesday 16 December 2009: 1953

screening: Mikhail Romm: *Admiral Ushakov* (1953)