

FALL 2017  
RUSS 4610-001:

# SURVEY OF SOVIET cinema

TH / 3:40-5:00 PM, 3 CREDITS  
WITH DR. GARN

This survey will give you an opportunity to learn more about Russia's 20th-century history and about the development of Soviet cinema. By examining films from the 1920s to the 1980s, we will strive to understand how cinema reflected, at times tailored to and at times subverted the Soviet system in its gradual transformation. We will screen and discuss, among others, such classics as

Alexandrov's upbeat musical *Circus* (1936), Kalatozov's war drama *The Cranes Are Flying* (1957), and Riazanov's cult comedy *The Irony of Fate* (1976). The goal of the course is twofold: to expand your knowledge of the country and its culture, and to help you further develop your language skills, particularly listening and speaking.  
READINGS AND DISCUSSION IN RUSSIAN.



#### PREREQUISITES:

RUSS 3050 or RUSS 3070, or an equivalent (which has to be discussed with me no later than the first week of the semester.)

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. *Cinema for Russian Conversation*, Volume 1  
ISBN-10: 1585101184 / ISBN-13: 978-1585101184
2. *A History of Russian Cinema*, by Birgit Beumers  
ISBN-10: 1845202155 / ISBN-13: 978-1845202156



## Survey of Soviet Cinema

RUSS 4610-001: *4<sup>th</sup>-Year-Russian I* (3 credit hours)

T/H 3.40 pm – 5.00 pm BUC 211

**Attendance is required**

### Instructor's Information

Name Dr. Garn

Title Associate Professor / Lecturer

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Office hours Tuesday & Thursday

10-10.30 am & 5.15-5.45 pm

### Course Description

Focus on speaking and listening. Discussion in Russian.

### Prerequisites

RUSS 3050 or RUSS 3070, or an equivalent (which has to be discussed with me ASAP.)

### Course Overview

This survey will give you an opportunity to learn more about Russia's 20<sup>th</sup>-century history and about the development of Soviet cinema. By examining films from the 1920s to the 1970s we will strive to understand how cinema reflected, at times tailored to and at times subverted the Soviet system in its gradual transformation. We will screen and discuss, among others, such classics as Alexandrov's upbeat musical *Circus* (1936), Kalatozov's war drama *The Cranes Are Flying* (1957), and Riazanov's cult comedy *The Irony of Fate* (1976). Films will be watched at home, mostly through Canvas, class work and discussions will be conducted in Russian.

### Course Objectives

The goal of the course is twofold: to expand your knowledge of Russia and Russian culture through its cinema, and to help you further develop your language skills, particularly speaking and listening. By the end of this course you will be able to:

- **CULTURE:** know, understand and intelligently discuss key periods of Soviet history and cinema, their connections, and most prominent features.
- **SPEAKING:** speak in more coherent paragraphs, further expand your vocabulary, better communicate in Russian, narrating and describing. Our discussions ranging from concrete to abstract topics and interpretation assignments will improve your ability to communicate in Russian. Oral presentations will allow you to practice delivering an extended discourse.
- **LISTENING:** listen, hear and understand not only the content but also the stylistic nuances and implied meaning in the film characters' speech. Working with authentic Russian dialogue in the films, multiple film screenings with changing assignments and reflections on them, and expanding relevant vocabulary will help you develop your listening skills.

### Required Materials

There are two required books for this course available at the University bookstore (or you may purchase them online if you find them for a better price):

1. *Cinema for Russian Conversation*, Volume 1, by Kashper, Kagan, Morozova

· ISBN-10: 1585101184, ISBN-13: 978-1585101184

2. *A History of Russian Cinema*, by Birgit Beumers,

· ISBN-10: 1845202155, ISBN-13: 978-1845202156

! Note: These books are available at Marriott reserve. If you choose to order them online and have to wait for them, it's your responsibility to borrow them from Marriott reserves, copy and bring to class the necessary pages and be prepared for each class from the first week on. Failure to do so constitutes an «unsatisfactory» participation for that day.

### **Recommended Materials**

Dictionaries, particularly definition dictionaries (as opposed to bilingual ones) are crucial to have and to use regularly, but not in class. Other useful dictionaries are those of synonyms, and of collocations.

### **Films**

We will watch eight Russian feature films from 1920s to 1970s during the semester (see general semester plan.) Most of our films will be available for viewing online, from Canvas links, mostly without subtitles. Some films were not available for institutional purchase, you will have either to purchase or to rent them, make sure to make such arrangements ahead of time. You are expected to watch our films at least twice. Each screening of the film will address specific tasks and will be accompanied by specific assignments. It is imperative that you watch the films by the assigned dates (!), otherwise our precious class time would become an embarrassing waste of time. The films are of varying length (see semester plan,) so you should plan your time accordingly. Some films may be unrated or rated “R,” some of the material in them or in class discussion may conflict with key beliefs of some students. If you would like to avoid “R rated” films you should do your research ahead of time, let me know, and alternative assignments could be arranged.

**Course Work.** There will be the following components to your final grade:

- 1) **PARTICIPATION:** daily participation is one of the most crucial components of your success in this course and of your final grade. If you are not present in class, you cannot participate, so see “attendance” below. If you are late (coming after the class roster has been checked) this day counts as an absence. Note that if you have not prepared your homework timely, you cannot fully participate in our class work, so this will lower your participation grade. You may miss one class during the semester, no questions asked. Other classes missed without a serious reason will each lower your participation grade considerably.
- 2) **HOMEWORK:** the other most crucial component of your success is your homework, which will be graded. No late homework will be accepted. Please purchase a few big blue books (“UofU examination blue book”), you will be writing your homework in them, unless asked to do otherwise.
- 3) **ORAL PRESENTATIONS** will allow you to introduce to your classmates the topics of your choice, related to the films we watched and your research on them. First two presentations will be individual, the last one will be a small group project. A representative from each group will have to come to discuss it in the last part of the course.
- 4) **QUIZZES:** There will be regular quizzes on the new vocabulary related to each film and on the assigned readings. You should consistently work on expanding your vocabulary and begin doing it without a delay. One weakest quiz score will be ignored.
- 5) **TESTS:** There will be three written tests this semester, the first two will deal with one part of the course each, the last one will be comprehensive.

### **! Notes**

- 1) Make sure to bookmark our course site on Canvas (it has syllabus, schedules, videos, etc.)
- 2) Make sure to check your email regularly, since it is the only way for me to communicate with you. You can set up your email so that my messages reach you whether it's your University or other email address.
- 3) Please don't email me on Canvas, instead use my email address on the first page of this syllabus

**Grade Distribution**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| - Participation (3) | 20% |
| - Homework (4)      | 20% |
| - Presentations (3) | 20% |
| - Quizzes (5)       | 20% |
| - Tests (3)         | 20% |

**Grading Policy**

|         |    |            |    |
|---------|----|------------|----|
| 93-100% | A  | 73-77%     | C  |
| 90-92%  | A- | 70-72%     | C- |
| 88-89%  | B+ | 68-69%     | D+ |
| 83-87%  | B  | 63-67%     | D  |
| 80-82%  | B- | 60-62%     | D- |
| 78-79%  | C+ | 59% & less | F  |

**Course Policies***Attendance*

This is a language course, so attendance is not only crucial, but mandatory: Departmental policy requires attendance in language classes (see <http://www.acs.utah.edu/sched/handbook/attend.htm>.)

You may have ONE (1) unexcused absence in the course of the semester; subsequent unexcused absences will lower your participation grade considerably. If you HAVE to miss a class for a good reason, make sure to let me know ahead of time or right afterwards, by email or in person and to arrange for timely homework submission, quizzes retaking and catching up. It is your responsibility to arrange for make-up assignments in a timely fashion.

*Religious holidays*

It is your responsibility to inform me of your observance of religious holidays; quizzes and homework assignments will be rescheduled for religious holidays. However, you MUST inform me ahead of time!

*American with Disabilities Act*

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the CDS.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

**\*TARDINESS** distracts both your instructor and your classmates. Please be always on time. Make sure to warn me if you have to come to class a few minutes late or have to leave a few minutes early. If you have a work or another class scheduling problem, you should take care of it **RIGHT AWAY**. If you come after roll taking, this day counts as an absence. In a Russian classroom it's rude to be late, so it's unacceptable for us as well.

\*While drinking in class is not a problem, **EATING & CHEWING GUM** – is. Do not eat or chew gum during class, as it is distracting both to your instructor and to your classmates. This is not acceptable in a Russian classroom, so consider this an authentic cultural experience.

**\*LAPTOPS & all other BEEPY SHINY THINGS** are not allowed in this class. They will not contribute to your language skills in any way, shape or form, but will lure you away from communicating with your instructor and classmates. They are also distracting for everybody. Make sure to switch them off and enjoy them after class.

These rules help create a respectful atmosphere conducive to **THINKING & LEARNING** and thus make our time together more enjoyable and efficient.

**GENERAL SEMESTER PLAN (Subject to Change)**

| Weeks  | Films, Quizzes, Tests<br>( <i>Cinema for Russian Conversation</i> , Volume 1) | BB chapters<br>(Birgit Beumer's <i>History of Russian Cinema</i> ) |
|--|---|--|
| Part 1: Introduction and Beginnings (1908-1930s)   |   |  |
| 1  | Introduction to the course  | BB, Introduction & Chapter 1                                       |
| 2  | <i>Mr. West in the Land of Bolsheviks</i> , 1924, (94 min.)                   | Chapter 2: 1-3   |
| 3  | <i>Circus</i> , 1936 (89 min), Quiz 1   | Chapter 2: 4-7 / Interpreting                                      |
| 4  | Review, Presentations & Test 1  |  |
| Part 2: Stalin & Thaw (1930s – 1960s)  |   |  |
| 5  | <i>Cinderella</i> , 1947 (105 min.)   | Chapter 3: 1-4   |
| 6  | <i>The Cranes Are Flying</i> , 1957 (95 min.), Quiz 2                         | Chapter 3: 5-8 / Interpreting                                      |
| 7  | <i>The Cranes Are Flying</i> , continued                                      | Chapter 4: 1-3   |
| 8*   | Fall Break, 9-15 October  |  |
| 9  | <i>Asia's Happiness</i> , 1966 (94 min.), Quiz 3                              | Chapter 4: 4-7 / Interpreting                                      |
| 10   | Review, Presentations & Test 2  |  |
| Part 3: Stagnation, Glasnost' & The End (1960s – 90s)  |   |  |
| 11   | <i>Moscow Does not Believe in Tears</i> , 1979, (150 min.)                    | Chapter 5: 1-3   |
| 12   | <i>Moscow ...</i> , continued, Quiz 4   | Chapter 5: 4-6 / Interpreting                                      |
| 13   | <i>Ivan Vasilievich: Back to the Future</i> , 1973, (93 min.)                 | Chapter 5: 7-9   |
| 14*  | <i>Irony of Fate</i> , 1976, (186 min.)                                       | Thanksgiving Break !   |
| 15   | <i>Irony of Fate</i> , continued, Quiz 5                                      | Chapter 6  |
| 16   | Review & Test 3   |  |
| <p>Final Oral Presentations: (on our films &amp; Chapters 7-8 in BB)</p> <p>Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 3:30-5:30 pm</p> |   |  |