Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures Fall 2020 RUT 3524 (Section RUT5/ class # 26138) Russia through Film

Synchronous online classes via	Instructor: Dr Aleksandr Lvovich Burak	
Zoom/Canvas: M W F / Period 6: 12:50-	Dauer Hall, room 254	
1:40 pm	E-mail: alburak@ufl.edu	
End-of-course final project (in the form	Tel: (352) 273-3798	
of a Russian film review) to be e-mailed	Office hours online/Zoom: M, W Period	
to the instructor no later than 5:00 p.m.	8 (3:00-3:50 pm) or by appointment	
on December 16		

Mode of Instruction

This course will be taught entirely online in synchronous mode on the ZOOM/Canvas platform. The only difference from the F2F delivery is that instructor and students won't be in physical proximity but will be interacting in real time online at the designated class meeting times. The instructor will conduct instruction and monitor students' progress via direct interaction in class and by two graded exam papers – a midterm and a final one.

Course Description

This course examines Russian history, institutions, and everyday life against the background of period-defining historical, political and cultural events from the early 20th century to the present day as reflected and refracted in some of the emblematic feature, documentary, and animated cartoon films. You will get acquainted with the key events and personalities of Stalin's Soviet Union, the Great Patriotic War, the Khrushchev Thaw, the Brezhnev "stagnation period," Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost, the "wild/roaring" 1990s of the Yeltsin period, and the new era of Putin, Medvedev, and Putin again. You are not expected to have any previous knowledge of Russian language or culture. The classes will be conducted entirely in English in the form of a combination of lectures and discussions, based on close reading of the latest sources on Russia and watching relevant excerpts from selected films. All of the mandatory course texts are listed in the "Required Course Materials" section of this syllabus, are available online, or have been reserved for you on the UF ARES system (https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/ares/).

Format of classes

The course relies on lectures, readings, screenings of extracts from films and full films, and in-class discussions of films that you will watch online prior to each class. Reading and film watching assignments will constitute a very important part of the course, serving as the background to the material covered in in-class lectures as well as providing a more solid basis for informed discussion in class. Hence the weight of attendance and class participation in your overall grade. On average, you will be expected to read about 30-40 pages of historical, cultural and film studies materials a week. All reading and film-watching assignments will have to be done in full by the set deadlines. (See the schedule of topics and readings.)

Course Objectives

Students will learn about Russian history, culture, and different types of people's behavior by reading various theoretical works and watching Russian films. Students will also learn how society may control people's behavior and worldviews through cinema as a cultural institution. Students will also appreciate that the ways in which cinema affects people and the ways in which people react to films change with time.

An attendant aim of the course will be to consider – among others – the questions: Do films as a composite art have to be strictly based on and reflect hard historical and sociological facts of actual life? To what extent are such facts in the eye of the beholder? Do films have to pursue some civic, moral or ideological purpose/agenda? Do they actually do so without (or with) their creators/viewers being aware of it? Which medium is more influential: the educational system or the mass-appeal films, some of which embody considerable "poetic license" in interpreting historical and cultural events? Should feature and cartoon films be pure entertainment or should they combine entertainment with instructive lessons?

In addition to gaining a deeper appreciation of Russian institutions and culture through film, students will develop a broader cultural literacy in general.

Student Learning Outcomes (Humanities and International) Students will acquire a basic understanding of historical, cultural, cross-cultural, and sociological analysis and learn to apply this knowledge and develop their own analytical and critical thinking skills.

Students will pursue these goals across the following three categories:

• Content: Students will demonstrate competence in the history, terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used in the humanities. They will identify, describe, and explain the values, attitudes, and norms that shape the cultural differences of the Russian people.

Assessment by exams, written assignments and in discussion.

• Communication: Students will communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the humanities. They will also clearly communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning stemming from their analysis of Russian cultural traditions as reflected and refracted in Russian films.

Assessment by written assignments and in discussion.

• Critical Thinking: Students will analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using methods specific to film studies and the humanities in general and developing reasoned solutions to interpretive problems. They will analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values by placing them in dialogue with those of the Russian people.

Assessment by written assignments and in discussion.

More specifically, by the conclusion of the course, students will have acquired new content knowledge, communication skills, and critical thinking skills. They will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of key facts in Russian history and cultural development as well as the contents of some universally known in Russia films.
- Produce original, critical readings of different historical, sociological, and cultural implications of Russian films, using different methods of interpretation and analysis.
- Critically assess the variety of ways that cinema has manifested historically and continues to deploy today in molding the human experience.
- Draw connections, make comparisons, and define key differences between historical and cultural contexts of Russian and American films.

Grade Distribution

Your work will be evaluated and your final grade determined based on your attendance, class participation, in-class written tests, and you final take-home paper (project). The requirements for class attendance and make-up tests/exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with the UF policies that can be found in the online catalog at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Attendance (being in the synchronous Zoom meetings with your webcam on) - 30% For details see UF attendance policies at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Class participation (based on close readings of course materials and the contents of the films that you will have to watch online prior to class) -10%.

Three "take-home" pass/fail (complete/incomplete) tests in the form of short essays about to content/details of the movie/s watched in class or online out of class and their cultural-historical context, with each essay being about 150-200 words in length) - 30%.

End-of-course final paper/project (a film review essay of 1,200-1,500 words) on a preapproved Russian film that has not been watched either in class or as homework in the course of the semester -30%

Optional (to take care of any unforeseen absences): Bonus points for one 10-15-minute Zoom presentation in front of the class -5%

Attendance and class participation (doing the assigned readings, watching the assigned films at home, and contributing to class discussions) will be taken very seriously and will

be duly reflected in your final grade. You will be expected to do all the readings carefully by the deadlines given in the syllabus so that the texts you have read will form the basis of your INFORMED contributions to class discussions. In order to obtain extra points toward your final grade (a safeguard against any unforeseen circumstances affecting your attendance or performance during the semester or your final course project) you may want to make one carefully prepared oral presentation on an assigned topic in class. In such a case, you will need to e-mail me a summarized text of your oral presentation (approx. 200 words) no later than three days before the presentation is made. The questions of the three tests and the write-at-home final course project will be based on the contents of the primary texts studied during the semester AND the instructor's lectures.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any notes from another student, to complete any assignments given during your absence, or to find out about any schedule changes. I suggest you exchange contact information with a few students in the class early in the semester

Grading scale

Your final grade for the course will be an aggregate assessment of your attendance, preparation for class, class participation, three in-class tests, and quality of the final course paper. The final grade will be calculated using the following scale:

A = 95 - 100% (4 points)	B - = 75-79% (2.67 points)	D + = 55-59% (1.33)
		points)
A = 90 - 94% (3.67)	C + = 70 - 74% (2.33)	D = 50 - 54% (1.0 point)
points)	points)	
B+=85-89% (3.33)	C = 65 - 69% (2.0 points)	D = 45 - 49% (0.67)
points)		points)
B = 80 - 84% (3.0)	C = 60-64% (1.67 points)	E = 40 - 44% (0 - Failure)
points)		

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. For more details, visit: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades

Required Course Materials

Nicholas V. Riasanovsky and Mark D. Steinberg. *A History of Russia. Ninth Edition.* New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

The Contemporary Russian Cinema Reader. 2005-2016. Edited by Rimgaila Salys. Academic Studies Press, 2019.

Note:

You will need to buy and physically have (and bring to class!) both of the required books listed above. All the rest of the course materials can be accessed on ARES (Automating Course Reserve: https://www.ares.uflib.ufl.edu) and on the Internet. Most of the films can be found on www.cinema.mosfilm.ru / http://кино-мосфильм.py

Recommended: Cinemasaurus: Russian Film in Contemporary Context. Eited by Nancy Condee, Alexander Prokhorov, and Elena Prokhorova. Academic Studies Press, 2020.

Expected Class Demeanor

Please, come to Zoom class on time. No cell phone use, instant messaging, texting, tweeting or other computer/iPhone use unrelated to class work will be allowed. I would also appreciate it if you would refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum while the class is in progress.

Make-Up Tests

You will only be allowed to make up a missed test if you have a doctor's sickness note or other official documentation specifying valid reasons for missing the class. If any foreseeable serious personal reasons preventing you from writing a test should arise, please, let me know about them before you miss the test so that we can work out an accommodation. See also:

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Accommodations for Students

Students requesting classroom and/or test/exam accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Dean of Students Office: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/.

Netiquette Guide for Online Courses

Please, read this section very carefully.

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors.

General Guidelines

When communicating online, you should always:

- Treat instructor with respect, even in email or in any other online communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to them by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar.
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you."
- Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 point font.

Discussion Board Guidelines

- When posting:
 - Take your posts seriously. Review and edit your posts before sending.
 - Make posts that are on topic and within the scope of the course material.
 - Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying.
 - Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.
 - Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own.
 - When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way.
 - Do not make personal or insulting remarks.

Zoom Etiquette

Do not share your Zoom classroom link or password with others.

When attending a Zoom class or meeting:

- Arrive/Zoom in on time or a few minutes early if possible. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session, and tardiness will be marked.
- Set up and mount the webcam video at the level of your eyes to show your full face. If you are using a laptop, you may need to place a book or two under it. Test the audio of your webcam. *For any technical difficulties, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357).*

https://elearning.ufl.edu/media/elearningufledu/zoom/How-to-Join-a-Meeting.pdf

- During class session, set yourself on mute unless you want to speak or you are called upon.
- If you want to speak, you can raise your hand (click the "raise hand" button at the center bottom of your screen) and wait to be called upon.
- Your webcam must remain on throughout the class hour.
- When you are assigned to a breakout room, enable your webcam and microphone so that your partners may hear and see who they are working with.

- Find a quiet indoor space with stable internet connection to attend class. The study space does not need to be a separate room; a chair and desk/table set for school work in a quiet corner should be sufficient. The space should be conducive to work, including pair/group work. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members, including pets.
- Refrain from eating during the class hour, as you would in a face-to-face course.
- Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course. This is especially important in a remote situation, where multiple voices attempting to speak at once result in no one being heard.
- Alert your instructor as soon as possible if you experience technical difficulties. A "chat" can be sent at any moment during a Zoom session if, for example, you find that your webcam or microphone are not functioning properly.
- During unrecorded group work sessions we expect students to interact with each other using audio and their webcam whenever possible. If you have a reason to keep your webcam and audio off, please communicate that reason to me directly or through the Dean of Students Office.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, Screenings, and Discussions

Please note:

- This schedule of topics, readings, screenings, and discussions is not set in stone and may change as the semester progresses, depending on the progress of the class and, consequently, time availability.
- All the reading assignments must be completed in full by the beginning of the class period indicated. I will make note of the instances of your being unprepared in class and will factor them into your final grade.

Week 1 (Aug 31, Sept 2, 4)

Early Soviet cinema (1917-1953) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Russia

A Man from the Boulevard des Capucines (1:38):

The American Wild West and Cinema through Russian Eyes Film description: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Man_from_the_Boulevard_des_Capucines</u> Watch it online: <u>https://sovietmoviesonline.com/comedy/474-chelovek-s-bulvara-kapucinov.html</u> (1:38) <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JZzsIncaVo</u> (1:38) <u>Optional</u> (for Russian speakers and learners): Watch online: "Strictly Business"/Деловые люди/1:19:22 (with Russian subtitles)--

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3TMti_iK28&feature=youtu.be

Strictly Business (alternate name Businessmen, <u>Russian</u>: Деловые люди, romanized: Delovye lyudi) is a 1962 Soviet black-and-white <u>comedy film</u> directed by Leonid Gaidai, based on three short stories by <u>O. Henry</u>: "<u>The Roads We Take</u>", "<u>Makes</u> the Whole World Kin", and "<u>The Ransom of Red Chief</u>".

The film's title is borrowed from the book of short stories by <u>O. Henry</u> titled *Strictly Business* (1910, *Деловые люди* in Russian translation), but none of the short stories it includes were adapted for the screen.

Гайдай экранизирует новеллы обожаемого у нас О'Генри: «Дороги, которые мы выбираем», «Родственные души» и «Вождь краснокожих». Трагикомические истории о незадачливых предпринимателях. Герои каждой отдельной новеллы пытаются поправить свои дела, но всякий раз попадают в непредвиденную ситуацию, которая сводит на нет все их усилия...

For Wed, Sept 2, Read selected passages from Chapter 12. Film (pp. 316-346) in *Modern Russian Culture*. (Second Edition. Edited by Nicholas Rzhevsky. Cambridge University Press, 2012.) <u>The chapter on film will be emailed to you by the instructor</u>.

The primacy of montage (pp. 322-323); Eisenstein (pp. 324-328); The move towards Socialist Realist film (pp.334-337); War films (pp. 337-338); The Thaw and the Stagnation (1956-1986), pp. 338-342; Glasnost' and the post-Soviet period in film (pp. 342-346).

Stanislavsky and the Russian Theatre: <u>http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=eheDFPvUhjs</u> (film trailer – 2:46). Michael Chekhov: <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Chekhov</u>

Mikhail Aleksandrovich "Michael" Chekhov (<u>Russian</u>: Михаил Александрович Чехов, 29 August 1891 – 30 September 1955) was a <u>Russian</u>-<u>American actor, director, author</u> and <u>theatre practitioner</u>. He was a nephew of the playwright <u>Anton Chekhov</u> and a student of <u>Konstantin Stanislavski</u>. Stanislavski referred to him as his most brilliant student.

The influence of the Russian school of acting on Hollywood: The documentary "From Russia to Hollywood": <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiuB_6Zj05A&feature=youtu.be</u> (1:04:54) <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRm2LqJjQGw&feature=youtu.be</u> (1:36:26)

The story of the Schenck brothers in Russian / Голливуд и братья Шенки из Рыбинска:

Russian Jews from Rybinsk organize Hollywood:

Joseph Michael Schenck (<u>/'skɛŋk/;</u> December 25, 1876^[1] – October 22, 1961) was a Russian-born American film studio executive:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_M._Schenck

Nicholas M. Schenck (14 November 1880,^[1] <u>Rybinsk</u>, <u>Russia</u> – 4 March 1969, <u>Florida</u>) was an American <u>film studio executive</u> and businessman:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas Schenck

Week 2 (Sept 9, 11; Sept 7 – No class / Labor Day)

Grigori Aleksandrov (1903-1983): <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grigori_Aleksandrov</u> Sergei Eisenstein (1898-1948): <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergei_Eisenstein</u>

Historical background: Riasanovsky: pp. 363-382 (Nicholas II in the Era of Revolution and Reform, 1905-1917); 400-422 (Culture up to 1917). Films: (1) The Battleship Potemkin – DVD 3002 (Library West) or <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4Qfuzn25sI</u> (1:11:37) (2) October – <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVuf3T3k-W0</u> (1:42:19/1928)

Week 3 (Sept 14, 16, 18)

Historical background: Riasanovsky: pp. 423-437 (The Revolutions of 1917); 439-464 (Revolutionary Russia, 1917-1928). Films: Documentary: Vladimir Ilvich Lenin: Voice of the Revolution (Владимир Ильич Ленин): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHHJR-7I2NU (44:28 – Jul 23, 2017) – Produced by "Actuality for A&E International." Historical background: The Russian Civil War: Review Riasanovsky, pp. 445-455. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian Civil War. Read about the film "Chapaev" (1934): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapaev (film) Watch the film Chapaev (Чапаев / 90 min.): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6KDKMgALps Read about the film "The Elusive Avengers" (1966): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Elusive Avengers Watch the film The Elusive Avengers (Неуловимые мстители / Part 1 / 59 min): https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xzedp3 Or: https://youtu.be/3V0g1gM2P60 (1:13:12) With English subtitles

Optional (time permitting):

Contemporary folklore: Chapaev jokes (Анекдоты про Чапаева: Василий Иванович, Петька, Анка): <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_jokes;</u> <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_jokes#Vasily_Ivanovich</u>

Watch "Bumbarash" (1971) DVD

No Zoom class on Friday, September 18. You will use this time working on the Canvas Discussion Board.

For Friday, September 18:

Please, make sure that you have read for historical background Chapter 33: Revolutionary Russia, 1917-28 (pp. 439-464) in Riasanovsky and Steinberg's "A History of Russia.)

Also, please, also make sure that you have watched, in their entirety, the films "Chapaev" and "The Elusive Avengers."

"Chapaev" can be watched here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6KDKMgAL</u> and "The Elusive Avengers"—here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V0g1gM2P6o</u> /1:13:12/). Click on the CC icon for English subtitles.

Now you can write on the Discussions Board!

Write a short essay (about 150-200 words) comparing the movies "Chapaev" and "The Elusive Avengers." Conclude your essay with your recommendation to UF students and Gainesville residents as to whether one or the other or both of the movies are worth watching. Substantiate your recommendation.

Post your paragraph on the Discussions Board. Read other students' essays and respond to as many as you like. One response is a must. This is a complete/incomplete assignment. Due Sunday, September 20, 11.55 p.m. at the very latest. Please, plan your time accordingly. Liking is encouraged.

Your essay will count as Test 1.

For Monday, September 21:

Please, read for historical background: Riasanovsky/Steinberg: Chapter 34, pp. 465-481 (The Stalin Revolution, 1928-39) and Chapter 35, pp. 482-500 (The Soviet Union and the World, 1921-45).

Week 4 (Sept 21, 23, 25)

Historical Background: Riasanovsky: pp. 465-481 (The Stalin Revolution, 1928-39). Riasanovsky, pp. 482-500 (The Soviet Union and the World, 1921-45). Film-makers Sergei Eisenstein and Grigory Aleksandrov: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grigori_Aleksandrov</u> Isaak Dunayevsky (1900-1955): <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaak_Dunayevsky</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jyk4_Of3Tf0</u> Mary Poppins, Goodbye - Colourful Dreams [Eng Sub]

Soviet and Russian movies with English subtitles:

Films: Happy Guys/Vesyolye Rebiata - Весёлые ребята (1:29:44 - 1934): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNwNwB3Mp48

Circus (Tsirk - Цирк): <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ia4DyErYhAs</u> (1:28:34 – 1936)

Volga-Volga (Волга-Волга): <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfUu9wMvypo</u> (1:40:18 -1938)

Optional: Alexander Nevsky (1938): <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Nevsky (film)</u>

Tractor Drivers/Трактористы (1939): <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tractor_Drivers</u> (Трактористы) <u>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgjWe5mDnN7-QkXXgu_Clu4qjyMzwgyCK</u>

They Met in Moscow/Свинарка и пастух (1941/82 мин): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/They_Met_in_Moscow https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_youtu.be_GV1VX6ftrRY&d=DwIFAg&c=pZJPUDQ3SB9JplYbifm4nt2lEVG5pW x2KikqINpWlZM&r=dQQm2EDYDKNEyIv16lg4HQ&m=LSQKU62gJSnVum3yebInx uq1hsSRHNlph7-rdO5eL2g&s=Jbf8lS8U7qYaB2tUW-GBw9fIssOS21k0EN-JWpaDcTE&e=

Week 5 (Sept 28, 30; Oct 2)

Historical Background: Riasanovsky, pp. 501-510 (Stalin's Last Years, 1945-53). Read about Nikita Sergeevich Mikhalkov (b. 1945): <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikita_Mikhalkov</u> (Biography); ARES: Nancy Condee. The Imperial Trace: pp. 85-113; <u>http://sonyclassics.com/burntbysun/misc/interview.html</u> (Interview with Mikhalkov about his film "Burnt by the Sun on August" 15, 1995); <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3s2QPQnuaGk</u> (5:08) The Myth of Icarus and Daedalus;

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnt_by_the_Sun (Synopsis of the film);

<u>https://playvk.com/en/song/Утесов+Леонид/Утомленное+солнце</u> – The Tired Sun tango.

Week 6 (Oct 5, 7, 9)

Review: Riasanovsky, pp. 482-500 (The Soviet Union and the World, 1921-45).

Read about the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945: Riasanovsky, pp. 487-500.

The Munich Pact/Agreement: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich Agreement

- (a) The German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact (Encyclopaedia Britannica): <u>http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/230972/German-Soviet-Nonaggression-Pact</u>
- (b) Pearl Harbor: <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor</u>
- (c) Operation Barbarossa: <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Barbarossa</u>
- (d) Watch at home for October 7 the film "The Cranes are Flying" (Letiat Zhuravli 1957): <u>https://sovietmoviesonline.com/melodrama/27-letyat-zhuravli.html</u> (1:28:21)
- (e) Be ready to discuss in class: The Great Patriotic War (main events) and the characters in the film "The Cranes are Flying."
- (f) How does the synopsis of the film "The Cranes are Flying" on //cinema.mosfilm.ru distort the actual plot of the film? (Think of the precise circumstances in which Veronica marries.) Synopsis: Boris and Veronika love each other; they are young, happy and have their whole life before them. But the war starts, dashing hopes for a happy future, and Boris leaves for the front as a volunteer. Veronika soon learns that Boris has been killed. Crushed and hopeless, she tries to start a family with someone she does not love but suffers even worse. Through the years Veronika keeps waiting for Boris – to bury love in oblivion is equivalent to death for her.
- (g) Watch at home for October 9 the film "A Ballad about a Soldier" (1959 90 min): <u>https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x10dju1</u> (Part 1-59 min); <u>https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x10ce0g</u> (Part 2 29:19 min)
- (h) Prepare a 5-minute oral review of the film "A Ballad about a Soldier."
- (i) Clips from "The Cranes are Flying" and "A Ballad about a Soldier." Discussion.

Week 7 (Oct 12, 14, 16)

Read and be ready to give essential facts about:

- (a) The source of information <u>http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/about-the-author.htm</u>
- (b) The Battle of Moscow: <u>http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/battle_for_moscow.htm</u>
- (c) The Seige of Leningrad: http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/siege of leningrad.htm

- (d) The Battle of Stalingrad: <u>http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/battle_of_stalingrad.htm</u>
- (e) Russia's contribution to winning World War 2: <u>http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_did_Russia's_contribution_to_World_War_2_lea</u> <u>d_to_the_Allies_victory</u>
- (f) U.S. contribution to winning World War 2: <u>http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_much_did_the_US_contribute_to_winning_Worl_d_War_2</u>
- (g) D-Day in Europe: <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D-Day_(military_term)</u>
- (h) Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic_bombings_of_Hiroshima_and_Nagasaki
- (i) Assess the reliability of the above sources? Define your criteria.
- (j) Read about Mikhalkov's 2010 film "Burnt by the sun 2: Exodus (Predstoianie)": <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnt_by_the_Sun_2</u>

Watching clips from "Predstoianie/Exodus":

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-

<u>3A_youtu.be_rB80fwauzOI&d=DwIFAg&c=pZJPUDQ3SB9JplYbifm4nt2lEVG5pWx</u> <u>2KikqINpWIZM&r=dQQm2EDYDKNEyIv16lg4HQ&m=6MTjOV9tA-</u>

NfRILh_J09yhsOsS0tdFdT1o7G-GjOUC0&s=fi7JOJUIgaEFOh2pBVZISk-

<u>6tLRfda_Kc7rctdT4ojk&e=</u> (Burnt By The Sun 2 – scenes with English subtitles /5:42/)

No Zoom class on Friday, October 16. You will use this time working on the Canvas Discussion Board.

This will be your "Take-home" test 2 to be posted on the Canvas Discussion Board by 11:59 PM on October 18 (Sunday) at the very latest:

For your Discussion Board essay, choose one of the five questions in the Film Details section below and write your response on the Discussion Board (150-200 words). Post one (a must) or more responses to the other students' essays:

Film details:

- 1. If you were to justify the behavior of Veronika and/or Mark in the "Cranes are Flying" movie, what arguments would you put forward? Can you imagine yourself under any circumstances acting in a way similar to the way Veronica or Mark acted?
- 2. Write a brief review of "Burnt by the Sun: Exodus/Predstoianie" as if you were an "Alligator" cultural correspondent. Recommend or do not recommend the movie to "Alligator" readers. Substantiate your position.
- 3. Describe one of the characters in the "Predstoianie" movie (Kotov, Nadia, Mitia, or any other character) and give your opinion of his or her personality. Assess the quality of acting of the respective actor/actress.
- 4. Describe a character in "Predstoianie" that you personally find the most or least sympathetic. Give your reasons.
- 5. Write a brief review of "A Ballad about a Soldier," recommending or not recommending watching it to your friends. Substantiate your recommendation.

Week 8 (Oct 19, 21, 23)

Read: Riasanovsky, pp. 535-551 (Soviet Society, 1917-1985).

Leonid Gaidai: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonid Gaidai.

<u>Mandatory</u>: Watch "Operation 'Y' and Shurik's Other Adventures" (Operatsiia "ы" i drugie prikliucheniia Shurika) at <u>www.cinema.mosfilm.ru</u>

Operation Y and Shurik's Other Adventures with Russian subtitles: <u>https://youtu.be/JZ-bjMWuBt4</u>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonid_Gaidai Operation "bI" and Shurik's Other Adventures (with English subtitles): https://youtu.be/F68bbzOOOdY (1:30:37)

https://youtu.be/xJ5iHFSdAU4 (1:30:37) – No subtitles

Post on the Canvas Discussion Board a brief (100-150 words) review of one of the three cine-novellas (short movies of about 30 minutes in duration – "shorts) from "Operation 'Y'." Recommend or don't recommend watching the short you have chosen to review to prospective UF and Gainesville viewers. Substantiate your recommendation.

For Wednesday:

<u>Mandatory</u>: Watch "The Stolen Bride of the Caucasus" (Kavkazskaia plennitsa) (1:19:53): <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmaZ0S1yZ9E</u> (The Caucasian Prisoner with English subtitles)

Kidnapping Caucasian-Style (1967): <u>https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1217q0</u> (Part 1 - 59:01); <u>https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x12ky78</u> (Part 2); Or: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmaZ0SlyZ9E&feature=player_embedded</u> (1:19:53) Kidnapping, Caucasian Style with Russian subtitles: <u>https://youtu.be/fNBGnV_IDB4</u> (1:19:53) Alternative website: <u>http://cinema.mosfilm.ru/films/film/1960-1969/kavkazskaya-plennitsa-ili-novie-priklyucheniya-shurika/</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmaZ0SlyZ9E&feature=player_embedded

For Friday:

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<u>Mandatory</u>: Watch "The Diamond Arm" (Brilliantovaia ruka) at <u>www.cinema.mosfolm.ru</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvVpbNaSk6k&list=PLgjWe5mDnN7-</u> <u>QkXXgu_Clu4qjyMzwgyCK&index=24&t=1270s</u>

"The Diamond Arm" with English subtitles: <u>https://youtu.be/IvVpbNaSk6k</u> (1:38:21) Discussion: Analysis of the overt and covert sociopolitical and cultural messages arguably present in the film.

Week 9 (Oct 26, 28, 30)

For Monday:

Read: Riasanovsky, pp. 552-565 (Soviet Culture, 1917-1985).

Also, read on ARES: Michael Kort: A Brief History of Russia, pp. 211-229: The Brezhnev period of stability ("stagnation"), Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost', the failed coup d'état of August 19-21, 1991, and the beginning of the "roaring/wild" '90s ["likhie devianostye" – лихие девяностые].

For Wednesday:

Read: Read: Riasanovsky, pp. 566-586 (Glasnost, Perestroika, and the End of the Soviet Union).

Also: From Boris Yeltsin to Vladimir Putin to Dmitrii Medvedev to Vladimir Putin – ARES: Philip Longworth, Russia: The Once and Future Empire from Pre-History to Putin, pp. 301-318

Balabanov: Brother & Brother 2

Week 10 (Nov 2, 4, 6)

For Monday, Nov 2:

Read: Riasanovsky, pp. 587-625 (Politics after Communism: Yeltsyn and Putin); Riasanovsky, pp. 626-658 (Economy, Society, and Culture after Communism).

For Wednesday, Nov 4:

Read: In The Contemporary Russian Cinema Reader 2005-2016, pp. 35-51 (Dead Man's Bluff (aka Blind Man's Bluff—Zhmurki).

For Friday, Nov 6: Watch: Balabanov: Dead Man's Bluff with English subtitles: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleksei_Balabanov</u> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Man%27s_Bluff https://sovietmoviesonline.com/comedy/202-zhmurki.html (1:36:05) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf3Plz_hi9I_(1:51:21)

Week 11 (Nov 9, 13; Nov 11: Veterans Day/No class)

For Mon, Nov 9, read: The Contemporary Russian Cinema Reader: 2005-2016, pp. 9-34 (Russian Cinema in the Era of Globalization).

For Friday, Nov 13: Read: CRCR, pp. 73-88 Watch Cargo 200

Week 12 (Nov 16, 18, 20)

For Monday, Nov 16, read: CRCR, pp. 114-135 Watch Hipsters

For Wednesday, read: CRCR, pp. 239-256 Watch Rasskazy (Short Stories)

Friday, Nov 20: Discussion of Hipsters and Short Stories

Week 13 (Nov 23; Nov 25, 27 Thanksgiving break/No classes)

For Mon, Nov 23, read:
(1)
Eldar Ryazanov (1927-2015): <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eldar_Ryazanov</u>
(2)
<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Irony_of_Fate</u> (general description)
(3)
Want to understand Russians? "Watch the film 'The Irony of Fate'"
<u>Culture</u> (Aug 29 2013 by Olga Fedina):
<u>https://www.rbth.com/literature/2013/08/29/want_to_understand_russians_watch_the_fil</u>
m irony of fate 29339.html

Week 14 (Nov 30; Dec 2, 4)

Mon, Nov 30

MOVIE RUSSIANS WATCH EVERY YEAR: The Irony of Fate

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<u>Crazy Russian Dad</u> Published on Jun 20, 2017 <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93r23NYla_E</u> (6:41) Watch: "The Irony of Fate" (1975; 185 min.): <u>https://sovietmoviesonline.com/comedy/137-ironiya-sudby-ili-s-legkim-parom.html</u> Excerpts from The Irony of Fate.

For Wed, Dec 2: read about "The Irony of Fate 2":

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Irony of Fate 2

The Irony of Fate 2 or **The Irony of Fate: Continuation** (<u>Russian</u>: Ирония Судьбы. Продолжение; *Ironiya sud'by. Prodolzheniye*) is a 2007 Russian <u>romantic comedy</u> film directed by <u>Timur Bekmambetov</u> based on a screenplay by <u>Aleksey Slapovsky</u> produced by <u>Channel One</u> and released by <u>Mosfilm</u>. It is a direct <u>sequel</u> to the first <u>The Irony of</u> <u>Fate</u>.^[2]

It was originally meant to be released on the original movie's 30th anniversary in 2005. *The Irony of Fate 2* earned \$55,000,000 in total from its gross box-office release, with \$49,000,000 coming from the Russian box-office alone.^[1]

Watch: "The Irony of Fate 2" (2007; 115 min.): https://sovietmoviesonline.com/comedy/844-ironiya-sudby-prodolzhenie.html

No Zoom class on Friday, December 4.

Choose one of the five questions in the Film Details section below and write your response on the Discussion Board (150-200 words). Post one (a must) or more responses to the other students' essays:

Take-home test 3 to be emailed to me by 11:59 PM on Dec 6 (Sunday) at the very latest. Choose one question from the Film Details section and write an essay (150-200 words) on the topic you have chosen:

Film Details:

Imagine that you are selling Russian movies to American distributors. With this aim in mind, write a brief review of 1) one of the three Gaidai movies watched and discussed during week 8 (Operation "Y"; or Kidnapping Caucasian Style; or The Diamond Arm); or 2) Write a general evaluation of the film "Dead Man's Bluff"; or 3) Write about a character in any of the movies you have watched during weeks 8-14 that you particularly liked or disliked.

Week 15 (Dec 7, 9)

For Mon, read in Cinemasaurus: "Elki: The Most Profitable Franchise of the Putin Era" by Beach Gray, pp. 238-260.

In class: Watch: "Six Degrees of Celebration" / "Yolki" (2010; 90 min.): https://sovietmoviesonline.com/comedy/630-elki.html

Read: The Ultimate Russian Cinema Guide – Way to Russia: <u>http://waytorussia.net/WhatIsRussia/Russian-Cinema-Movies-Video.html;</u> https://waytorussia.net/WhatIsRussia/Russian-Cinema-Movies-Video.html; and Five Russian Films to Watch in 2015: <u>http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/27/-</u> <u>sp-five-russian-films-watch-2015</u>

Based on this course and your personal experience, how would you answer the questions: What kind of cinema is the Russian cinema? What kind of cinema is the American cinema? Discussion • Relax and enjoy class! Remote learning presents some challenges but many **Students with El**sabilities

Students with physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities will be accommodated in accordance with the relevant policies adopted at UF (for details, please, visit http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/).

• A student with an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, as determined by the <u>CDC</u>, can register with the Disability Resource Center to request a temporary course modification and/or academic accommodation. The student will need to provide medical documentation that identifies their diagnosis and their medical provider's concerns related to possible COVID-19 exposure. Students should be mindful that remote course access is not always a feasible modification for every course. The DRC will work in partnership with the student's instructor to determine a reasonable modification that meets the course requirements while considering the student's concerns for exposure. Students can begin the process to register with the DRC by completing the form located on the <u>DRC website</u>. For questions, please contact the DRC at 352-392-8565 or <u>drc@ufsa.ufl.edu</u>

UF Student Honor Code

Please, refer to the following webpage: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php.

Course Evaluation Process for Students

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

UF Counseling and Mental Health Services

Phone: 392-1575, http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx

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Phone: 392-1575, http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx



Stages and content of your final project/paper:

- 1. Choose a film title/topic (look for ideas/ suggestions in the syllabus, course materials, online, or talk to the instructor).
- 2. Write the film title/topic down on your attendance sheet on the next to last or last day of your Russia through Film course at the very latest.
- 3. DO NOT refer to any critical or other assessments of the subject matter you have chosen prior to watching the movie and thinking about it carefully on your own.
- 4. Watch the movie.
- 5. Write down your own spontaneous assessment of the movie, as well as the interpretation, impressions, associations or ideas based on the movie.
- 6. Find in the course texts, online or in print elsewhere any authoritative (from your point of view) evaluations of the work you are writing about.
- 7. Write down your reaction to those evaluations (compare, discuss, reject, or accept). Relate what you have learned or think to your own life. Substantiate your position: Your essay should be a concise well-argued statement.

Final project deadline:

Your write-at-home course paper/project is to be e-mailed to me no later than 5:00 PM on December 16, 2020, which is the day set for your final exam (but preferably earlier than that). Your paper should be sent to me as an attached Microsoft Word file. The text of the paper should be 1,200-1,500 words in length. Please, double-space it and use a size 12 font.

Referencing your final paper:

Your final paper should be properly referenced: All the sources that you have used in preparing and writing your final paper should be included as footnotes or endnotes. For books, include the author/s, title, place of publication, publisher, overall number of pages, and the page/s you are specifically referring to. If the source is a translation, you also need to give the name of the translator and the year the translation first came out or the translation copyright was registered. Any references to texts, or visual, or sound materials online should be supplied with the relevant Internet address (in a footnote or endnote) following the words "Retrieved from". Don't forget to include your own first and last names followed by your e-mail address in front of the title/topic of your final paper.

Check out the Optional section below for extra ideas for your choice of the final paper topic.

Optional: For General Background

The Most Watched Russian Movies in 2017-2019 (I will comment on these in class) Лучшие русские фильмы 2017-2018 года, список по рейтингу зрителей:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.megacritic.ru_russkie_filmy_luchshie-2D2017-2D2018&d=DwIF3g&c=sJ6xIWYxzLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=oVEVq1SrG81rEdOLTUpTww&m=Amf_JEPph98eePt5vgt0fMa RNy0_LKu_0v5qltndzCo&s=LfQ0rZYgaievgxGOHiMvVKh3OlSrKxaNMaF22sGJutM &e= :

Время первых (The Time to be First) 06.04.2017 г. (6+)

В фильме Время первых действие развернётся в шестидесятые, в разгар Холодной Войны между СССР и США, борющихся за первенство выхода человека в открытый космос. Тестовый корабль Советского Союза взрывается на старте за две недели...

Салют-7 (Salut-7) 12.10.2017 г. (12+) Фильм Салют-7 основан на реальных событиях 1985 года, когда несколько героически отважных советских лётчиков-космонавтов пытались спасти орбитальную станцию Салют-7 от падения на Землю. Станция находилась на земной орбите в беспилотном состоянии, но однажды неожиданно...

Тренер (Coach)

19.04.2018 г. (6+)

Фильм Тренер станет дебютом для знаменитого Данилы Козловского в качестве режиссёра, он же выступил заодно и сценаристом, и продюсером проекта, а также сыграл здесь главную роль. Спортивная драма расскажет о талантливом футбольном игроке, который...

Собибор (Sobibor) 03.05.2018 г. (16+)

Фильм Собибор (Легенда о побеге) представляет собой историческую военную драму времён Великой Отечественной Войны, картина стала первым режиссёрским опытом в большом кино для знаменитого российского артиста Константина Хабенского, также сыгравшего здесь и центральную главную...

Движение вверх (Moving Upward) 28.12.2017 г. (6+)

Фильм Движение вверх основан на реальных событиях, произошедших на Олимпиаде 1972 года в Мюнхене, навсегда вошедших в историю спорта, как легендарные "три секунды". Это кино о противостоянии спорной СССР по баскетболу с казавшейся непобедимой...

Легенда о Коловрате (The Kolovrat Legend) 30.11.2017 г.

Фильм Легенда о Коловрате - это новое историческое масштабное фэнтези от знаменитого кинорежиссёра Джаника Фазиева (Август. Восьмого), повествующее о легендарном рязанском витязе Евпатии Коловрате. Действие развернётся в XII веке на Руси в период раздробленности....

Три богатыря и Наследница престола (Three Russian Warriors/Animated Cartoon) 27.12.2018 г. (6+)

Мультфильм Три богатыря и Наследница престола от анимационной студии "Мельница" является уже девятым по счёту в серии анимационных семейных картин о приключениях троицы богатырей: Ильи Муромца, Добрыни Никитича и Алёши Поповича. Режиссёром мультика на...

Последний богатырь (The Last Warrior /Bogatyr/Comedy) 26.10.2017 г. (12+)

Фильм Последний богатырь - новая русская сказка в жанре комедии и ещё один проект Walt Disney в России. Во главе сюжета обычный парень Иван, типичный москвич из нашего времени, который по воле случая оказывается...

Садко (Sadko) 24.05.2018 г. (6+)

- Мультики
- Комедии
- Семейные

Россия

Мультфильм Садко от знаменитой студии Мельница впервые за все свои "богатырские" анимационные приключения визуально перекочует в трёхмерный формат! Постоянных зрителей предыдущих работ этой киностудии ждёт новый опыт и возможность оценить теперь и 3D-анимацию. Режиссёрами...



Фильм Лед расскажет о непростой судьбе талантливой фигуристке, с самого детства следующей за своей мечтой - танцевать на льду под бурные аплодисменты публики. Картина стала дебютом для кинорежиссёра Олега Трофима, а сценарий написали Олег...



Гоголь. Вий (Viy – a horror film based on the eponymous story by Gogol) 05.04.2018 г. (16+)

Фильм Гоголь. Вий продолжает историю успешного приключенческого проекта (сериала, смонтированного в полнометражные картины по 2 серии на каждый) российского кино Гоголь. Начало. Исполнители главных ролей возвращаются в новой мистической картине, продолжающей рассказывать о таинственных...



Анна Каренина. История Вронского (Anna Karenina: Vronsky's Story) 08.06.2017 г. (12+)

В фильме Анна Каренина. История Вронского события знаменитого романа Толстого рассказаны от лица графа Вронского. Выросший Серёжа Каренин во время Русско-японской войны оперирует в госпитале ранненого офицера и узнаёт, что тот является причиной самоубийства...

На районе (In the 'Hood – a criminal drama) 04.10.2018 г. (16+)



Фильм На районе является по своему жанру российской криминальной драмой от актрисы Ольги Зуевой (Тренер), выступившей здесь также в качестве режиссёра и сценаристки. Картина для начинающей постановщицы, за спиной которой есть уже несколько короткометражек,...

Also check out the Films: Crimean Bridge (2018), T-34 (2019), and The Balkan Line (2019)