

Course Title: *CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN CINEMA*

Course No.: Russian 330

Unique No.: 45560

Instructor: Keith Livers
(Kalivers@mail.utexas.edu)

Meeting Time & Place: MWF: 3:00 – 4:00 (Parlin 206)

Office Hours: TBA

This course will use both contemporary Russian film as a means of exploring the confusion that resulted from the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the search for a new sense of identity in Russia throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. We will look at the work of Russia's best contemporary (and not quite so contemporary) directors, such as Pavel Lungin, Aleksei Balabanov, Nikita Mikhalkov, Andrei Zviagintsev and Aleksandr Sokurov as an entry-point into the soul of contemporary Russia.

Requirements: Active in-class participation, three 6-page papers and one presentation (approx. 15 minute presentation) with a partner.

LIST OF REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED FILMS

The Brother (1997), Aleksei Balabanov
Close to Eden (1993), Nikita Mikhalkov
Father and Son (2003), Aleksandr Sokurov
Four (2003), Ilya Krzhanovskii
House of Fools (2002), Andrei Konchalovsky
Luna Park (1991), Pavel Lungin
Mermaid (2007), Anna Melikyan
Nightwatch (2004), Timur Bekmabetov
Of Freaks and Men (1997), Aleksei Balabanov
Prisoner of the Mountains (1996), Sergei Bodrov
The Return (2003), Andrei Zviagintsev
Russian Ark (2002), Aleksandr Sokurov
Siberian Barber (1998), Nikita Mikhalkov
The Thief (1997), Pavel Chukhrai

Participation

20%

RUS330
Syllabus

Grading: **3 essays (5-6 pages)** **60%**
 1 presentation **20%**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (Jan. 17—21)

M ***MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY***

W **Syllabus/handouts**

F **INTRODUCTION TO COURSE**

WEEK 2 (Jan. 24—28)

M **FILM SHOWING: *LUNA PARK*.**

W **DISCUSSION: *LUNA PARK***

F **DISCUSSION: *LUNA PARK***

WEEK 3 (Jan. 31—Feb. 4)

M **FILM SHOWING: *CLOSE TO EDEN***

W **DISCUSSION: *CLOSE TO EDEN***

F **DISCUSSION: *CLOSE TO EDEN***

READ: “Southern Living (in Captivity): The Caucasus in Russian Popular Culture.”

WEEK 4 (Feb. 7—11)

- M FILM SHOWING: *PRISONER OF THE MOUNTAINS*
- W DISCUSSION: *PRISONER OF THE MOUNTAINS*
- F DISCUSSION: *PRISONER OF THE MOUNTAINS*

WEEK 5 (Feb. 14—18)

- M FILM SHOWING: *HOUSE OF FOOLS*
- W DISCUSSION: *HOUSE OF FOOLS*
- F DISCUSSION: *HOUSE OF FOOLS*
- READ: “Wise Father Stalin and His Family in Soviet
 Cinema.”

WEEK 6 (Feb. 21—25)

- M FILM SHOWING: *THIEF*
- W DISCUSSION: *THIEF*
- F DISCUSSION: *THIEF*

WEEK 7 (Feb. 28—Mar. 4)

- M FILM SHOWING: *OF FREAKS AND MEN*
- W DISCUSSION: *OF FREAKS AND MEN*
- F DISCUSSION: *OF FREAKS AND MEN*
PAPER NO. 1 DUE

WEEK 8 (Mar. 7–11)

M FILM SHOWING: *FOUR*

W DISCUSSION: *FOUR*

F DISCUSSION: *FOUR*

WEEK 9 (Mar. 14–18)

SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)

WEEK 10 (Mar. 21–25)

M FILM SHOWING: *BARBER OF SIBERIA*

W DISCUSSION: *BARBER OF SIBERIA*

F DISCUSSION: *BARBER OF SIBERIA*
READ: “About Killers, Freaks and Real Men: The
Vigilante Hero of Aleksei Balabanov’s Films”

WEEK 11 (Mar. 28–Apr. 1)

M FILM SHOWING: *THE BROTHER*

W DISCUSSION: *THE BROTHER*

F DISCUSSION: *THE BROTHER*

WEEK 12 (Apr. 4–8)

M FILM SHOWING: *THE RETURN*

W DISCUSSION: *THE RETURN*

F DISCUSSION: *THE RETURN*

WEEK 13 (Apr. 11–15)

M FILM SHOWING: *FATHER AND SON*

W DISCUSSION: *FATHER AND SON*

F DISCUSSION: *FATHER AND SON*
PAPER NO. 2 DUE
READ: “The Russian Ark, the Marquis de Custine, and the Theater,” in course pack.

WEEK 14 (Apr. 18–22)

M SHOWING: *RUSSIAN ARK*

W DISCUSSION: *RUSSIAN ARK*

F DISCUSSION: *RUSSIAN ARK*

WEEK 15 (Apr. 25–29)

M FILM SHOWING: *NIGHTWATCH*

W DISCUSSION: *NIGHTWATCH*

F DISCUSSION: *NIGHTWATCH*

WEEK 16 (May 2–6)

RUS330
Syllabus

M **FILM SHOWING: *MERMAID***

W **DISCUSSION: *MERMAID***

F **DISCUSSION: *MERMAID***
PAPER NO. 3 DUE.