

**RUSS 470 Topics in Soviet & Post Soviet Film
Fall 2005: Films of the “Near Abroad
Central Asia, Mongolia, and the Caucasus”**

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Office Hours: T 5:00-5:45 p.m., W 12:30-1:15 p.m.
or by appointment

An overview of films from the periphery of the former Soviet Union, including Soviet and post-Soviet Central Asia, Mongolia, and the Caucasus, as well as contemporary Russian films that treat issues of empire and the post-Colonial state. Students will attend lectures, screenings, and film discussions (in class and on-line) and will research one film studio from these regions for an individual project. All required films will have English subtitles. All class work and writing will be in English.

Texts – on line, handouts, etc. (see <http://townhall.gmu.edu>). Horton & Brashinsky. *The Zero Hour* (bookstore)

Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Class participation & contribution to class discussions | 30% |
| Film reviews | 30% |
| Studio Project | 40% |

Students are reminded of the Honor Code. Please cite all work and intellectual property that is not your own. Students with disabilities or special needs must work with the disability center.

Some useful books:

Please note: you do not need to buy these books – excerpts will be made available when necessary.

Jay Leyda. *Kino: A History of the Russian and Soviet Film* (Princeton)
Red Women on the Silver Screen, ed. Lynne Attwood (Pandora Press, 1983)
Neya Zorkaya. *An Illustrated History of Soviet Cinema*
Ella Shohat/Robert Stam. *Unthinking Eurocentrism*, Routledge, 1994 [heavy theory]
Edward Said. *Orientalism* [a pioneering book on colonialism/post-colonialism]

Proposed Schedule

(Please check the course site at <http://townhall.gmu.edu> regularly for updates.)

| Date | Topic | Screening | Reading | Due |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 9/1 | Course introduction Globalization | Weeping Camel | Web surfing | Class screening calendar / groups |
| 9/8 | Coloniali/Sovietization | Storm Over Asia | Leyda, Marshall; Horton & Brashinsky, | Independent research on studios |
| 9/15 | Crumbling Empire | Close to Eden | Pipes, Smith, Shohat & Stam | **** |
| 9/22 | Georgia | The Prayer (Vedreba); clips | Christensen | **** Class discussion of readings |
| 9/29 | Glasnost | Repentance | Christensen | **** [JC Boston] |
| 10/6 | Armenia | Sayat Nova | Seffens | Studio selection |
| 10/13 | Chechnya | Prisoner of the Mountains | | |
| 10/20 | Central Asia | Turksib, 3 Songs of Lenin | Leyda, Marshall, Abikeyeva | Paper #1 |
| 10/27 | Kazakhstan | Needle* | Abikeyeva | |
| 11/3 | Kyrgyzstan | Beshkempir, Mamuil* | Abikeyeva | Studio report/ draft |
| 11/10 | Studios | Student presentations | | |
| 11/17 | Studios | Student presentations | | Paper #2 |
| 12/1 | Studios | Student presentations | | |
| 12/8 | In the West | Monday Morning | Web | |
| 12/15 | | | | Final Studio Report |

*Films available for student presentations.