

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**  
**Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures**  
**RUSS 1420: Kinotalk (Fourth-Year Russian I)**

Tuesdays/Thursdays 11.00-12.15  
CL 340  
Student coordinator: Ellen Kantor [elk28+@pitt.edu](mailto:elk28+@pitt.edu)

Nancy Condee  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This fourth-year Russian course provides extensive practice in oral communication at the advanced level. It will be organized around cinema of the Soviet and post-Soviet era, in all likelihood to include work by Mikhalkov, Bodrov, and Balabanov. Key critical material (reviews, commentaries, etc.) in the original language will also be included.

**ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend all classes. More than three unexcused absences will affect the final grade. **More than five** will result in failure, regardless of the student's prior standing. Excused absences, such as illness or death in the immediate family, must be documented. Absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes and handouts from fellow students. Work assigned in a student's absence will not be given a later deadline without prior agreement with the instructor.

**WRITTEN WORK**

Quizzes on the assigned reading will be given without notice.

**EVALUATION**

Participants will be graded on the basis of the following items:

Oral work (preparation and in class)	30 %
Written work	20 %
Independent initiatives	10 %*
Quizzes	10 %
Mid-term	10 %
Test	20 %

**\*Note:** The entry "Independent initiatives" assesses student efforts to learn about a film's context and critical debates independent of the assignments. It is the student's responsibility to demonstrate (in class discussion, in written work, etc.) that he or she has from time to time taken the initiative to consult independent film sources. For a head's start, see the following websites:

- **English-language sources:**  
*International Movie Database*      <http://www.imdb.com/>  
*Kinokultura*      <http://www.kinokultura.com/index.html>
- **Russian-language sources:**  
*Animator*      <http://www animator.ru/>  
*Iskusstvo kino*      <http://www.kinoart.ru/main.html>  
*Kinoforum*      <http://www.kino-forum.ru/> and  
                         <http://www.kinokultura.com/kinoforum/kinoforum.html>  
*Kinovedcheskie zapiski*      <http://www.kinozapiski.ru/>  
*Seans*      <http://www.seance.ru/>

**DISABILITY POLICY**

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she must notify the instructor and the Office of Disabled Student Services (DDS) no later than the Add/Drop date (Friday, 5 September). The student may be asked to provide documentation of the disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify DDS, call 648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.

**TEXT** Students will receive handouts and other printed material, but the course will structure itself principally around a single textbook, available in the bookstore.

Mesropova, Olga. *Kinotalk: Russian Cinema and Conversation*. Bloomington: Slavica, 2006

**SCHEDULE** (assignments due on the date indicated)

WEEK 1

Tuesday, 26 August  
Syllabus

Thursday, 28 August  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 1

WEEK 2

Tuesday, 2 September  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 2. Bortko. *Heart of a Dog*, 1987 (129)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 4 September  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 3

Tuesday, 9 September  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 3. Krishtofovich. *Adam's Rib*, 1990 (77)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 11 September  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 4

Tuesday, 16 September  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 4. Mamin. *Window to Paris*, 1993 (90)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 18 September  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 5

Tuesday, 23 September  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 5. Mikhalkov. *Anna*, 1994 (99)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 25 September  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 6

Tuesday, 30 September  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 6. Mikhalkov. *Burnt by the Sun*, 1995 (152)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 2 October  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 7

Tuesday, 7 October

*Kinotalk*, Chapter 7. Rogozhkin. *Peculiarities of the National Hunt*, 1995 (93)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 9 October  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 8

**Tuesday, 14 October: no class (Fall Break)**

**Thursday, 16 October**  
**Mid-term examination**

WEEK 9

Tuesday, 21 October  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 8. Bodrov. *Prisoner of the Mountains*, 1996 (98)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 23 October  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 10

Tuesday, 28 October  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 9. Chukhrai. *Thief*, 1997 (97)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 30 October  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 11

Tuesday, 4 November  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 10. Krishtofovich. *Friend of the Deceased*, 1997 (105)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 6 November  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 12

Tuesday, 11 November  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 11. Balabanov. *Brother*, 1998 (95)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 13 November  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary

WEEK 13

Tuesday, 18 November  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 12. Todorovskii. *Land of the Deaf*, 1998 (105)  
Introduction, vocabulary, discussion, analysis

Thursday, 20 November  
Cinema criticism, context, questionnaire, summary (Ellen)

WEEK 14

Tuesday, 25  
*Kinotalk*, Chapter 13. Conclusion

Thursday, 27: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

WEEK 15

Tuesday, 2 December  
Course review

**Thursday, 4 December**  
**Test**