Instructor: Nancy Condee
Classroom CL 444
Class time: Mondays 2.30-5.15
Office hours: Tues. 2.00-4.00; by appt. (CL 1417)
Telephone 412-363-7180
Email: condee@pitt.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course takes as its research focus the distinct conditions of second-world postmodernity: among the foundational logics alien to Soviet society were Western property relations, a developed commodity culture, and the mythologies of the nation-state. How then do we understand the coordinates of Soviet postmodernist practices from (say) the 1960s onward? The course begins with a summary glance backward at formalist notions of textuality (Shklovskii, Eikhenbaum, Tynianov) and Tartu-Moscow structuralism (Lotman, Uspenskii) before turning to major theorists of Soviet and post-Soviet postmodernism (Groys, Epstein, Lipovetskii). Emphasis will be on Russo-Soviet texts, with one session dedicated to other second-world systems. Interdepartmental participation is welcome; primary texts will include selections from literature, film, and painting.

ATTENDANCE
Students are expected to attend all classes. More than two unexcused absences will affect the final grade. More than three 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 (I will confirm this by a short written assignment). Work assigned in a student's absence is not be given a later deadline without prior agreement with the instructor.

EVALUATION
Participants are graded on the basis of seminar contribution (50%) and written work (50%), which may include quizzes or in-class writing assignments, given without notice.

Writing assignments.
1. Weekly essay. Each Sunday by 6.00 pm (not 6.01 pm) students will electronically submit to condee@pitt.edu a one-page, single-spaced essay (400-500 words) with appropriate citations. You must submit a minimum of ten essays over the term (four "reprieves"); the essay assignment for 6 December is required. You may not submit essays retroactively: if you have not submitted your first essay by Sunday, 10 October, you cannot fulfill the essay assignments in time. Unfulfilled assignments receive a failing grade. The essays address one question: How does the reading implicitly connect with the larger inquiry of the course (the provenance of second-world postmodernism)?
2. Final essay. On Sunday, 12 December by 6.00 pm, participants will electronically submit to condee@pitt.edu a three-page, single-spaced final essay with appropriate citations. The essay forms the basis of the oral presentation, scheduled for that date.

INTEGRITY POLICY
Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves thoroughly with the university policy of academic integrity and for adhering to it. The rules can be found on the University's Academic Integrity Policies site (Policy 02-03-02, http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html). Academic dishonesty will result in course failure.

COURSE METHODOLOGY
During seminar time itself, the basis of the class time is devoted to the reading assignments, instructor's lecture, and anonymous participant essays, which will periodically be circulated in class. The course structure is organized around three stages. Early in the semester, seminar participants complete specific reading assignments, as designated in the syllabus. In the middle of the semester (mid-October), the required reading allows greater flexibility: participants are given a range of texts from which to choose; they will be given a "reference text" to which the theory and critical assignments refer (Sorokin, Pelevin, Prigov), which they may read if they have not already done so. Towards the semester's end (late November), participants will be encouraged to construct in advance their own reading agenda for the week. Finally, the penultimate seminar session ("Case studies") returns to a specific, required assignment. The final session consists of participant summaries of their work over the term.
DISABILITY POLICY
If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she is encouraged to notify the instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-684-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

TEXTS

 Reserve list (on 2-hour and overnight reserve, except as noted by the symbol ➔, at Hillman Library):
PG3485 E38O4613 1996 (call number refers to a different edition) or choice of text

PG3026.56 F5713
PG6494 C63B3 1990

PG3485 E38O4613 1996 (call number refers to a different edition) or choice of text

PG3026.F6 F5713

PG3026.56 F5713

PG550 P76 1968a

N6494 C63B3 1990

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For consultation (not on reserve):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, 30 August</th>
<th>Terms of the seminar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course rationale; comments on the modern, modernism, modernity</td>
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<tr>
<th>Monday, 6 September</th>
<th>Labor Day</th>
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<td>During this week, students are expected to spend this week sorting out all logistical problems associated with the course (PDFs, photocopies, Russian and English variants of the assigned texts, etc.). If you ask for departmental support in scanning assignments, please do two things:</td>
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- Divide the labor equitably among yourselves;
- Give the department staff plenty of time, since it is the start of school; you do not need everything scanned at once. Start with the early assignments and move forward about two weeks ahead of the assignment. |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, 13 September (71)</th>
<th>Modernism/Formalism I (1914-20; 1921-25)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shklovsky, Victor. Works from 1914-19: listed chronologically</td>
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- "The Resurrection of the Word." Bann and Bowlt 41-47. (6) 1914 (I)
- "Art as Technique." Lemon 3-24. (21) 1917 (I)
- "On the Connection between Devices of Sinjhet Construction and General Stylistic Devices." Bann and Bowlt 48-72. (23) 1919

| Jakobson, Roman. "On Realism in Art." In Matejka and Pomorska 38-46. (8) 1921 (Czech, II)
| Eikhenbaum, Boris. “Concerning the Question of the ‘Formalists.’” Pike 49-62. (13) 1924 (II) |

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<tr>
<th>Monday, 20 September (44)</th>
<th>Modernism/Formalism II (1921-25; 1925-29)</th>
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<td>Tynjanov, Jurij.</td>
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DATE  | TOPIC
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Monday, 30 August  | Terms of the seminar
Monday, 6 September  | Labor Day
Monday, 13 September (71)  | Modernism/Formalism I (1914-20; 1921-25)
Monday, 20 September (44)  | Modernism/Formalism II (1921-25; 1925-29)
• "On Literary Evolution." Lambropoulos and Miller 152-62. (10) 1927 (III), dominanta (cf. Broder Christensen, Die Philosophie der Kunst 1908)*

Eikhenbaum, Boris.
• "Literature and Cinema." Bann and Bowlt 122-27. (5) 1926
• "Literary Environment." Matejka and Pomorska 56-65. (9) 1929

Jakobson, Roman and Jurij Tynjanov. "Problems in the Study of Literature and Language." Matejka and Pomorska 79-81 or Lambropoulos and Miller 32-34. (3) 1928


Additional reading (useful summary)
Eikhenbaum, Boris.
• "The Theory of the 'Formal Method.'" Lemon 99-140. (39) 1927

Monday, 27 September (about 80) Modernism/Propp
Propp, Vladimir. Morphology of the Folktale. 1928
Propp, Vladimir. "Fairytale Transformations." Matejka and Pomorska 94-114 (20) 1928

Monday, 4 October (25) Talk at Cambridge

➤ Begin consulting texts on Western postmodernism for eventual selection (25 October class)

Monday, 11 October No class (Tuesday > Monday)

Tuesday, 12 October (104 new writing + classics + Sorokin 61) Late Modernism (1932-mid 1960s)
Clark, Katerina. "Socialist Realism and the Sacralizing of Space." In Evgeny Dobrenko and Eric Naiman, eds. The Landscape of Stalinism. 3-18. (15)
Dobrenko, Evgeny. "The Disaster of Mediocre Taste; or, Who 'Thought Up' Socialist Realism? The Reader as Critic." The Making of the State Reader. 82-145. (63)
Groys, Boris. "The Art of Totality." In Evgeny Dobrenko and Eric Naiman, eds. The Landscape of Stalinism. 96-122. (26)

Classics (please let me know if you choose to read one of these instead of the normal assignment):
Clark, Katerina. The Soviet Novel
Groys, Boris. The Total Art of Stalinism
Полевой, Борис. Повесть о настоящем человеке

Sorokin, Vladimir (61)

Additional reading (Sorokin):
Monday, 18 October (71) Neo-Modernism/Soviet semiotics

Uspenskii, Boris.
- "Semiotics of Art." Lucid 171-73. (2) 1962
- "Historia sub specie semioticae." Lucid 107-16. (9) 1974

Lotman, Iurii.
- "Two Models of Communication." Lucid 99-102. (3) 1970
- "The Structure of the Narrative Text." Lucid 193-98. (5) 1973
- "Myth-Name-Culture." Lucid 233-52. (19) 1973
- "Primary and Secondary Communication-Modeling Systems." Lucid 95-98. (3) 1974
- "'Agreement' and 'Self-Giving' as Archetypal Models of Culture." Lotman and Uspenskij, The Semiotics 125-40. (15)

Monday, 25 October (103 + student choice of additional reading) Postmodernism West/East

Required:
Introduction 1-19 (18); Literature 62-81 (19).

Epshtein, Mikhail. "The Origins and Meaning of Russian Postmodernism." In Ellen E. Berry and Anesa Miller-Pogacar, eds. Re-Entering the Sign: Articulating New Russian Culture 25-47. (22)

Malpas, Simon. The Postmodern. 1-55.

Recommended (not on reserve):


Monday, 1 November (107 + Erofeev) SHEFFIELD Russian postmodernism: Erofeev

Reference text: Ерофеев, Венедикт. Москва-Петушки.

On Erofeev:

Lipovetsky, Mark. "From an Otherworldly Point of View: Venedikt Erofeev's Moscow to the End of the Line." Russian
More globally:
Lipovetsky, Mark. "Chaos as a System." Russian Postmodernist Fiction: Dialogue with Chaos. 3-35. (32)

Monday, 8 November (54 + Pelevin)
Reference text: Pelevin, Viktor. Omon Ra or student choice.

On Pelevin:

More globally:

Prepare cinema selections for 23 November

Monday, 15 November (76 + Prigov)
Reference text: Приго, Дмитрий (1940-2007)
«Апофеоз Милинанера» (1978)
http://www.rvb.ru/np/publication/01text/33/03prigov.htm#cycle1
«Образ Рейгана в советской литературе»
http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/~mdenner/Demo/texts/reagan.htm

On Prigov:

On Rubinstein:

More globally:

**Additional reading:**  

**Monday, 23 November**  

**Postmodernist cinema**  
---. *Круг вперед.* 1990.  

**Assignment:** Of these 15 Russo-Soviet films (1982-2009), choose 2-3 and formulate a research question that contrasts either two different critical interpretations of the postmodernist text or two different articulations of artistic postmodernism.

**Monday, 30 November (student choice)**  
Erjavec, Aleš, ed. *Postmodernism and the Postsocialist Condition: Politicized Art under Late Socialism.* See, for example:  
Smith, Terry, Okwui Enwezor, and Nancy Condee. *Antinomies of Art and Culture: Modernity, Postmodernity, Contemporaneity.* See, for example:  
- Gao, Minglu. "Particular Time, Specific Space, My Truth!: Total Modernity in Chinese Contemporary Art." 133-64. (31)  

**Monday, 6 December (71)**  

**Sunday, 12 December:** three-page essay due at 6.00 pm to condee@pitt.edu (see below for research questions)

**Monday, 13 December**  
**Summary**  
Each student will give a talk (with a one-page handout) of three minutes, addressing the following three questions:  
- Can the coordinates of postmodernism be understood as a broad (trans-regional and trans-ideological) concept?  
- What, if anything, could be said about the specifics of second-world postmodernism?  
- How does its history shape the concept?