COURSE DESCRIPTION
In the last quarter century (1985-2010), Russo-Soviet cinema has undergone radical disruptions in several overlapping environments (infrastructure, finances, ideology). The seminar will cover three historical segments: perestroika (the late 1980s), cine-anemia (the 1990s), and consolidation (the last decade). The course will include readings on the state of the industry, contemporary film criticism, film history, and 35-40 films, chosen in consultation with the instructor. Cores themes for the seminar include the memory practices of Marxism-Leninism, the emergent coordinates of second-world postmodernity, and the revival of the imperial imagination. Film theory texts will focus on genre, auteur theory, and melodrama.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Film Studies students should be able to analyze a film in terms of its formal elements, themes, and structural discourses.
2. Film Studies students should be able to place media texts within their social, political, cultural and historical contexts.
3. Film Studies students should have an understanding of the selected concepts of film theory.
4. Film Studies students should be able to write clearly, coherently and skillfully about the cinema as well as deliver oral presentations about the subject.

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, in-class 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. A short essay is due at the end of each class segment (three total). Essays will be three complete pages, single-spaced with accompanying citations and a clear research question. Due dates at noon by electronic submission are these:
- 9 February
- 16 March
- 27 April
You may not submit essays retroactively. Unfulfilled assignments receive a failing grade.
Oral presentation. Each student will give a short (ten-minute) oral presentation at the end of the course (see schedule).

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
Class time. During seminar time itself, the basis of the class time is devoted to the reading assignments, instructor's lecture, and film discussion. The course structure is organized around three historical stages; each segment is assigned a film-studies focus that may help to organize the selected films (genre, auteur cinema, melodrama). The course moves from fairly rigid assignments to greater flexibility. Early in the semester, seminar participants complete specific readings and viewings, as designated in the syllabus. By the middle of the semester, the assignments allow greater flexibility. Towards the semester's end, participants will be encouraged to contribute to an individual agenda for the week.

Outside of class. Seminar participants will buy a slim notebook to be used exclusively for their own screening notes for each film. Screening notes will provide at least one page of notes for each film, leading with the film title, director, and the date of the screening. The instructor reserves the right to collect these notebooks during the semester to examine the screening practices. As a general rule, however, this notebook is for the individual participant's use alone as a log of the films watched during the semester; as a resource for future writing; and potentially as the beginning of a good habit to adopt for future research in film.

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, 412-648-7890 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
As indicated below for each segment of the course, assigned texts are available either on JSTOR or on 2-hour and overnight reserve at Hillman Library. In addition to the specific assignments, please consult these texts on individual directors and films:


**SCHEDULE**

**Wed., 5 Jan.** Introduction; terms of the course


**Texts: Genre** 110 + Altman


**Wed., 12 Jan.: 1984-1985**


*My Friend Ivan Lapshin [Мой друг Иван Лапшин].* Aleksei German, Sr. (1984) art-house, 100'; DVD-5252 PAL

*Parade of the Planets [Парад планет].* Vadim Abdrashtov (1984) art-house/fantasy, 97'; DVD-6958 PAL. (no subtitles)

*Come and See [Иди и смотри].* Elem Klimov (1985) war, 136'; DVD-0614

**Wed., 19 Jan.: 1986-1987**


**Trial on the Road** [Проверка на дорогах]. Aleksei German (1971/1986) war, 96'; DVD-5568 (no subtitles)

**A Man from the Boulevard des Capuchines** [Человек с бульвара Капуцинов]. Alla Surikova (1987) Western, 98'; DVD-1263 (no subtitles)

**Is It Easy to be Young?** [Легко ли быть молодым?]. Iurii Podnieks (1987) documentary 83'; V-1035

**Cold Summer of '53** [Холодное лето 53-го]. Aleksandr Proshkin (1987) action/Western, 101'; DVD-1563

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**Wed., 26 Jan.: 1988-1989**


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**The Story of Asia Kliachina** [История Аси Клячиной, которая любила, да не вышла замуж]. Andrei Konchalovskii (1966/1988) melodrama, 99'; DVD-5242 PAL

**Days of the Eclipse** [Дни затмения]. Aleksandr Sokurov (1988) art-house, 139'; V-3751 (no subtitles) OR

- **Asthenic Syndrome** [Астенический синдром]. Kira Muratova (1989) art-house 136'; V-3475 (no subtitles)

**Little Vera** [Маленькая Вера]. Vasilii Pichul (1988) youth/melodrama, 110'; DVD-0617 OR

- **Needle** [Игла]. Rashid Nugmanov (1988) youth/thriller, 81'; V-6509 OR

**Black Rose Is an Emblem of Sorrow, Red Rose Is an Emblem of Love** [Чёрная роза — эмблема печали, красная роза — эмблема любви]. Sergei Solovev (1989) comedy/romance, 139'; V-3474 (no subtitles)

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**Wed., 2 Feb.**

No class (Columbia Slavic review)

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**Comrade Chkalov Crosses the North Pole** [Переход товарища Чкалова через северный полюс]. Maksim Pezhemskii (1990) art-house/comedy, 24'; V-2732 (no subtitles)

**Taxi Blues** [Такси-блюз]. Pavel Lungin (1990) melodrama, 110'; DVD-7620

**This is No Way to Live** [Так жить нельзя]. Stanislav Govorukhin (1990) documentary 115'; V-3430 (no subtitles)

**Anna Karamazoff**. Rustam Khamdamov (1991) drama 125'; V-4474 (no subtitles)

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**Segment II: Cine-anemia (1992-1999)**


*The Chekist* [Чекист]. Aleksandr Rogozhkin (1992) drama, 93'; V-3572


*Dyuba-Dyuba*. Aleksandr Khvan (1993) drama/romance, 140'; V-3674 (no subtitles)

*Hammer and Sickle* [Серп и молот]. Sergei Livnev (1993) melodrama/mockumentary, 93'; DVD-5183 (PAL)


*Burnt by the Sun* [Утомленные солнцем]. Nikita Mikhalkov (1994) melodrama, 135'; DVD-4171

*Peshavar Waltz* [Пешеварский вальц]. Timur Bekmambetov (1994) war, 87'; DVD-0988

*Peculiarities of the National Hunt* [Особенности национальной охоты]. Aleksandr Rogozhkin (1995) comedy, 93'; DVD-0911

*Scorpion's Gardens* [Сады скорпиона]. Oleg Kovalov (1995) compilation 96' DVD-5243

**Wed., 2 March: 1996-1997**


*Prisoner of the Mountains* [Кавказский пленник]. Sergei Bodrov (1996) war, 96'; DVD-1568

*Russian Idea* [Русская идея]. Sergei Selianov (1996) documentary, 51'; V-8406

1 "[T]here are no good and bad movies, only good and bad directors."
Brother [Брат]. Aleksei Balabanov (1997) action, 96; DVD-0589

The Thief [Вор]. Pavel Chukhrai (1997) melodrama, 100'; DVD-0618

→ Wed., 9 Mar. SPRING BREAK

Segment III: Reconstruction (2000-2007)

Texts: Melodrama


The Barber of Siberia [Сибирский цирюльник]. Nikita Mikhalkov (1998) melodrama, 180'; DVD-1547

Khrustalev, My Car! [Хрусталев, машину!]. Aleksei German, Sr. (1998) art-house, 137; DVD-5244

Of Freaks and Men [Про уродов и людей]. Aleksei Balabanov (1998) art-house, 93; DVD-0612

Checkpoint [Блокпост]. Aleksandr Rogozhkin (1998) war, 90'; V-5707


Brother 2 [Брат 2]. Aleksei Balabanov (2000) action, 125'; V-6103


Star [Звезда]. Nikolai Lebedev (2002) war, 93'; DVD-0940

War [Война]. Aleksei Balabanov (2002) war, 120'; DVD-0938
**Wed., 30 Mar.: 2003**


**Koktbel'.** Boris Khlebnikov and Aleksei Popogrebskii (2003) melodrama, 100'; V-7950

**Bumer** [Бумер]. Petr Buslov (2003) crime, 110'; V-8402


**The Last Train** [Последний поезд]. Aleksei German, Jr. (2003) war, 82'; V-8401

**Wed., 6 Apr.: 2004-2005**


**Mars** [Марс]. Anna Melikian (2004) drama, 100'; DVD-2850

**Night Watch** [Ночной дозор]. Timur Bekmambetov (2004) thriller, 115'; DVD-1928 & 4172

**My Stepbrother Frankenstein** [Мой сводный брат Франкенштейн]. Valerii Todorovskii (2004) melodrama/war, 111'; V-8658

**The 9th Company** [9 рота]. Fedor Bondarchuk (2005) war, 126'; DVD-12005 OR

**The Turkish Gambit** [Турецкий гамбит]. Dzhanik Faiziev (2005) crime, 125'; DVD 3889 PAL (no subtitles)

**First on the Moon** [Первые на Луне]. Aleksey Fedorchenko (2005) mockumentary, 75'; V-9306

**Wed., 13 Apr.: 2006-2007**

Research presentation: Group 1

**Alive** [Живой]. Aleksandr Veledinskii Drama (2006) war/melodrama, 98'; DVD-12009

**Euphoria** [Эйфория]. Ivan Vyrypaev (2006) melodrama, 74'; DVD-7929 PAL (no subtitles)


**Playing the Victim** [Изображая жертву]. Kirill Serebrennikov (2006) comedy, 100'; DVD-5200 PAL

**Cargo 200** [Груз 200]. Aleksei Balabanov (2007) thriller, 89'; DVD-6917 PAL

**Simple Things** [Простые вещи]. Aleksei Popogrebskii (2007) melodrama, 108'; DVD-6973 PAL

**Coda: Contemporary Cinema (2008-2011)**

**Wed., 20 Apr.: 2008-2009**

Research presentation: Group 2

**The Best Movie** [Самый лучший фильм]. Kirill Kuzin (2008) comedy, 106'; DVD-5885 PAL (no subtitles)

**Hipsters** [Стиляги]. Valery Todorovskii (2008), 136'; DVD-7655 PAL (no subtitles)
Everybody Will Die, and I Shall Remain [Все умрут, а я останусь]. Valerii Gai Germanika (2008) psychological drama, 90'; DVD-7677 PAL (no subtitles)

Tale in the Darkness [Сказка про темноту]. Nikolai Khomeriki (2009) melodrama (subtitles?)

Wed., 27 Apr.: 2010-2011
Research presentation: Group 3

Three-page essay due (# 3)