

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES (OSH 225)  
Spring 2014



**Russian Film, Literature, and Culture 212**  
(3 credit hours)

**Instructor:** Dr. Mykola Polyuha ([mpolyuha@bloomu.edu](mailto:mpolyuha@bloomu.edu)) (OSH 233)

**Office hours:** M, W 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., T 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m., or by appointment

**Phone:** (570) 389-4676

**Catalog Description:**

Provides an understanding of the geography, government, customs, education, arts, and history of Russia. Explores the role of cinema, literature, print and electronic media in shaping society in the Soviet Union and Russia. Along with learning about Soviet and Russian popular culture, students analyze the relationship between media and politics. Special attention will be paid to cinema, television, radio, newspapers, contemporary literary works, and the Internet. The course is designed for students seeking General Education Points in Arts and Humanities and Communication and is taught in English in combination of lecture and discussion, and formal and informal oral and written assignments. Open to all students and applicable toward a minor or a major in Languages and Cultures: Russian and East European Studies Track. No prerequisites.

**Goals and/or Objectives:**

Russian 212 explores the role of cinema, print and electronic media in shaping contemporary society in Russia. Along with learning about Russian history, literature, and popular culture, we will analyze the relationship between media and politics. Special attention will be paid to cinema, television, radio, newspapers, and the Internet. **The course aims to:**

- develop insights into the culture and history of Russian-speaking countries
- encourage positive attitudes to language learning in general and a deeper understanding of other societies and cultures

- offer a better understanding of Russian business culture
- further intellectual and personal development by promoting the student's general communicative capacity
- gain a framework for understanding how cinema, media, and politics are interrelated
- identify how cinema, print and electronic media construct political identities and set the groundwork for social, political and economic interaction
- become familiar with the information climate in Russia

**Methods:**

Students will be required to prepare the common readings for the days assigned. Study questions will be assigned for most of these readings. Some library research may be required. When possible, students' preparation and lectures by the instructor will generate discussion.

**Contact Hours:**

Russian Film, Literature, and Culture requires **2 X 75-minutes** class meetings per week.

**Time:** Tuesday / Thursday 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

**Location:** OSH 220

**Texts** (BU Book Store):

Required: Richmond, Yale. *From Nyet to Da: Understanding the Russians*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, Inc., Fourth edition. 2008.

Handouts (to be distributed either electronically or in class)

**Other Academic Matters:** *BU Policies and Procedures* (see [http://www.bloomu.edu/policies\\_procedures](http://www.bloomu.edu/policies_procedures)).

**Standards of Conduct:**

Any act of misrepresentation or conflict with the order of the course, including, but not limited to plagiarism, cheating on tests, false excuses for absence, disruption of class, or engaging in activity during class other than the work at hand, constitutes academic misconduct. (See BU Policy #3512 "Academic Integrity.")

The following are some examples of disruptive acts during class:

- Talking that interferes with class participation,
- Not taking notes or not participating in class activities,
- Cell phones ringing; talking on cell phones, sending or receiving text messages, twittering
- Using a portable computer without permission,

- Reading a newspaper,
- Eating,
- Sleeping,
- Using smokeless tobacco,
- Playing music on a portable electronic device,
- Doing homework not related to the tasks at hand.

The instructor will request those who are disruptive to leave the classroom. If the request is ignored or contested, University Police will be called to provide assistance.

Any and every act of misconduct will affect grades; in the worst cases, such as plagiarism or cheating, students will fail the course.

Students who commit an act of academic misconduct will be subject to sanctions as stipulated by the university. See BU Policy 4802 section H.

### **Mark Breakdown:**

1. *Classroom quizzes* **15%**

There will be three scheduled quizzes, worth 5% each. The quizzes will be written in the regular class hours.

2. *Written assignments* **20%**

There will be two written assignment in the form of movie or book review. The reviews have to be submitted to Amazon.com web-site. Each complete assignment will be worth 10% of the final grade. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

3. *Presentation* **15%**

There will be one 15-20 minutes team presentation on the topic related to the course and pre-approved by the instructor. All team members will receive the same grade.

4. *Attendance and Participation* **20%** (including 2% for syllabus confirmation)

5. *Final paper project* **30%**

The final project is *cumulative*, i.e., it covers the entire session.

**Course Calendar** (assignments are to be handed in on the day of each quiz)

**N.B.** We will *try* to follow this schedule, and students will be notified of any changes.

**Jan. 21:** First day of classes: Introduction

**Feb. 27:** **Quiz #1**

**March 14** 1<sup>st</sup> written assignment is due

**March 17-21** Spring Break – no classes

**April 3:** **Quiz #2**

**May 1:** 2<sup>nd</sup> written assignment is due

**May 7:** **Final paper project is due**

**N.B.** Make sure your BU e-mail accounts are operational.