This course is an introduction to Russian and Soviet cinema since the 1920s to present day. The class films and readings are arranged around thematic modules such as Russian/Soviet film and history, ideology, memory, private/public sphere, women and gender, literary adaptations, and the comedy genre. Each week we will watch and discuss two movies. The oldest movies shown include classics of early Soviet cinema such as The Battleship Potemkin and October directed by Eisenstein (1925 and 1928, respectively), Bed and Sofa by Room (1927), and Man with a Movie Camera by Dziga Vertov (1929). The post-war Soviet period is represented by the 1958 Palme d’Or winner The Cranes Are Flying by Kalatozov (1957), Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors by Parajanov (1964), Irony of Fate by Ryazanov (1975), Stalker by Tarkovsky (1979), and the Academy Award winner in the best foreign film category Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears by Menshov (1979). The late Soviet period of glasnost and perestroika allowed for making movies that foreshadowed the collapse of communism such as Repentance by Abuladze (1984-87) and Little Vera by Pichul (1988). The post-communist Russian cinema is discussed on the basis of Passions by Muratova (1994), Oscar-winning Burnt by the Sun by Mikhalkov (1994), Window to Paris (Mamin, 1994), Brother by Balabanov (1997), and The Russian Ark by Sokurov (2002). No knowledge of Russian necessary. All movies in Russian with English subtitles.