

FALL 2009

Slav R-352/552 (CS and A&H credit)

RUSSIAN AND SOVIET FILM

Second-eight-weeks course: October 26 – December 9, 2009

MW 4-6 p.m. & film screenings MW 6:15 p.m. – end of movie

Ballantine Hall 214

Prof. Justyna Beinek



The Russian Ark by Sokurov (2002)

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.