Боже мой, какая гадость эта ваша заливная рыба!

Ты на что это, царская морда, намекаешь?

Меня терзают смутные сомнения...

Оставь меня, старушка, я в печали...

Всё! Засосало мещанское болото.

Я требую продолжения банкета!

Не учите меня жить, лучше помогите материально.

These and many other famous quotes will stay with you long after you finish this class.

Film has played a significant role in the Soviet culture and continues to be an important cultural expression today. Many Soviet comedies also enriched conversational Russian with unforgettable formulaic expressions and sayings.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF SOVIET/RUSSIAN CINEMATIC ENTERTAINMENT
Русский язык 106 (Oral Intensive)
Осенний семестр 2017
Язык советского и русского кинематографа
Понедельник, среда: 17.00 - 18.20 Shiffman 123

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Instructor: Irina Dubinina
Office: Schiffman 206
Office phone: 781-736-3223
E-mail: idubinin@brandeis.edu
Office hours: M, W, Th 13:00 – 14:00 or by appointment

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COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
In this course we will work with some of the most famous films produced in the USSR and contemporary Russia. Our goals will be close viewing to understand cultural symbolism of the images, the stylistics of different genres of speech, and the work of the camera and actors. This will allow you to further advance your Russian language skills by expanding your vocabulary and by incorporating more idiomatic expressions and the so-called “precedented” text in your speech. In the area of grammar and syntax, we will continue working on the Russian pronominal case system, verbal conjugation, but also develop new skills, such as: composing complex sentences and using correct punctuation.

By the end of the course you will be able to
• Give speeches in Russian in the formal and academic register;
• Analyze the cinematographic language of films in some detail;
• Analyze the message contained in a given film in some detail and express your opinion;
• Describe characters and narrate events in more detail
• Expand and deepen your vocabulary to include precededent texts
• Understand cultural and historical context of several prominent Soviet films

MATERIALS
All of the films which are required for the course are on LATTE. You will notice also that there are many other films there – this is for the convenience of your final project (see Final Project below). It will be the students’ responsibility to watch all assigned movies in advance of the class.

Cinema for Russian Conversation, Volume 1 by Mara Kashper, Olga Kagan and Yuliya Morozova is required for this class and is available through Brandeis Bookstore or online.

SYLLABUS (ПЛАН РАБОТЫ)
There is a general time-line for the entire semester which allots 4 class periods for each
movie. This time-line is flexible and may be changed, depending on how well we work in class and at home. The movies planned for the course to watch may also change. Please pay attention in class to any announcement regarding possible changes to the timeline.

There will be a work plan for each movie we study. It is your responsibility to print a copy of the work plan from LATTE or to use it electronically on the website. These work plans are also flexible and may change. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out if there were any changes made. Likewise, if you miss a class, you are expected to keep up with the syllabus and come to the next class prepared.

**GRADING**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- 25% - Participation (active work) in class
- 15% - Oral homework (audio-assignments on LATTE)
- 10% - Written homework
- 10% - Presentations in class (culmination task for a film)
- 15% - Lexico-grammatical journal
- 10% - Vocabulary and grammar quizzes
- 15% - Final Projects (final presentations)

**Grading Scale**

- 94-100 = A
- 90-93 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 84-86 = B
- 80-83 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 74-76 = C
- 70-73 = C-
- 67-69 = D+
- 64-66 = D
- 60-63 = D-
- 59 and below = F

**Components of Course Work**

The text below explains in detail what you are expected to do in this course and how you will be graded. But I invite you to think more about developing your proficiency in the language rather than focusing on the mechanics of the grade. The ultimate goal for you and for me is to give you an ability to communicate in a different language!

**Participation in Class (25%)**

It is essential that students attend all classes and keep up with course work on a daily basis. Moreover, students who come to class unprepared, eventually fall behind and hold up the rest of the class. Therefore, coming to every class and preparing for each lesson is essential not only to your learning, but also to the learning of your peers. Just being in class is not enough to make progress in relearning a language you always spoke at home. You need to be active and engaged. You will receive a daily participation score based on the following scale:
5+, 5, 5- or 4+  Well prepared (i.e., have done the homework and is prepared to work
with new grammatical material and vocabulary in class) and actively
participates; comes to class on time
4 or 4-  Actively participates, but may not be prepared (or was significantly late)
3  Not prepared, and/or makes little effort to participate
No credit  Absent (or was more than 20 minutes late)

Please note that **more than four** absences will result in the lowering of
your final grade in the “Preparation and Participation” category: (5
absences earn you a “B+”, 6-7 absences – “B”, 8 absences – “B-”, etc.).

*Classroom policies*

**Punctuality** is essential. Therefore, only an occasional late arrival will be **accepted.**

**Cell phones:** The use of cell phones in class is strictly prohibited. Phones should be
turned off and out of sight while class is in session.

Please **NO eating** during class.

*Homework: Oral Tasks (15%) and Written Tasks (10%)*
You will be responsible for viewing the films prior to the class period for which they are
assigned and preparing for the discussion in class. Since this course satisfies Oral Intensive
requirements, you will have regular assignments to produce speech orally. You will be asked to
prepare a story submit an audio-file with your speech online prior to the lesson. This
assignments will be evaluated on a complete/incomplete bases and are meant to give you
practice before speaking in class. Please treat the oral assignments as seriously as you would
treat written assignments. They are paramount to your language development.

Written homework will be assigned once or twice per chapter and may involve translation or
composition. Compositions will always be produced in two stages: the first draft which is
commented on by the instructor, and the second final version for submission and grading.
Written homework will be evaluated on the following scale:

Grades for homework and in-class work are set according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>significantly exceeds expectations (95 – 100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-</td>
<td>exceeds expectations (90 – 94,9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+</td>
<td>meets expectations (85- 89,9 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>meets expectations (80 – 84,9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v-</td>
<td>below expectation; homework needs to be re-done and re-submitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some homework will involve vocabulary memorization (this includes memorizing spelling). You should plan on setting aside some time each day for memorization work.

**Class Presentations (15%)**

Since this course is designated as Oral Intensive, you will be required to make regular presentations throughout the course of the semester at the end of each film.

These presentations will depend on the film and may range from giving a public speech, participating in a trial of a movie character or acting out your own (alternative) ending to a movie. You will receive specific instructions on how to prepare for each presentation, how to express your opinions in Russian and how to maintain the attention of your audience before each presentation.

Class presentations will be graded on a usual percentage scale with 100% being a perfect score. Specific rubrics for this assessment will be shared with you before the date of the presentation.

**Lexico-grammatical Journal (15%)**

You will keep a journal throughout the semester to take a note of words, expressions and grammatical constructions that are new to you. The Journal will allow you to “customize” your learning. If your vocabulary is already rather developed in Russian, you can use the Journal to create “domains” of words. For example, how many verbs related to speaking can you come up with in Russian? (talk, tell, say, murmur, whisper, mutter, chat, blabber, etc. + idiomatic expressions). If you hear lots of words that are new to you in class or find them in your readings; please write them down in your journal. It is especially important to note the words you cannot easily access on your own. You already know that you can understand a lot more than you can say, so you should pay special attention to vocabulary difficulties you have in expressing your thoughts, not just when listening to others speak.

Each word/expression in your Journal **must** be accompanied either by a translation into English or a dictionary (!) explanation in Russian. It **should** also have grammar information: if it’s a verb, the case questions it requires; or if it’s a noun, it’s gender.

You can keep your journals in an electronic form, but please don’t hide behind your computers in class. I will collect your journals several times a semester to review your work. You will receive a credit/no credit grade for each of the Journal submissions, but the overall grade for this category is 15%. The grade of “credit” means that you demonstrate thoroughness of your vocabulary work: 3-5 words in a two-week period is an obvious neglect of your duties. It would be fair to estimate an average of 20-30 words/expressions per week.

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My goal is to help you develop a healthy habit of any bilingual, which is essential for maintaining and developing the balance between languages. I hope you will treat this component of the coursework very seriously and will take an initiative in keeping the Journal.
Quizzes (10%)
There will be regular quizzes over selected vocabulary items and grammar/syntax concepts. They will be graded on a usual percentage scale with 100% being a perfect score.

Final Project (15%)
For your Final Project you will have an opportunity to choose a movie of interest to you and present this movie to the rest of the class. I have included several award-winning and simply popular films to our LATTE page. The direction of your presentation is also subject to your interests: you may choose to present a movie in a critical way (i.e., discuss the work of the camera, director’s decisions, actors’ play), compare two or three Soviet/Russian movies of the same genre or conduct a cross-cultural comparison of an American and a Russian film of the same genre or topic. You will have 20 minutes for your presentation during the Final Exam Week. To complete your Final Project successfully, you will be required to do additional research outside class time. This research can be carried out in English; however, all presentations must be done in Russian. You will receive more detailed instructions for the Final Project by mid-semester.

You will be required to meet with the instructor twice in preparation for the Final Project to discuss strategies for a successful presentation and the language of your presentation. You will receive written feedback on your presentation both from the instructor and your fellow students at the end of the semester.

Statement on Brandeis Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person, be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner, without proper acknowledgement of that source.

Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section Three of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure of the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or dismissal from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor for clarification.

Notice of Accommodation
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.