



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

RUSS 400.2
Topics in Advanced Russian (Russian through film)
Russian and Soviet Science Fiction
Winter 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Hanna Chuchvaha

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD 327

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 10:00 – 11:00 am

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-5115

E-MAIL: hanna.chuchvaha@ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

Inspired by the ideas of Konstantin Tsiolkovskii and the belief in scientific progress, the long and incredibly rich tradition of Russian science fiction has been forming since the early 1920s. In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite and sent the first human into space in 1961. These events triggered the development of science fiction literature and cinema which continues to fascinate fans, critics, and scholars from around the world.

This course will be focused on screenings and discussions of Soviet and post-Soviet sci-fi films from the 1920s to contemporary. The students will explore the imaginations about space exploration and encounters with aliens, the beliefs in possibilities to create a superhuman and the existence of the supernatural, time travel and parallel worlds explained in the socio-historical context.

The course emphasizes all four language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

OBJECTIVES

Adopting a communicative approach, this course will place a particular strength on developing the students' ability to comprehend spoken language, to read, write, communicate and conduct meaningful conversations in the target language. The course highlights advanced cultural competence, intellectual curiosity towards other cultures, and teaches communicative proficiency in a cultural context.

OUTCOMES

Having completed this course, the students will be able to:

- 1) Express their opinion and preference and participate in discussions pertaining to abstract topics (for example, why one likes or dislikes a work of art);
- 2) Increase their exposure and ability to understand and use authentic cultural material;
- 2) Review and solidify their knowledge of various grammatical and syntactical areas of Russian, e.g. conditional and hypothetical constructions, complex sentences, etc.;
- 4) Recognize and use popular idioms within the boundaries of the material;
- 5) Recognize and understand cultural diversity, and engage in intercultural communication;
- 6) Develop successful language learning skills and the analytical skills applicable to language learning, enabling students to succeed in their future endeavours in foreign language learning;
- 7) Apply their knowledge of Russian language and culture to other disciplines and interdisciplinary projects.



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DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Class attendance/participation	15%
Homework	20%
Quizzes (3 x 5%)	15%
Midterm Translation	15%
Final Project	20%
Final Oral Presentation	15%

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100–97%	B+ = 85–81%	C+ = 70–67%	D+ = 57–54%
A = 96–91%	B = 80–76%	C = 66–62%	D = 53–50%
A - = 90–86%	B- = 75–71%	C- = 61–58%	F = 49% and below

REQUIRED TEXTS

All required materials from class, such as PowerPoints, handouts, web links, assignment guidelines, etc. will be available on-line (D2L).

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Benjamin Rifkin, Evgeny Dengub, and Susanna Nazarova, *PANORAMA. Intermediate Russian Language and Culture* (Georgetown University Press, 2017).
Anindita Banerjee (ed.), *Russian Science Fiction Literature and Cinema: A Critical Reader* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2018).

COURSE NOTES

Since a lot of the class time is devoted to films' screening and discussion, attendance is crucial for absorbing the material and getting the necessary practice in Russian. Active contribution to class discussions is encouraged.

Missed quizzes/assignments will result in the grade of 0. Please contact the instructor in advance if you cannot submit the work on time; legitimate requests will be accommodated if possible.

Please refer to D2L for all the information related to the dates for assignments and tests, as well as for the guidelines for the oral presentation and final project.

The presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the term.

Important deadlines will be posted on D2L.

There will be no final in-class examination.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or



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d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts.

The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk



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Location: Social Sciences Room 102
Phone: 403-220-3580
Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca
Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.