ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
German and Russian Film during the 1920s (GER/ RUSS 3339)
Fall 2017, MW 6:00 -7:30 P.M.,
Room: Academic 121

Instructor (German): Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch E-mail: emuelsch@angelo.edu
Office: A110E Phone: (325) 486-6163 Office Hours: MWF 1:00 -1:50 P.M. and MW 5:00-6:00 P.M. and by appointment
Instructor (Russian): Ewa Davis Email: edavis@angelo.edu
Office: A110H Phone: (325) 486-6161 Office Hours: MWF 8:30 -9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M. and by appointment

Required Texts

Beumers, Birgit, A History of Russian Cinema.

Recommended readings

Idea Form Objectives

Essential (E)
1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)

Important (I)
7. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual /cultural activity

Course Description
This course focuses on the history of German and Soviet film during the 1920s. Students will be familiarized with Expressionist Film and Revolutionary Cinema. Together we will explore Urban and Street Films and analyze narrative and documentary filming techniques in the Weimar Republic and in the early years of the Soviet Union. We will analyze the techniques and applications of film montage as they developed in the 1920s in both countries. The German-Russian film relations were marked by economic interests (Germany was the most important market for Soviet films, while German unexposed film was exported to the Soviet Union), but also by a distinctly political agenda. In this course, we will therefore put particular emphasis on the Russian-German film studios Mezhrabpom (“The Red Dream Factory”), which played an important role in developing genre films and Revolutionary Cinema for large audiences.
Goals
Upon completion of this course, students will have a better understanding of German and Russian cinema during the 1920s and the interrelation that existed between the two. Students will be able to view German and Soviet films and evaluate them under film technical, esthetic as well as socio-historical aspects.

Grading
Exams (2) 40%
Oral Presentation 10% (German and Russian minors will do this presentation in English)
Movie Reviews (2) 20%
Quizzes 20%
Attendance/Participation 10%

Grading Scale
A= 90-100%  B=80-89%  C=70-79%  D=60-69%  F=59 or less

Exams
There are two exams, clearly marked on the syllabus, a mid-term and a final. Russian minors will have to answer some of the questions in Russian. German minors will have to answer some of the questions in German.

Make-up work
If you miss the mid-term exam FOR ANY LEGITIMATE REASON (Angelo State University Undergraduate Bulletin online), you must contact us within two working days from the exam date or you will not be allowed to take the make-up test. No make-ups will be given for the final.

Quizzes
There will be four quizzes over the assigned homework, the readings and material covered in class. Russian minors will have to answer some of the questions in Russian. German minors will have to answer some of the questions in German. The quizzes are clearly marked on the syllabus.

Oral Presentation
Either by themselves or in groups of two, course participants are asked to do an oral presentation on one film not discussed in class. (You can find a list of possible films to choose from at the end of the syllabus). The presentation should provide a brief synopsis, information on the director and the actors, analysis of editing styles (supported through video clips from the film), filming techniques (supported through video clips for the film)
and a comment on the musical score (if musical score is available). The presentation should last 7-10 minutes.

Movie Reviews
Each student will be asked to write two reviews. The first review will be on a German film watched in class. The second review will be on a Russian film watched in class. We will discuss en détail what should be mentioned in the review. Each review should be one page long (Font 12, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1-inch margins). One page long means one page of text written (this does not include the title or the heading such as RUSS 3339 Professor Davis Fall Semester 2016 your name). Pages that do not fulfill this requirement will not be accepted and students will receive a grade of -0- for the review. Russian minors will write this review in Russian; German minors will write this review in German. All other course participants will write this review in English.

Plagiarism and any other form of cheating will not be tolerated. Assignments that are plagiarized will receive automatically the grade -0-.

Attendance
Regular and on-time class attendance is of the utmost importance in this class. Each student will be allowed two (2) absences. These absences can be either excused or unexcused. Each subsequent absence will result in 5% deduction on the attendance/participation grade. An absence is no excuse for not knowing the material or not handing in the assignments. If you cannot hand in an assignment, ask another person to bring your assignment to me or to put it into my mailbox in A110. It is your responsibility to verify your standing (attendance/grades/etc) should you have any questions.

Absence from Class for Religious Reasons
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Participation
In your own interest—participate in the class discussion. Classroom discussions are an important way to clarify concepts, develop, and express your own ideas about the films you have watched.

Office Hours
Office hours held are also for remedial purposes. Please contact me early on if material is unclear to you or if you have any other questions regarding the class.

ADA
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such
accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the ACADEMIC HONOR CODE, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

Cellular Phone Policy: Turn off all pagers, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices before entering the classroom.

Meeting Times /Assignments/ Screenings

August


September

4 Holiday

6 The beginnings of Russian cinema. Introduction to Kuleshov. Homework: Read Contextualizing Kuleshov’s Mr. West from the following site: https://easydb.angelo.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=31316523&site=eds-live

11 Kuleshov. *The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks* (1924) –Kuleshov effect

18 Wiene *Dr. Caligari* (1920) Homework: Read Elsaesser, “No End to *Nosferatu* (1922).” **First movie review is due.**

20 Analysis of *Dr. Caligari* and introduction to F.W. Murnau

25 *Nosferatu* (1922)


October


4 Eisenstein *Strike* (1924)

9 Eisenstein *Battleship Potemkin* (1925)

11 Mezhrabpom-Film and Prometheus. Homework: Read Alter, “Berlin, Symphony of a Great City (1927)”


18 Vertov, *The Man with the Movie Camera* (1929)

23 **Quiz 2** (Eisenstein, Ruttmann, Vertov) – Introduction to the German “Street Film” Homework: Read Hall, “Inflation and Devaluation: Gender, Space, and Economics in G.W. Pabst’s *The Joyless Street* (1925).”

25 G.W. *The Joyless Street* (1925)

30 **Mid-term**
November

1  Abram Room, *Third Meschanskaya Street* (1927)

3  **Last day to drop a course**

6  Discussion. Homework: Read Marc Silberman, “Whose Revolution? The Subject of *Kuhle Wampe*?”

8  Dudow/Brecht/Ottwald/Eisler, *Kuhle Wampe oder Wem gehört die Welt?* (1932)

13 Discussion. **Quiz 3** Homework: Read A *History of Russian Cinema*, pp. 57-59


20 Introduction to Fritz Lang. *M* (1931) Second **movie review is due.**

22 **No class –Happy Thanksgiving !!**

27 Fritz Lang *M* (1931)

29 **Quiz 4**

December

4  Discussion and Review

6  Final Exam.

11 **Presentations (8-10 P.M.)**

The following films can be used as a topic for presentation:

Fritz Lang *Dr. Marbuse, the Gambler* (1922)

Fritz Lang *Metropolis* (1927)
F.W. Murnau *The Last Laugh* (1924)

F.W. Murnau *Faust* (1926)

Phil Jutzi *Mother Krause’s Journey to Happiness* (1929)

S. Eisenstein *October* (1927)

S. Eisenstein *The General Line* (1929)

L. Kuleshov *The Project of Engineer Prite* (1918)

V. Pudovkin *Storm over Asia* (1928)

This syllabus is subject to change.