

RUSS 219

Soviet/Russian Film

Propaganda and Alterity

Survey of Class, Gender, and Race

Spring 2026

MW: 2:00-3:20

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Eisenstein! Dziga Vertov! Dovzhenko!

Revolutionary masterpieces, unforgettable heroes, terrifying enemies—all propaganda!

Can cinema make us love heroes, hate enemies, and believe in a political vision?

From the Bolshevik Revolution to Putin's Russia, this course explores how Soviet and post-Soviet cinema turns art into political persuasion. From Eisenstein's revolutionary masterpieces to contemporary films, we will examine not only what films tell us, but how they make us believe it—through montage, camera work, sound, and visual storytelling. We will compare how filmmakers construct heroes and enemies, represent the Other through race, class, and gender, and adapt their messages to changing political agendas.

Join us to discover the masterpieces of Soviet and post-Soviet cinema, uncover the secrets of cinematic propaganda, and learn to see beyond the magic of the screen!