

Fall 2002

The Cold War On Film

Slavic 319: Studies in Russian and East European Cinema
[Cine 319/Comm 319/SPComm 319
Meets with Comp Lit 371. Sec. B]



US: *Ninotchka, Invasion of the Body Snatchers, The Manchurian Candidate, From Russia, With Love, Dr. Strangelove*

Them: *Circus, Soy, Cuba/I Am Cuba, Solaris, Incident at Map Grid 36-80, Brother 2*

Plus: *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold and Omon Ra*

Professor Lilya Kaganovsky
MW 1:00-2:50, 106B6 Engineering Hall

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Fall 2002
MW 1:00-2:50, 106B6 Engineering Hall

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will bring together two bitter enemies—the Soviet Union and the United States—in one final battle of the Cold War. Like the actual Cold War, this one will be fought mostly through rhetoric: by examining cinematic, literary, and cultural texts of the two Super Powers we will ask questions about ideology, difference, and paranoia that polarized the twentieth century and divided every nation into an “us” and a “them.” With the Soviet Union’s collapse at the end of the twentieth century and with the emergence of the US as an unchallenged victor and Hegemon of the new world, we have lost the sense of majesty and terror that spy-mania, the atom bomb, and witch trials (both here and there) inspired in the citizens of both nations. In this course we will try to understand what it was like to simultaneously fear and be irresistibly drawn to “the other.” And we will ask: do we have nostalgia for the Cold War? Was life more thrilling then, then now?

The class format will be lecture/discussion, with emphasis placed on student attendance and participation. Formal requirements for the course are:

Undergraduate:

Two 5-7 page papers	25% each
10-12 page Final Paper	40%
Attendance & Participation	10%

Graduate:

Seminar Paper, 15-25 pages,
due at the end of the semester

II. COLD WAR TEXTS

Films (on reserve at the Undergraduate Library Media Center):

US:

Ninotchka (Ernst Lubitsch, 1939)
Invasion of the Body Snatchers (Don Siegal, 1956)
Red Nightmare (George Waggner, 1962)
The Manchurian Candidate (John Frankenheimer, 1962)
From Russia, With Love (Terence Young, 1963)
Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb
(Stanley Kubrick, 1964)

Them:

Circus (Grigorii Alexandrov, 1936)
Soy, Cuba/I, Cuba (Mikheil Kalatozishvili [Mikhail Kalatozov], 1964)
Solaris (Andrei Tarkovsky, 1972)
Incident at Map Grid 36-80 (Mikhail Tumanishvili, 1983)
Brother 2 (Aleksei Balabanov, 2000)

Documentaries:

East Side Story (Dana Ranga, 1997)
Atomic Café (Kevin Rafferty, Jayne Loader & Pierce Rafferty, 1982)
Disgraced Monuments (Mark Lewis & Laura Mulvey, 1993)

Reading:

Novels (University of Illinois bookstore):

John Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* (1963)
Victor Pelevin, *Omon Ra* (1998)

History (University of Illinois bookstore):

Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End* (2001)
Stephen Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War* (1992)

Course Packet (Notes-n-Quotes):

Richard Dyer, "Entertainment and Utopia"
Ayn Rand's HUAC testimony
Abram Tertz [Andrei Sinyavsky], "Pkhentz"
Glan Johnson, "We'd fight... We had to: *The Body Snatchers* as Novel and Film"
Peter Biskind, "Pods, Blobs, and Ideology in American Films of the 50s"
Alexander Solzhenitsyn, "Incident at Krechetovka Station"
Robert Conquest, "The Great Trial" from *The Great Terror*
Waldorf Statement, December 3, 1947
Walt Disney's HUAC testimony, 1947
The Ager Hiss Case, 1948
Senator Joseph McCarthy, "Speech at Wheeling, West Virginia, February 9, 1950"
Betty Friedan, "The problem that has no name" and "The happy housewife heroine"
from *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963
John Marks, from *The Search for the Manchurian Candidate*, 1979
Paul Kattenbrug, "MAD is the Moral Position"
Jack Greene, "Humanity Can Survive a Nuclear War"
Herman Kahn, "Some Questions and Answers" from *On Thermonuclear War*

III. CLASS SCHEDULE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Introduction: The Dreams and Nightmares of the Cold War

08/28 Introduction

09/2 Labor Day

09/4 *Red Nightmare* (Waggner, 1962)
Whitfield, Chapter 1

Entertainment & Utopia

09/9 *Circus* (Alexandrov, 1936)

09/11 Dyer, "Entertainment and Utopia" [R]
Kenez, Chapters 2 & 5

09/16 *Ninotchka* (Lubitsch, 1939)

09/18 Whitfield, Chapters 2 & 3
Ayn Rand's HUAC testimony [R]

Alien Invaders

09/23 *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (Siegal, 1956)

09/25 Tertz, "Pkhentz" [R]
Johnson, "We'd fight... We had to: *The Body Snatchers* as Novel and Film"
[R]

Biskind, "Pods, Blobs, and Ideology in American Films of the 50s" [R]

09/30 *Solaris* (Tarkovsky, 1972)

10/2 *Solaris*, cont.
Kenez, Chapter 6 & 7
First Paper Due

Spy-Mania

10/7 *Incident at Map Grid 36-80* (Tumanishvili, 1983)

10/9 Solzhenitsyn, "Incident at Krechetovka Station" [R]
Conquest, "The Great Trial" [R]

10/14 *From Russia With Love* (Young, 1963)

10/16 Whitfield, Chapters 5 & 6
Waldorf Statement, December 3, 1947 [R]
Walt Disney's HUAC testimony, 1947 [R]
The Ager Hiss Case, 1948 [R]
Senator Joseph McCarthy, "Speech at Wheeling, West Virginia, February 9, 1950" [R]

No-Man's Land

10/21 *East Side Story* (Ranga, 1997)

10/23 Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*, Ch. 1-11

10/28 *Soy, Cuba/I, Cuba* (Kalatozishvili, 1964)

10/30 Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*, Chapters 12-25

11/4 *The Manchurian Candidate* (Frankenheimer, 1962)

11/6 Friedan, "The problem that has no name" and "The happy housewife heroine" [R]

Marks, *The Search for the Manchurian Candidate*, Chapters 2, 8, 11, from

<http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/lsd/marks.htm> [R]

Second Paper Due

Space, The Final Frontier

11/11 *Atomic Café* (Rafferty, Loader & Rafferty, 1982)

11/13 Kenez, Chapters 8 & 9

Paul Kattenbrug, "MAD is the Moral Position" [R]

Jack Greene, "Humanity Can Survive a Nuclear War" [R]

Herman Kahn, "Some Questions and Answers" from *On Thermonuclear War* [R]

11/18 *Dr. Strangelove* (Kubrick, 1964)

11/20 Pelevin, *Omon Ra*, pp.1-70

11/25 **Thanksgiving**

11/27 **Thanksgiving**

After

12/2 *Disgraced Monuments* (Lewis & Mulvey, 1993)

12/4 Pelevin, *Omon Ra*, pp. 71-154

Sots-Art sites:

<http://www.stanford.edu/~gfreidin/courses/147/sotsart/sotsart.htm>

<http://www-tech.mit.edu/V110/N48/sov.48a.html>

12/9 *Brother 2* (Balabanov, 2000)

12/11 Conclusions

Whitfield, Chapter 9

12/16 **Final Papers Due by 4PM in 3092 Foreign Languages Building**