

RUSS 323A Russian and Soviet Science Fiction

This course will explore the rich science fiction tradition in Russia and Eastern Europe. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century writers described visions of utopia and fantastic voyages to the moon, but in the twentieth century, which saw extreme scientific and technological advances, the intensity of modern war and the pressure of the Cold War space race, and the establishment of the Eastern bloc, science fiction came into its own. In this class we will read a sampling of texts and watch films adapted from some of the greatest Russian and Eastern European science fiction writing of the twentieth century and delve into works by authors who are emerging as some of the most important of the twenty-first century.