

Fall 2015

Syllabus for SLA165, From Russia with Love: Russian Visual and Musical Culture

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Recommended Citation

Ivanov, Petko, "Syllabus for SLA165, From Russia with Love: Russian Visual and Musical Culture" (2015). *Slavic Studies Course Materials*. Paper 4.

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Connecticut College
SLA / Music 165 (Fall 2015)



Vitaly Komar & Alexander Melamid "Lenin Hails a Cab" (1993)

From Russia with Love
Russian Visual & Musical Culture

Prof. Petko Ivanov

SLA / Music 165

From Russia with Love

Russian Visual & Musical Culture

Fall 2015, Tuesday/Thursday 10:25–11:40
Blaustein 206



Instructor: Petko Ivanov

Blaustein 330, x5449, pivanov@conncoll.edu

Office hours: T R 11:45-12:45 and by appointment

Course Description

SLAVIC STUDIES 165 Analysis of the sounds and images that Russians live by, from classical repertoires to popular culture: theater and ballet, circus and pop-music, cinéma vérité, posters, photography, architecture, folk and religious art. The course advances Russian cultural literacy essential for successful intercultural communication for students of Russian, and provides a critical introduction to Russian musical and visual culture for students of music and art history. Students participating in the foreign language section will receive one additional credit hour, pass/not passed marking.

SLAVIC STUDIES 165f (In Russian) This optional section will meet for an additional hour each week to discuss supplemental readings in Russian. Students participating in the foreign language section will receive one additional credit hour, pass/not passed marking. Students electing Course 165f must concurrently enroll in Slavic Studies 165.

Course Materials

All texts and materials for this course (academic articles, book chapters, links to video clips, pictorial objects, discussion board, etc.) are available through the course **Moodle site** (<http://moodle.conncoll.edu>) which you should visit frequently as the week's readings will be posted there. The main reference book for the course, also available through Moodle, is Eloise Boyle & Genevra Gerhart, eds. "The Russian Context: The Culture behind the Language" (2002). You are expected to have read all assigned texts *before* the class in which they will be discussed, and to be sufficiently familiar with their content to participate actively in the discussion.

Web sources:

Russian Painting (<http://myweb.rollins.edu/aboguslawski/Ruspaint/ruspaint.html>), maintained by Alexander Boguslawski. Reproductions of paintings combined with artists' biographies and discussions of particular works, schools, movements, and styles. Provides bibliographical references and links to related sites.

Amazons of the Avant-Garde (<http://www.newyorkartworld.com/reviews/amazons.html>) by Donald Goddard. The site is devoted to Russian women artists (Natalia Goncharova, Liubov Popova, Varvara Stepanova, etc).

Plakat.Ru (<http://www.plakat.ru/Catalog/cat1.htm>) A Collection of Soviet and Russian political posters, postcards, etc.

Sov-Art Collection (<http://www.sov-art.com/>). A Collection of pictures created by Soviet artists during the period 1950's -1960's.

Sots-Art (<http://www.komarandmelamid.org/>) The website represents selected chronology and images from Komar and Melamid's art studio archive, 1972-2003.

Art in Russia (<http://artinrussia.org/>) A division of The School of Russian and Asian Studies (SRAS), ARTINRUSSIA is dedicated to helping artists develop their personal practice through the educational opportunities of Russia and Eurasia.

Views and Re-Views (http://library.brown.edu/cds/Views_and_Reviews/) Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons.

Monoskop (<http://monoskop.org/Russia>) is a wiki for art, culture and media technology.

Sergei Eisenstein's Theory of Montage (<http://ewaneumann.com/websites/eisenstein/index.html>), designed by Ewa Neumann (2011).

Music under Soviet Rule (<http://www.siue.edu/~aho/musov/contents.html>) A WWW Resource compiled by Ian MacDonald, with an especially rich "Shostakovichiana."

Evaluation and Grading

Attendance and active participation are required at all class meetings and are preconditions for passing the course. There are 28 class meetings during the semester, and students who have not attended them cannot be considered as having completed the course. Students with more than one absence will have their final grades lowered, with multiple absences resulting in a significant lowering of the final grade.

There will be three 3-page writing assignments for this course, to be completed in the 5th, 9th and 14th weeks of classes. Each student is expected to deliver a 10-minute in-class presentation on a topic chosen in consultation with me. Attendance in class is mandatory. Participation in class discussion is crucial and will count heavily toward your final grade, which will be earned as a composite of your performance in the following areas:

Written assignments	40%
Participation in class	30%
In-class presentation	30%

RESOURCES

The Language and Culture Center (LCC) is located on the first floor of Blaustein, across from Ernst Common Room. The LCC provides students with access to a variety of materials including international magazines and films, dictionaries, and books on language learning and foreign cultures. It contains comfortable media viewing lounges equipped with multiregional DVD players and VCRs, a booth for recording audio and practicing pronunciation and speaking, a media creation booth for editing projects with iMovie and Final Cut Express, and computer stations for individual study or group work. If you are looking for a particular language-related resource, assistance installing foreign keyboards, or advice on supplementing your language study with out-of-class practice, please stop by the LCC and talk to Laura Little, who manages the Center. She can also be reached at x5387 or laura.little@conncoll.edu.

The Roth Writing Center provides one-to-one peer tutoring (free of charge) to help student writers of all abilities during all stages of the writing process. To make an appointment, call x2173 or stop by the Writing Center at 214 Blaustein. If you're a confident, experienced writer we can help you to push your ideas and polish your style; if you're a relatively inexperienced and not-so-confident writer we can also help you, by working on grammar or organization or whatever you need. Writing Center tutors are trained to help you to discover what you think through writing. Working with a tutor gives you the opportunity to share your work-in-progress with an actual reader, so that you can get useful feedback on that work *before* you have to turn it in for a final grade. For further information, visit <http://write.conncoll.edu/>.

Office of Student Disability. If you have a physical or mental disability, either hidden or visible, which may require classroom, test-taking, or other reasonable modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please be sure to register with the Office of Student Disability Services. You can do so by going to the Office of Student Disability Services which is located in Crozier Williams, Room 221, or by contacting the Office at Campus Ext. 5428 or 5240, or by email to barbara.mcllarky@conncoll.edu or lillian.liebenthal@conncoll.edu.

The Connecticut College Honor Code. Academic integrity is of the utmost importance in maintaining the high standards of scholarship in our community. Academic dishonesty is considered to be a serious offense against the community and represents a significant breach of trust between the professor, the classmates, and the student. There are many forms of academic dishonesty including plagiarism, submitting the same work in two courses without prior approval, unauthorized discussion or distribution of exams or assignments, and offering or receiving unauthorized aid on exams or graded assignments. Students violating the Honor Code may be referred to the college's Honor Council for resolution.

Office Hours and Advising. Office hours will be held in Blaustein 330 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45-12:45 or by appointment. Sign-up sheets will be posted on my door, and I will see students on a first-come-first-serve basis. Questions or concerns addressed via e-mail will be answered within 24 hours of receiving your message.



Sergei Bugaev-Afrika "Anti-Lissitzky Green" (1990)

Tentative Class Schedule

Sept. 3 ***Course Introduction***
Short Description of Each Project

In class: Name five Russian composers, painters, actors, movie makers

Reading (in class):

Tony Schirato & Jen Webb “Reading the Visual” (2004) Ch.1

Richard Taruskin “Some Thoughts on the History and Historiography of Russian Music” (1984)

Task for Thursday: Find on the Internet 3 representative Russian images and prepare a short description of each of them

Sept. 8/10 ***Images Russians Live By***
Visual Culture I: Icons; Лубок; Передвижники

Readings:

Pavel Florensky “The Church Ritual as a Synthesis of the Arts” (1922)

Rosalinde Sartorti “Pictures at an Exhibition: Russian Land in a Global World” (2010)

Optional:

Boris Uspensky “The Semiotics of the Russian Icon” (1976) excerpt

Clemena Antonova “Space, Time, and Presence in the Icon” (2010) Ch.2 “On Reverse Perspective: A Critical Reading”

Lindsey Hughes “Inventing Andrei: Soviet and Post-Soviet Views of Andrei Rublev and his Trinity Icon” (2003)

José Alaniz “Komiks: Comic Art in Russia” (2010) Ch.1 “*Lubok* and the Prerevolutionary Era”

Richard Pipes “Russia’s Itinerant Painters” (2011)

Jeffrey Brooks “The Russian Nation Imagined: The Peoples of Russia as Seen in Popular Imagery, 1860-1890s” (2010)

Video Clip: “Andrei Rublev” (dir. Andrei Tarkovsky, 1966) “The Andrei Passion, 1406”

Sept. 15/17 *Sounds Russians Live By*
Musical Culture I: Glinka; the Mighty Handful; Tchaikovsky

Readings:

Marina Frolova-Walker “Russian Music and Nationalism: From Glinka to Stalin” (2007) Ch.2 “The Pushkin and Glinka Mythologies”

Nancy Bricard, ed. “Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition” (2002) Intro

Optional:

Boris Gasparov “Five Operas and a Symphony: Word and Music in Russian Culture” (2005) Intro; Ch.1 “On Russian National Musical Style”

Francis Maes “A History of Russian Music: From Kamarinskaya to Babi Yar” (2002) Intro: “Natasha’s Dance, or Musical Nationalism”

Caryl Emerson “The Life of Mussorgsky” (1999) Ch. “The Mussorgsky Problem”

Michael Russ “Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition” (1992)

Audio: Mikhail Glinka “Susanin: A Life For The Tsar” (1836) Chorus “Glory!”

Modest Mussorgsky “Pictures at an Exhibition” (1874) “The Old Kiev Gate”

Piotr Tchaikovsky “1812 Overture” (1880) Finale

Video: “The Composer Glinka” (dir. G. Aleksandrov, 1952) fragments

Мультфильм “Картинки с выставки” (dir. I. Kovalevskaya, 1984)

Russian TV “The August Putsch: Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake” (1991)

Sept.22/24 *Images Russians Live By*
Visual Culture II: “Мир Искусства”; Silver Age; Avant-Garde

Readings:

Vasilii Kandinsky “Content and Form” (1910); “Concerning the Spiritual in Art” (1912)

Kazimir Malevich “From Cubism and Futurism to Suprematism: The New Painterly Realism” (1915)

Optional:

John Bowlt, ed. “Russian Art of the Avant-Garde: Theory and Criticism, 1902-1934 (1976) excerpts

Camilla Gray “The Russian Experiment in Art 1863-1922” (1962) Ch.4

Vladimir Mayakovsky & El Lissitzky “Для голоса / For the Voice” (1923)

Valerie Kivelson & Joan Neuberger “Picturing Russia: Explorations in Visual Culture” (2008) excerpts

Bella Chagall “Burning Lights. [With] 36 Drawings by Marc Chagall” (1946)

Paintings: Mikhail Vrubel’; Boris Kustodiev; Pavel Filonov; Marc Chagall

Video: “Kandinsky Drawing” (Documentary, 1926)

“Черный квадрат Казимира Малевича” (TV Documentary, 2006)

Audio: Alexei Kruchenykh “Victory Over the Sun: Cubo-Futurist Opera” (1913)

Мультимедиа: “Страсти по Шагалау” (dir. A. Melnikov, 2006)

Video Clip: “Fiddler on the Roof” (dir. Norman Jewison, 1971) Opening scene

Sept. 29/Oct.1 *Transrational Poetry: Russian Futurism*

Readings:

Anna Lawton, ed. “Russian Futurism through Its Manifestoes, 1912-1928” (1988)

Gerald Janeczek “Zaum: The Transrational Poetry of Russian Futurism” (1996)

Intro: “Zaum: A Definition”

Optional:

D. Burluk, V. Kandinsky et al. “A Slap in the Face of Public Taste” (1912)

G.I. Vinokur “The Futurists: Constructors of Language” (1923)

Alexei Kruchenykh & Roman Jakobson “Заумная книга / Transrational Blog” (1916)

Ellendea & Carl Proffer, eds. “The Ardis Anthology of Russian Futurism” (1980)
Khlebnikov’s “Incantation by Laughter” (1910)

Vladimir Markov “Russian Futurism: A History” (1968) Ch.4

Film: “Барышня и хулиган” (Vladimir Mayakovsky, 1918) fragments

“Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer” (HBO documentary, 2012) excerpts

Oct. 6/8 *Russian Formalism: The Main Texts*
Gogol’s “The Overcoat”

Readings:

Viktor Shklovsky “Art as Technique” (1917)

Boris Eikhenbaum “How Gogol's Overcoat Is Made” (1919)

Nikolai Gogol “The Overcoat” (1841)

Optional:

- Roman Jakobson “The Dominant” (1921)
 Roman Jakobson “On a Generation that Squandered Its Poets” (1930)
 Petr Bogatyrëv & Roman Jakobson “Folklore as a Special Form of Creativity”
 (1929)
 Vladimir Propp “Morphology of the Folktale” (1928; 1968) Ch.2-3
 Victor Erlich “Russian Formalism” (1973)

Мультимедиа: “The Overcoat,” dir. Yurii Norshtein (1981 – unfinished)

Oct. 13/15/22 *Sounds Russians Live By****Musical Culture II: Modernism; Music under Stalin****Readings:*

- Igor Stravinsky “Poetics of Music in the Form of Six Lessons” (1947) Ch.5
 Sergei Prokofiev “Prokofiev Explains” (1948)
 Solomon Volkov, ed. “Testimony: The Memoirs of Dmitri Shostakovich as
 Related to Solomon Volkov” (1979) pp. 3-31; 105-153; 245-276

Optional:

- Piero Weiss & Richard Taruskin, eds. “Music in the Western World: A History in
 Documents” (1984) Pt. 129 “The Rite of Spring” (Stravinsky); Pt.147 “A
 Composer on Trial” (Prokofiev)
 Alex Ross “The Art of Fear: Music in Stalin’s Russia” (2007)
 Simon Morrison “The People’s Artist: Prokofiev’s Soviet Years” (2008) Intro:
 “Moscow’s Celebrity Composer”
 Marina Frolova-Walker & Jonathan Walker “Music and Soviet Power 1917-
 1932” (2012), pp.331-334 (on Shostakovich’s “Lady Macbeth of the
 Mtsensk District”)
 Nikolai Leskov “Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk District” (1865)
 Laurel E. Fay “Shostakovich Versus Volkov: Whose Testimony?” (1980) In: Malcolm
 Brown, ed. “A Shostakovich Casebook” (2004)

Video: “Sergei Diaghilev’s *Ballets Russes: Le Sacre du Printemps*” (2009) fragments

Audio: Igor Stravinsky “Rite of Spring” (1913) Pt I. “Adoration of the Earth” Intro

Sergei Prokofiev “Soundtrack to *Alexander Nevsky*,” dir. Sergei Eisenstein (1938)

Dmitri Shostakovich “Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk” (1934) “Interlude III”

Film: “The War Symphonies: Shostakovich against Stalin” (dir. Larry Weinstein, 1997)

Oct. 27/29 ***Images Russians Live By***
Visual Culture III: The Poster Universe; Sots-Art

Readings:

Victoria E. Bonnell “Iconography of Power: Soviet Political Posters under Lenin and Stalin” (1998) Ch.4 “Iconography of the Vozhd”

Nikolai Punin “The Monument to the 3rd International” (1920) on Vladimir Tatlin

Margarita Tupitsyn “Sots-Art: The Russian Deconstructivist Force” (1986)

Optional:

Richard Stites “Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Vision and Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution” (1988) Ch.4 “Festivals of the People”

David King “Red Star Over Russia: A Visual History of the Soviet Union” (2008)

Christina Lodder “Russian Constructivism” (1983) Ch. 5-6

Catherine Cooke “Socialist Realist Architecture: Theory and Practice” (1993)

Katerina Clark “The Soviet Novel: History as Ritual” (1985) Ch. 1 “What Socialist Realism Is [...]”

Daniil Kharms “Mini-Stories” (1930s); “Father and Daughter” (1936)

Yurii Levin “The Semiotics of Soviet Slogans” (1980) in Russian

Nancy Condee “Sots-Art, Conceptualism, and Russian Postmodernism” (2000)

Dmitri Prigov “Стихограммы / Versographies” (1985; tr. by Kristin Reed)

USSR Pictorial: “600 плакатов / 600 Posters” (2003)

Case Study: Дмитрий Моор “Ты записался добровольцем?” (1920)

Звуковой плакат: “Мечта Ильича сбывается” (Кржижановский, 1920)

Short film: “Interplanetary Revolution,” dir. Zenon Komissarenko (1924)

Nov. 3/5 ***The Propaganda State***
Documentaries, Photography, TV

Readings:

Aleksandr Rodchenko “Against the Synthetic Portrait, For the Snap-Shot” (1928)

Dziga Vertov “We: Variant of a Manifesto” (1922)

“Kino-Eye: The Writings of Dziga Vertov” (ed. Annette Michelson, 1984) pp. 33-42; 283-296

Optional:

Peter Kenez “The Birth of the Propaganda State” (1985) Intro & Conclusions

David King “The Commissar Vanishes: The Falsification of Photographs and Art in Stalin Russia” (1997), pp. 9-13 & selected photographs

Stephen C. Hutchings “Television and the Invention of a Russian (Media) Tradition” (2008)

Film screening: “The Man with the Movie Camera,” dir. Dziga Vertov (1928)

TV Advertisement: “Поющая кукуруза” (1950s)

Video Clips: “Куклы” (2000); “Хрюн и Степан” (2003); “Мульт личности” (2009)

Nov. 10/12 ***Sounds Russians Live By***
Musical Culture III: Эстрада / Rock around the (Soviet) Bloc

Readings:

David MacFadyen “Red Stars: Personality and the Soviet Popular Song, 1955-1991” (2001) Ch.8 “Alla Pugacheva”

Jeremy Morris “Elevating Verka Serdiuchka” (2011)

Optional:

David MacFadyen “Songs for Fat People: [...] the Russian Popular Song, 1900-1955” (2003) Ch.5 “Leonid Utesov and Odessa Jazz”

David MacFadyen “Estrada: Grand Narratives and the Philosophy of the Russian Popular Song since Perestroika” (2002)

Polly McMichael “*Roksi* and the Creation of the Soviet Rock Musician” (2005) (on Grebenshchikov)

Mark Edele “The Birth and Life of the Stiliagi, 1945-1953” (2002)

Catriona Kelly “St. Petersburg: Shadows of the Past” (2014) Ch.7 “From North to Saigon” (on Viktor Tsoi)

David-Emil Wickstrom “‘Okna otroi!’ [...] The St. Petersburg Popular Music Scene” (2011) Ch.7 “Popular music and ideas of the Russian nation”

Case-Study: “Ziganshin Boogie, Ziganshin Rock around the Clock” (1960)

Мультмик: “Старая пластинка” (dir. Viacheslav Kotenochkin, 1982)

Sounds of the Soviet Union (available at <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/sounds/>)

Nov. 17/19 ***Who Is Afraid of Stanislavsky? Russian Theater***

Readings:

Konstantin Stanislavsky “An Actor’s Work” (1936/1953) Ch.3 “Action, ‘If’, ‘Given Circumstances’”

Edward Braun, ed. “Meyerhold on Theatre” (1969) Ch. “Biomechanics” (1922)

Sergei Eisenstein “The Montage of Attractions” (1923)

Optional:

David Magarshack, ed. “Stanislavsky on the Art of the Stage” (1961), pp. 90-97

Laurence Senelick “Stanislavsky's Double Life in Art” (1981)

Sharon Marie Carnicke “20th Century Actor Training: Stanislavsky’s System: Pathways for the Actor” (2000)

Robert Leach “20th Century Actor Training: Meyerhold & Biomechanics” (2000)

David Bordwell “The Idea of Montage in Soviet Art and Film” (1972)

Video Clip: “Станиславский на репетиции спектакля Тартюф” (Documentary, 1938)

“Биомеханика” (dir. Vsevolod Meyerhold, 1922)

“Glumov’s Diary” (dir. Sergei Eisenstein, 1923)

Radio Play: Nikolai Erdman “The Suicide” (1928; banned 1932)

Dec. 1/3 ***Putin and Rasputin***
Art Protest & (Postmodern) Dictatorship in Russia

Readings:

Priscilla Johnson, ed. “Khrushchev and the Arts” (1965) Pt. “On Modern Art”

Helena Goscilo “The Ultimate Celebrity [Putin]” (2011)

Anna Politkovskaya “Akaky Akakievich Putin” (2007)

Optional:

Mark Bassin “‘I Object to Rain that is Cheerless’: Landscape Art and the Stalinist Aesthetic Imagination” (2000)

Alexander Gleser, ed. “Art under Bulldozers” (1977) (in Russian) excerpt

Nancy Condee & Vladimir Padunov “The ABC of Russian Consumer Culture” (1995)

José Alaniz “Komiks: Comic Art in Russia” (2010) Ch.6 “New Komiks for the New Russians”

Mischa Gabowitsch “Putting Out Putin: Russia’s New Protest Movement” (2013) Ch.5 “Protest and Curiosity” (in German)

Birgit Menzel “Glamour Russian Style: The Putin Era” (2013)

Film screening: “Namedni: God 1962,” dir. Leonid Parfenov (2003)

Comics: Katya Metelitsa “Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy” (2000)

Coda: The Depardieu Affair: Clip from “Rasputin” (2013)

Dec. 8 ***“Fizkul’tura”: Sport and Spectacle in Russia****Readings:*

Robert Edelman “Serious Fun: A History of Spectator Sports in the USSR (1993)

Barbara Keys “Soviet Sport and Transnational Mass Culture in the 1930s” (2003)

Martin Müller, ed. “Sochi and the 2014 Olympics” (2013) excerpts

Optional:

Garry Whannel “Nations, Identities, Celebrities, and Bodies” (2008)

John N. Washburn “Sport as a Soviet Tool” (1956)

Liubov Borusiak “Soccer as a Catalyst of Patriotism [in Russia]” (2009)

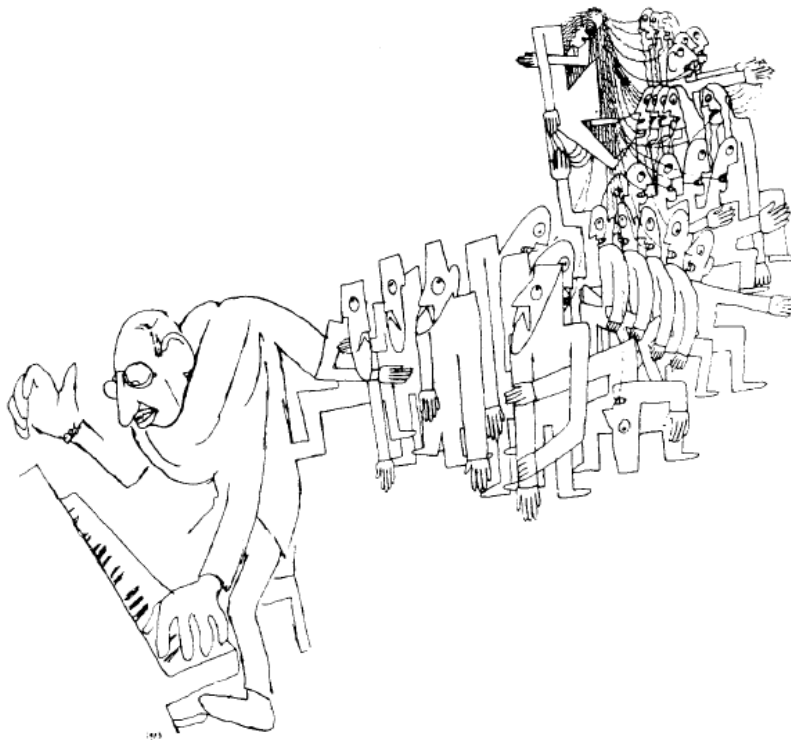
Jackie Hogan “Staging the Nation: Gendered and Ethnicized Discourses of National Identity in Olympic Opening Ceremonies” (2003)

Film screening: “Sochi Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony” (2014)

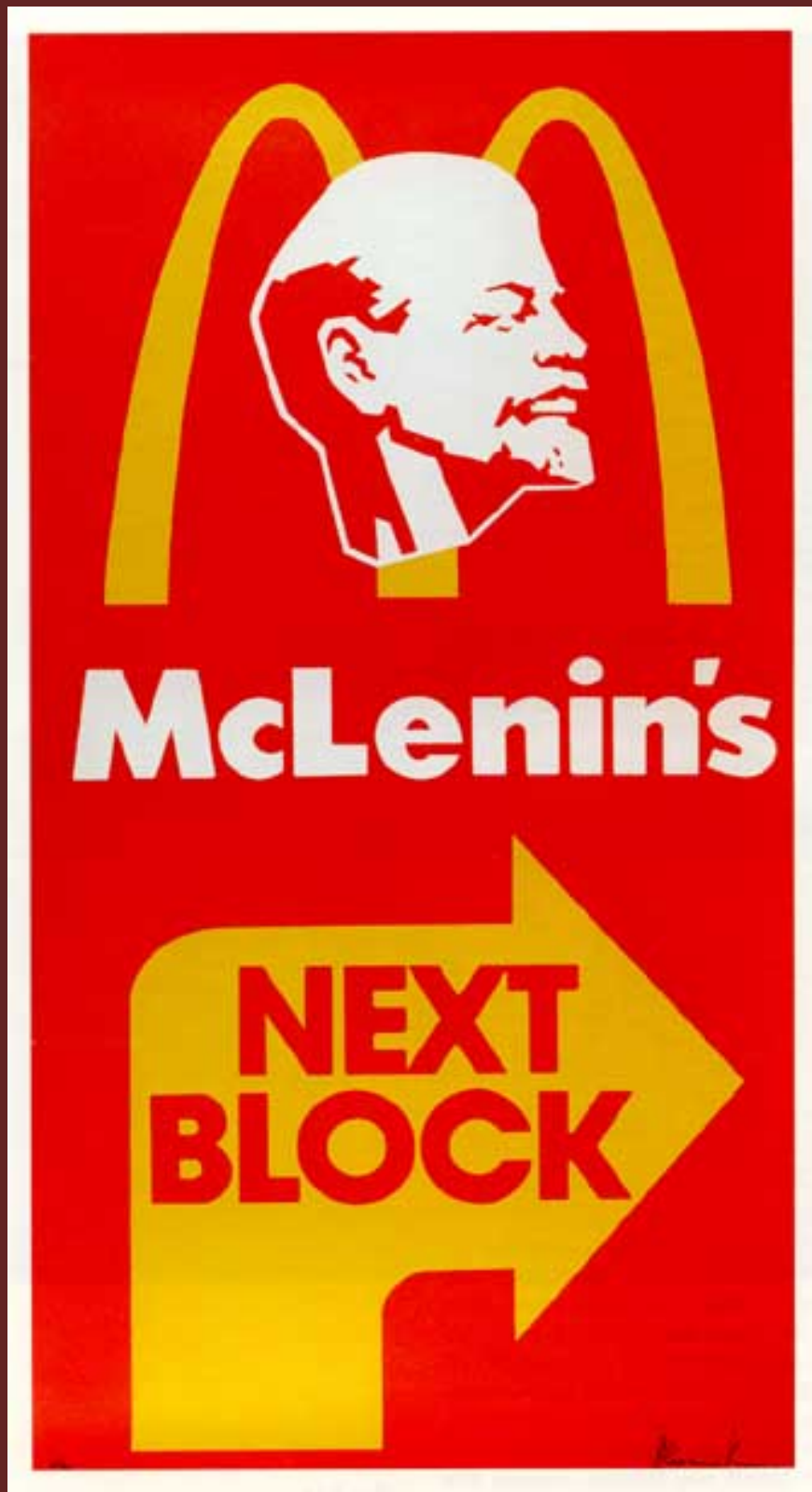
“Putin's Games” (2014) fragments

Dec. 10/15 ***In-class presentations***

Dec. 22 *FINAL PAPERS due by noon*



Jean Cocteau “Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring*” (1913)



Alexander Kosolapov "McLenin's - Next Block" (1990)

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