

Module Title: Contemporary Post-Soviet Documentary

Module Code: RUS5071

Credit Value: 15

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module invites students to analyse and compare recent documentary films from countries who were part of the Soviet Union until 1991. Topics include memory and reflection on the Soviet legacy and enduring Russian influence, migration and exile, revolution and conflict. Students will place the films in the context of the possibilities of the documentary form and the historical, social and political issues the films address, drawing on theoretical perspectives from memory studies, postcolonial theory and gender.

Module Aims

1. To provide a comparative overview of trends in contemporary documentary film in former Soviet countries.
2. To introduce students to the debates surrounding documentary films and to sensitise them to the contributions they made to discussions of the political and social issues .
3. To equip students with key theoretical, critical, and analytical tools to analyse cultural discourses, their forms and functions in social, political and historical contexts.
4. To develop a comparative understanding of the culture of former Soviet countries.
5. To encourage the development of essay writing skills
6. To foster the development of reading and aural comprehension skills in Russian for students pursuing a Russian honours degree.