

Monday and Tuesday lectures are in Orchestra Hall, and Wednesday and Thursday lectures are in Chautauqua Hall.

Russia Today

10:30 a.m., Monday: The Cold War is Over... Now What? with Michael Grossman, PhD (Orchestra Hall)

When the Cold War ended, many anticipated that the competition between the U.S. and Russia would be consigned to the dustbin of history, and up until 1995, this certainly seemed to be the case. Under the presidency of Boris Yeltsin, Russia seemed to align with U.S. national interests and embrace U.S. priorities for the world. But by 1996, this all changed. With the expansion of NATO, the U.S. involvement in the war in the former Yugoslavia, as well as the failure of economic reforms (which, for many Russians, were closely linked with U.S. advisors) led to increased skepticism about U.S. intentions. As Russians began to question their relationship with the U.S., the Kremlin adopted a policy that was far less accommodating of U.S. interests. This led to increased distrust between the U.S. and Russia, which reached its ultimate low point after the election of Vladimir Putin. This lecture will examine the development of Russian-American relations since the end of the Cold War, focusing on the major factors and events that brought the two countries to what many now consider a new Cold War.

Michael Grossman received his bachelor's degree in international affairs at George Washington University, master's degree in political science at Northeastern University and a PhD in international relations at the University of South Carolina. His dissertation focused on "Identity, Rhetoric and Behavior in Post-Soviet Russia and Ukraine." He is currently an associate professor of political science and international studies at the University of Mount Union where has taught courses in world politics, comparative politics, post-Soviet politics, U.S. foreign policy and terrorism. He has published and presented frequently on Russia and Ukraine.

His forthcoming publication is titled *The Presidency of Barack Obama: Legacy & Policy*. In 2009, Grossman wrote the book *Perspectives on the Legacy of George W. Bush*.

1:30 p.m., Monday: A New Cold War? U.S.-Russian Relations after the Ukraine Crisis with Michael Grossman, PhD (Orchestra Hall)

Since the overthrow of Ukrainian president Yanukovich and the subsequent events including Russia's annexation of Crimea, the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine and Russia's involvement in Syria, it seems U.S.-Russian relations have taken a sharp turn for the worst. As both sides continue to take provocative counter-measures, many fear we may be seeing the return of the Cold War. But, are we? The current crisis in U.S.-Russian relations, while tense, is not a Cold War. Rather, it may, in fact, be far more unstable. While high tensions characterized the Cold War, it was governed by a set of mutually accepted rules. In the current climate, such rules are missing, making escalation far more likely. This lecture will examine the current relationship between Russia and the U.S., how it got to this point and how it may be improved.

10:30 a.m., Tuesday: Ethnic Violence in the Russian Federation with Richard Arnold, PhD (Orchestra Hall)

Since the year 2000, Russia has experience a wave of hate crimes that have seen approximately 3,000 victims, parallel in scale to "troubles" in Northern Ireland. Neo-Nazi and skinhead groups, often from Europe or the U.S., have established franchises in Russia, recruiting youth to become racial warriors. At the same time, the Russian government has been soliciting far-right political parties in Europe and the U.S., including inviting members of Hungary's Jobbik and the English Defence League to verify the controversial referendum in Crimea. How can this phenomenon be understood? What explains how Russia as the Soviet Union went from being the beacon of anti-racist internationalism to racism's worst manifestation? What relation does racial war on the streets of Russian cities have to the national politics of the country? These questions will be explored in this lecture.

Richard Arnold graduated from the University of York in the United Kingdom. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees in political science from The Ohio State University. Arnold wrote his dissertation on "Ethnic Violence in the Russian Federation," focusing particularly on Russia's burgeoning skinhead movement. Arnold is currently an Associate Professor of political science at Muskingum University. He teaches courses on international relations, post-Soviet politics, Russian foreign policy and international law, among others. He also oversees the Muskingum University Model United Nations program.

His book, *Russian Nationalism and Ethnic Violence: From Graffiti to Genocide*, which analyzes neo-Nazi violence, Cossack violence against Meskhetian Turks and ethnic Russian race riots in the Russian Federation, was published in 2016. Arnold currently serves as a reviewer for several publications, including the *Journal of Political Science Education*, *Ethnic Studies Review*, *Demokrati-zatsiya* and *East European Politics*.

1:30 p.m., Tuesday: Russia & Sporting Mega-Events: A Quest for Sporting Glory? with Richard Arnold, PhD (Orchestra Hall)

Sporting mega events, like the Olympics and the World Cup, have often been seen as a source of prestige for hosting countries, and Russia's successful bids to host the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi and 2018 World Cup should be understood in this light. The events announced, in one way or another, that Russia was back on the international scene. This lecture uses Joseph Nye's concept of "Soft Power" to argue that these two sporting events should be seen as part of a concerted strategy on the part of Russia to improve its image around the world, a strategy which also included the promotion of Russian propaganda in the West through internet troll farms and the news outlet RT.

10:30 a.m., Wednesday: Manipulating Hearts & Minds: Russian TV in the Era of Putin with Maria Ignatieva, PhD (Chautauqua Hall)

Twenty-first century Russian TV reflects Russian political, economical, ideological and cultural life, as much as it forms it. During the time of Putin's presidency, it has become an aggressive gear for the masses' brainwashing: whether the annexation of Crimea or the support of Syria, it masterfully and successfully manipulates the viewers' mind. The TV integrates into its narrative the ideas of "re-imperialization" of the post-Soviet space and gradual restoration of the USSR. In contrast with what could seem as launching of the new military campaigns, other channels continue promoting Russian cultural values in film, theatre, music, art and education, thus contributing to the formation of the generation of free thinkers, open to the international ideas of freedom, justice and equality.

Maria Ignatieva graduated with a PhD from Moscow State Institute of Theatre Art in 1998. Before coming to the U.S., she worked as an Assistant Professor at the Moscow Art Theatre School-Studio where she taught courses in Russian and Soviet theatre. She is currently a Professor of Theatre at The Ohio State University, Lima campus and also teaches in the graduate program for the Center for Slavic and East European Studies. She has directed more than 20 productions at Ohio State, Lima. Her portfolio includes more than 40 articles on contemporary Russian theatre and theatre history for both English and Russian theatre journals and magazines, as well as presentations on Russian theatre at international conferences. She received the 2015-2016 Ohio State University Outreach Award.

1:30 p.m., Wednesday: Why Theatre? The 21st Century Russians' Fascination with Theatre of All Genres & Styles with Maria Ignatieva, PhD (Chautauqua Hall)

Russian theatre's artistic achievements in various genres – drama, opera, ballet, puppet and children's theatre – have been viewed by Russian people as their national pride. The 20th century theatre helped the Soviet people to experience spiritual freedom above and beyond ideology, stagnation of the economy, and increasing worsening of the life conditions. Theatre was blooming despite censorship and the Communist Party tightening ideological control. After the collapse of the USSR, and especially in the 21st century, Russia has become a theatrical mecca again: the best directors from all over the world come to direct in Russian theatres and bring their productions to numerous international festivals held in Moscow and St. Petersburg. However, the annexation of Crimea in 2014 forced many theatre artists to either sign the letter of support or to lose the government subsidy. How has Putin's political agendas changed the theatre landscape? Is the growing dictatorship and political pressure transforming theatre in the same spiritual outlet as theatre had been in the Soviet Union?

10:30 a.m., Thursday: Russian Cultural Wars Today: Belief & Incredulity with Nancy Condee, PhD (Chautauqua Hall)

At the recent Munich Security Conference, Senator Lindsey Graham promised that 2017 would be "the year of kicking Russia." Russian experts today might ask: is this the best of times or the worst of times? "Russia talk," if one may call it that, is more riven today than in the early 1970s; cautious analysis has lost value to radical soundbites and instant moral clarity. It is easy to forget, in the midst of recent crises, that these same events are witnessed by an educated Russian intelligentsia, a varied and politically divided community of writers, performers, scholars and film directors no less talented than our own, as seen in the film "Leviathan" (Andrei Zviagintsev), which was recently awarded a Golden Globe. This lecture will focus on contemporary Russian cultural politics, in preparation for an afternoon screening of a challenging new film.

Nancy Condee is the Director of the University of Pittsburgh's federally-funded Russian and East European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Her academic affiliations are with the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures and the Program for Film Studies, where she holds the rank of Professor. Condee's work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The Washington Post*, *October*, *New Left Review*, *PMLA*, *Sight and Sound*, as well as multiple Russian journals. She has worked as a consultant for Carnegie Corporation, the Edinburgh Film Festival, the Library of Congress and Public Broadcasting Corporation (*Frontline*). At the University of Pittsburgh, she has also served as Director of the Global Studies Center. Her honors include a Gaidar Fellowship from the Moscow public policy university RANEPa (the Russian Presidential Academy for the National Economy).

Her research interests include Russian cultural politics, with a specialization in contemporary cinema. Condee graduated with her PhD from Yale University.

1:30 p.m., Thursday: Russian Cinema Politics: What Can be Shown (& Why Not?) with Nancy Condee, PhD (Chautauqua Hall)

This lecture will focus on U.S.-Russian cultural values today and includes the screening of a new Russian film. Russia's directors, producers and actors are fully capable – in the face of serious challenges – of finding ways to speak to the contemporary moment; nevertheless, no one can shy away from recurring cultural differences: that is to say, U.S. and Russian societies continue to have profoundly different models of social cohesion, civic commitment, spirituality and private life. Immediately, however, another question arises: which "Russians" are we talking about? The intelligentsia, some of whom resemble some of us? Residents of small towns? The proverbial Russian heartland? People often prefer a singular "Russia," easily contrasted to the heterogeneity and richness of the U.S. In screening a provocative new Russian film, participants will be invited to address issues that both societies face in articulating the nature of our cultural values.



To the good people of Lakeside,

Do you recall the effort to help the children of the Haiti orphanage in the summer of 2015?

Since then, regular donations from generous Lakesiders have helped feed the orphans in Haiti. I regularly travel to Haiti at my own expense to make effective purchases of food and supplies for poor Haitian orphans using generous donations.

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Wilner Sommervil

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