There are two possible formats for this graduate seminar, which in both variants will closely model the undergraduate syllabus:

1. Piggyback it off on COM-SLA 335. This would mean sharing one hour with it (Mon 11:00-12:20) and then meeting for our second session on Tuesday abbreviated 1:30-3:30, to cover some of the material in Russian. Discussions on Tuesday will be in English; critiques can be in any language.

2. Dispense with the Monday session and meet on our own on Tuesdays only, expanding the session to the usual graduate seminar length (1:30–4:20). In this case we would read all the 335 weekly readings for Tuesday, with certain ones read in Russian and perhaps modest supplement (one Russian-language text a week minimum will be assigned).

The advantage of the former is that it’s more people, although still small (9 enrolled), and this means more varied opinions and discussion; the disadvantage is getting oneself together twice as opposed to once a week.

Format of the course: Weekly “response critique” (1 to 2 paragraphs) on some aspect of the reading, which will serve as starting point for class discussion. Final project 10-12 pages to be determined.

Required texts (Pequod and U-Store)

- A Boris Godunov Reader for COM / SLA 335 (available from Pequod) will contain most of the course readings.

Two books should be purchased:


Sequence of proposed topics and readings for Tuesdays:

Tues. Feb. 6 .... The regnant cultural myths and martyrology: BG, Pushkin, Meyerhold, Prokofiev, Stalin
What is a Pretender? Examples in the Russian context (Pugachov, Khlestakov)

Tues. Feb. 13 ... **Boris / Dimitry the Pretender in history**: Basic events, Sentimentalist vs. 2004 Pavlov, “Fedor Ivanovich and Boris Godunov” (R)
Dunning, *A Short History of Russia's First Civil War*, chs. 2—>11 …… pp. 14-137
From Н. М. Карамзин, История государя Российского, т. 11 (1824), гл. 1,
………………………………………………….  «Царствование Бориса Годунова»

Tues. Feb. 20 ... **Alexander Pushkin as historian and playwright.**
Biography (R)
O’Neill, *With Shakespeare’s Eyes*, ch. 1 on Shakespeare and *Boris Godunov* (R)

Tues. Feb. 27 ... Пушкин, Борис Годунов (as comic, tragic, farce, neoclassical, realist, carnival)
………………………………  Sample a 1980s радиопередача for tone
Clayton, “*Boris Godunov and the Theater*” (ch. 2 from his *Dimitry’s Shade*) (R)

Tues. Mar. 6 ... Russian 20th-c. theater: **Meyerhold**
Meyerhold versus Stanislavsky; biomechanics (R 90-139)
Б. Захава «Два сезона (1923-1925)»
А. Гладков, «Мастер работает» [on 1936] (both from *Встречи с Мейерхольдом*)
Documents on the unrealized performance (I)

Tues. Mar. 13... **Meyerhold’s 1936 Jubilee Boris**: concepts (musicalization, cinema, montage)
Schmidt, ed. and Gladkov: notes for the production (R 141-89)
Громов, «Замысел постановки»; documents on the unrealized performance (II)
Sergei Eisenstein, “Problems of Composition” on Pushkin (R 191-83)
(+ 15 minutes of Eisenstein’s *Ivan the Terrible* Pt I)
Леонид Козлов, «Борис Годунов» и «Иван Грозный» (2006)

*Spring Break  March 19-23*

Tues. Mar. 27 ... **Prokofiev** as theater/filmstage composer [Simon Morrison]
Simon Morrison, “Russia’s Lament” (R 216-28)
Portions of Prokofiev BG score: + Dattel’ комментария (also R 209-14 liner notes)

Tues. Apr. 3 ... **The year 1937**: The Stalinist Pushkin Jubilee (centennial of Pushkin’s death)
Sandler, “The 1937 Pushkin Jubilee as Epic Trauma” (R 230-40)
Рудицкий, «Крушение театра» from *Мейерхольбский сборник* 1992

Tues. Apr. 10 ... The Uncensored Boris Godunov and its apparatus (Dunning ch. 1-6)
Wed. 11 Pushkin as historical dramatist [Chester Dunning]

*Boris Godunov premiere* at Berlind April 12 – 14; **Symposium** on Friday / Sat Apr 13-14

Tues. Apr. 17 .....  
Tues. Apr. 24 .....  
Tues. May 1 .....