

PROFESSOR RICHARD TEMPEST
RUSSIA AND BLACK AMERICA
SPRING 2024
TU 1.30–3.00 PM, FEBRUARY 27–APRIL 16



This course explores the Russian-sourced cultural transfers that influenced the Black American experience; and examines the impact of that experience on people and events in Russia. Who were the Black artists, activists, and adventurers who traveled there, and what did they discover? A New York bellhop becomes a millionaire in tsarist Moscow; a Detroit car worker spends four decades as a captive of the communist state; an American-Ukrainian child actor grows up to join the Soviet navy and become a cult poet; and a young woman writer chronicles her secret life in Moscow as the USSR enters its terminal decline