Friday, February 26
5:00 pm, Knox Hall 4

Terraferma
("Dry Land")
(Italy, 2011)

Ernesto is an elderly fisherman who lives on the Sicilian island of Linosa. Political and economic unrest in North Africa has caused a growing number of people to flee their country in the hopes of settling in Europe. The Sicilian government has firmly warned sailors not to pick up Africans attempting to enter the country illegally by boat. When Ernesto sees a young man and his pregnant mother drowning after fleeing a small boat, his conscience forces him to rescue them, and he and his family become unwitting criminals as they give the immigrant family a place to stay.

Prof. Laura Chiara, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, UB, will introduce the film and lead a discussion following the screening.

Friday, March 25
5:00 pm, Knox Hall 4

Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors
("Tini zabutykh predkiv")
(Soviet Union, 1965)

In a Carpathian village, Ivan falls in love with Marichka, the daughter of his father’s killer. When tragedy befalls her, his grief lasts months. Finally, he repairs the cemetery he around her, marrying Palagna. She wants children, but his mind stays on his lost love. To recapture his attention, Palagna tries sorcery and in the process comes under the spell of the sorcerer, publicly humiliating Ivan, who then fights the sorcerer. The lively rhythms of village life, the work and the holidays, the pageant and revelry of weddings and funerals, the change of seasons, and nature’s beauty give proportion to Ivan’s tragedy.

Dr. Tanya Shilina-Conte, Department of Media Study, UB, will introduce the film and lead a discussion following the screening.

Friday, April 22
5:00 pm, Knox Hall 4

Apur Sansar
("The World of Apu")
(India, 1959)

Apu is a jobless former student dreaming vaguely of a future as a writer. An old college friend talks him into a visit to a village wedding. This changes his life for, when the bridegroom turns out to be mad, Apu’s friend asks him to become the husband. After initial revulsion at the idea, Apu agrees. He takes his exquisite bride Aparna back to Calcutta. But, when she dies while giving birth, Apu leaves Calcutta crazy with grief and his son Kajal is left abandoned with his wife’s parents. Only after a long period of total indifference to worldly responsibilities does Apu become capable of returning to the world.

Prof. Walter Hakala, Department of English and Asian Studies Program, UB, will introduce the film and lead a discussion following the screening.