Socio-political History of East and South-East Asia

(Qualification course)

Professor Alexey Maslov

Outline. The course focuses on the historical and social background in East and South-East Asia including the historical roots, the nature of state power, social forces, major powers relationships and the future of Asian geopolitics in the 21st century. The history of world politics has, by and large, been a history of interactions among great powers. The legacy of history, traditional political culture, cross-border conflicts and alliances play very important role in the modern-day political situation in East Asia.

This course will examine how the Asian states as well as Western powers have tried (and are trying) to shape the geopolitical environment since the mid-18th century to the present. The course will focus primarily on the continuities and discontinuities in East Asian cultural, social, political pattern, international relations.

The following issues will be discussed: the East Asian setting and early European influence to 1800; 19th century European impact on East and Southeast Asia; China's and Japan’s response to the West; the decline and fall of empires in East Asia and national resurrection of Asian states; the Cold War in Asia and postwar nation-building ; the self-reinventing of Japan and China; the rise of nationalism in East Asia and its different models (Chinese, Japanese, etc.); power, authority, and the advent of democracy in Asia; Russia in Pacific Asia; regional dynamics, regional and global perspectives of Asia Pacific; new trends in Asia: isolation, integration, and changes, etc.

Present day Each Asian power confronts challenges and opportunities that influence its national security objectives and strategies. One of the major objectives of this course is to analyze these challenges and opportunities and attempt to reach some consensus on what the alternative futures of Asian Geopolitics will be over the next 15 to 25 years.

The fundamental question of the continuity between the cultural tradition and socio-economic organization of the past and the elements of change and “modernity” in the present, will accompany us during the course and this theme will be developed in the context of the different historical periods.

Syllabus:

|  |
| --- |
| Title  |
| Course Introduction |
| The East Asian Setting and Rising of State and Society before 1800 |
| Early European Influence to 1800 |
| 19th Century European Imperialism and the Colonization of Southeast Asia |
| China's response to the West: The Crisis and Fall of the Ch'ing Empire  |
| Japan's Response to the West: Meiji Modernization |
| The Rise of Nationalism in East Asia |
| Nationalism in Colonial East and SE Asia |
| Models of Nationalism in China: Chiang Kai-shek versus Mao |
| Ultra-Nationalism in Japan: The 1930's |
| The Pacific and Cold War In Asia:  |
| Postwar Nation-Building in Southeast Asia |
| China from Mao to Deng |
| Japan Reinvents Itself |
| The Struggle for Power in Modern East Asia |
| Russia in East Asia: the hard choice |
| Course Wrap-up |

 Prerequisites:

Lectures, readings, excursions, assignments, and discussions are designed to help you develop the skills to:

Think historically, read critically, and write and speak persuasively.

Situate major historical events in East Asian History in their proper geographical, chronological, and thematic context.

Connect and integrate historical understandings, and grasp their political, economic, ethical and moral dimensions.

Appreciate the greatness and complexity of EA and SEA cultural and religious traditions.

To understand continuities and discontinuities in political and state institution of East Asia

Seek for better understanding of the present development of East Asia .

Evaluate and critically assess the validity of historical evidence and interpretations.

Use primary and secondary sources to construct sophisticated, persuasive, and logical interpretations of historical problems and events.

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend class as well as participate in lectures, discussions, and review sessions. Class participation will constitute 25% of the final grade. Each student is allowed a maximum of two (2) and no more than two (2) unexcused absences during the semester. For each unexcused absence thereafter, five (5) points are deducted from your final grade. You are responsible for keeping the professor informed of any situation that prevents you from attending class. Students who have more than 5 unexcused absences will not pass the course.

An essay. The general title is “The price of reforms in Modern East and South East Asia” (Please, specify the region, e.g. China, Japan, Malaysia, etc.).You have to write a short essay (2 pages) after watching the documentary (in English).

This is qualification course. It means that it will be no grading at all (you won’t get credit units). But you need to pass this course if:

you have no previous background in Asian Studies

you have a week background in East Asian Studies

You can check whether you need to pass this course from the manager of MA program.

Anthropology and Modern Asian Society

Professor Olga A. Nesterova.

Course Outline: The present course explores social, cultural, and ethnical processes and institutions in modern East Asia. It studies the ethnic composition of the population and its location in East Asia and anthropological differences between the peoples of East Asia. We shall examine different types of classifications of Asian ethnicities, such as: geographic, anthropological, linguistic, classification by religious affiliation, by economic and cultural factors, by historical and ethnographical region of residence. The course presents a thorough analysis of ethnical history, spiritual and material culture, worldview, religion, myths, symbols, etiquette, music, games, cuisine, and festivals. It examines calendar customs and rites of 3 particular ethnicities: the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Koreans. The course also focuses on major concepts of modern cultural anthropology (and socio-cultural anthropology, social anthropology, ethnography, culture studies) – ‘culture’, ‘society’, ‘ethnos’, ‘ethnic identity’, ‘ethnogenesis’, ‘nationality’, ‘race’, ‘tradition’, ‘kinship’, ‘gender’, ‘mentality’, ‘cultural universals’, ‘communication’, ‘socialization’, ‘enculturation’, ‘cultural transmission’, ‘adaptation’, ‘acculturation’, ‘intercultural discourse’, ‘ethnic stereotypes’ etc. The course highlights the role of dominant meanings and images in social, cultural, and ethnical development of East Asia. It regards Chinese, Japanese and Korean cultures as complex semiotic spheres and compares different ethnical cultures of East Asian countries. Each of the peoples of East Asia enjoys special ethnic culture, and the distinguishing features between the cultures can be explained by climatic conditions, economic and socio-cultural types, historical backgrounds, political history. This course focuses on the cultural aspects of social development of China, Japan, and Korea through the examination of different strategies of intercultural communication and special features of the dialogue between cultures in modern East Asia. The anthropological approach to the given problem makes it possible to reveal different indices in the lifestyles of the peoples of East Asian countries, as well as to describe behavior patterns and to explore the role of ethnic and cultural traditions in modern Asian society.

Syllabus: Modern Anthropology: concepts, problems, methods of research in the field of Asian studies (10 hours)

Anthropo-socio-cultural genesis in East Asia (8 hours)

Classification of the peoples of Asia. Racial and ethnic groups. Ethnogeography (6 hours)

Peoples of East Asia: Development of ethnical cultures (16 hours)

Anthropology of religion in East, South and South-East Asia (12 hours)

Anthropology of art (East Asia) (12 hours)

Cultural (social) anthropology and ecological anthropology about nature and man. The image of man and the world in the cultures of East Asia (8 hours)

Calendar customs and rites of East Asia peoples and ethno-cultural traditions (14 hours)

Games and play behavior in traditional cultures of Asia: ethno-cultural and ethno-psychological features (12 hours)

Communication anthropology and ethno-psychological features of East Asia peoples (10 hours)

Prerequisites: At the conclusion of this course the student will possess following competencies:- capable of reflecting on (evaluating and refining) obtained research methods; capable of independent development of new methods of research; able to change academic profile of his/her activities; able to improve and develop their intellectual and cultural level, to build a path for professional development and career; able to analyze, evaluate the completeness of the information in the course of professional activities, if necessary, to fill the missing information, and synthesize it; able to conduct research in the field of history, economics, politics, culture, religion, language and literature of Asia and Africa, according to the specialization profile; able to prepare and formalize research and analytical documents, research reports, surveys, reports and articles; able to analyze the historical roots of contemporary processes and make medium-and long-term forecasts of the development trends; capable of generalization, analysis and perception of information, goal-setting and achieving goals; capable of providing logical arguments and constructing various types of speech; able to use skills of organization and management of research and analytical work in providing interaction with experts of Asian and African countries; able to freely use modern methods of processing and interpretation of data on Asian and African countries in oriental, western and Russian languages to handle tasks, including those outside the immediate scope of their specialization; able to freely use skills in general and business writing and speaking in Russian language, skills of public address and scientific discourse; able to write and edit professional texts, analyze logic of reasoning and factual information; able to follow the rules of social interaction based on morals and legal norms; show respect for people, tolerance of other cultures; act responsibly in maintaining the spirit of trust and partnership; able to understand the social importance of his or her future profession, is motivated to perform to the best of his or her abilities.

Assessment criteria:

- Independent work(20%)

- Class work(20%)

- Routine test (20%)

-Final test (40%)

Cultural History of East and South-East Asia

(Qualification course)

Professor Marion Wyse, ThD.

Outline: The course focuses on the cultural background in East and South-East Asia including the historical roots and present-day changes in Asian cultures. The legacy of traditional cultures plays a very important role in the contemporary political situation in East Asia. Present day East Asian cultures confront parallel economic-based globalizing and ethnic-based particularizing trends. Most people involved in this dual process are confused about both goals and outcomes. The fundamental question of the continuity between cultural tradition and elements of change in the present will be developed in the context of the different historical periods as each student requires for their individual work.

Syllabus: This course will examine how anthropologist Edward Hall defines culture theoretically, and how we may critique and apply his approach to particular situations in EA-SEA. The following issues will first be discussed: What is culture? What is the role culture did play and plays now in decisions made on both the macro and micro level in the countries on which our MA focuses? A survey of 100 years of cultural study will be presented. The following three classes go deeply into the methodology of Edward Hall and Pamela Ebrey. Then during the last half of the course, each student presents thesis topic and how the cultural dimension will be explored using the methods presented, while the lecturer and other students offer suggestions.

Prerequisites: This course is for those students who have no or little background in Asian studies so is regarded as a qualifying or preparatory course for more detailed courses.

Marks are based on participation in discussions on readings, lectures, and individual presentations.

Russia’s Policies with reference to East Asia

Prof. Vladimir S.Myasnikov

Outline: The policies of Russia in relation to China, Korea and Japan are interconnected. They were formed in the 17th-18th centuries. Russia’s principal impulse was to establish trade, economic and cultural links with the countries it bordered to the East. One special feature of the process is that by the time Russia entered the region, it had already been maintaining relations with these Asian countries for centuries, with foreign policy patterns essentially different from European countries. Russian–Chinese relations are the focus of these historical studies.

Syllabus: The course presents, in chronological order, the milestones of the development of Russian regional policy. The mainstay of this historical canvas is formed by international legislation that covered all spectrums of relations between these countries in the past, and which are still valid. Special attention is given to the Eastern countries’ diplomatic particularities as a function of their ethno-psychology.

Prerequisites: The students must have sufficient working knowledge of the corresponding Oriental and European languages, and know the history and geography of the region.

Type of assessment: oral exam.

Asian Security and Conflict Management

Mikhail Karpov, PH D, Associate Professor

The course is focused on the dynamics of relations between the US and People’s Republic of China in the context of Asian Pacific security management. The relations between these two key powers in the region of East Asia are to be analyzed and discussed from the following angles:

Classification of their dynamics as to the main paradigms of modern International Relations and International Conflict Management;

Mutual perceptions of the US and China with the special emphasis on the Chinese concept of “trust” in International Relations;

Domestic security issues facing the Chinese government;

Chinese political culture and worldview.

Given the fact that the focus of American security policy is currently under the process of its redirection towards the Asian Pacific region (the concept of Transpacific Cooperation) and with aggravating territorial tensions between China and its East Asian neighbors the contents of the proposed course will inevitably embrace Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese issues.

Specificity of the proposed course lies also in the fact that it presumes that foreign policy formation – especially for China - cannot be studied untied from the problems of the parties concerned worldviews, domestic development and security. Hence the due amount of course material is devoted to the special aspects of Chinese political culture and those issues of its domestic developmental model which may have a feasible impact on the Beijing’s policy decision making regarding the US. It has especially to do with such issue as, for example, currency evaluation which periodically generates tensions between China and the US.

The proposed course will sequentially dwell upon the following issues:

Main theories and paradigms of modern International Relations.

Main concepts of International Crisis and Conflict Management.

Chronological account for the US – China relations since the end of Cold War with the references to important issues of their bilateral relations in earlier times.

The outlay of the Chinese worldview, its perceptions of International security and the concept of “trust” in Chinese political culture.

Chinese domestic developmental model and its possible impact on Beijing’s foreign policy formation. The issue of “undervalued Yuan” in Sino – American relations and its implications for Chinese domestic security.

The issue of Taiwan in Sino – American relations from the perspective of socio-political processes underway on the island.

The issues of Japan and Korean Peninsular in the context of Sino – American bilateral relations and Asian Pacific security.

Russian dilemmas as to dynamics of Sino – American relations. Russia’s Chinese and American “challenges”.

Competing scenarios of East Asian security prospects in the context of “presumed Sino – American rivalry”.

Marks of the students are based on participation in discussions on readings, lectures and individual presentations.

Methodology for Sociopolitical Research in East Asia

Dr.Olga Volosyuk

Outline. This course will introduce students of the School of Asian Studies to sociopolitical research methods and familiarize them with the tools and techniques that scholars use to study the history of East Asia. Students will learn about the process of modern historical inquiry and gain a better understanding of the diverse resources that historians use to conduct research.

Syllabus. The course concentrates on particular themes and periods, and will be structured topically. The first unit will focus on research methodology and examine how historians conduct research in Social and Political History. The second unit will study a variety of historical thought and writing in East Asia, within social and political contexts, which will represent examples of the major historiographical schools, their tools, methods and ideas as developed over time. The third unit focuses on the technical skills that historians employ when conducting research with primary materials and on different historical resources that can be used for historical research in the Social and Political History of East Asia. During the fourth unit students will conduct their own research with close guidance from the instructor and write extensive, well-documented research papers.

Prerequisites prior coursework in history of East Asia is presumed. Students should be familiar with the basic concepts of primary and secondary sources, and with works by different historians, philosophers and social analysts. Working knowledge of the corresponding Oriental and European languages is recommended but not required.

Type of assessment: written exam.

Modern Asian Political Processes

Dr. Alexander Pantsov, Professor of History

This course is designed to provide students with a theoretically rigorous and comparative introduction to key issues in the contemporary East Asian political process. Topics include a brief overview of modern East Asian (in particular China’s) history and a survey of contemporary analyses of the Chinese political process. Emphasis is given to Chinese political culture, major political institutions, and current policy issues.

This course is based on the case studies of Nationalism and Communism in East Asia and particularly in China. This course focuses upon Mao Zedong’s and Deng Xiaoping’s theory and practice and analyses the evolution of Chinese national and communist ideas and their influence on the economic development and foreign policy. This course discusses the following topics: main social theories of China’s development in the 20th century, the nature of Chinese Nationalism and Communism, the transformation of China’s politics during the 20th century, forms of decision making in China, a role of different political groups and parties, and the struggle for power and reforms in China.

The course enables students to develop both area expertise and to apply disciplinary insights from political theory and international political theory to the comparative study of Asian politics.

Written mid-term exam, written final exam, essay

State & Economy in East Asia

Prof. Alexander Korolev, Ph.D

Course Outline: The course investigates the theoretical as well as practical aspects of the roles of the State as an agent of economic development in East Asian countries. It examines different forms of government intervention into economic life in East Asian countries and looks at the effects of such interventions on the patterns of economic growth. It also analyzes possible explanatory factors of East Asian economic performance. The countries and regions considered will include China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and others.

Syllabus: The first part of the course focuses on the theoretical aspects of the relationship between the state and the economy. It highlights important institutional differences between developed and developing countries and explores the implications of those differences for the state-market connections. This part also introduces students to the theories of developmental state and evaluates the relevance of such theories for explaining current economic situation in East Asia. The second part of the course has empirical focus. It utilizes theoretical and historical material to analyze the evolution of state-economy relations in different East Asian countries, such as China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and others.

Prerequisites: The course is for students who have basic knowledge of economic theory and are familiar with theoretical models of neo-classical economics.

Evaluation: Attendance and active participation - 25% (on students’ evident grasp of the readings and the quality and relevance of their questions in classroom discussion); Student’s essays and presentations - 25% (quality of the essays and clarity of the presentations); Final written examination - 50% (demonstration of the knowledge of the literature and critical skills).

Global Relations Theory in Asian and International Studies

(General Course)

Professor Marion Wyse, ThD.

Outline: The first part of the course addresses the role of theory in the social-scientific pursuit and surveys major social science research programs such as rational choice and historical institutionalism. The second part of the course examines the major theoretical approaches to the study of international relations (realism, liberalism, and constructivism) and critically contrasts their advantages as well as problems. Some attention will also be paid to non-Western approaches to International Relations. The third section highlights contemporary topics subject to intense theoretical debates in the fields of Comparative Politics and International Relations, such as modernization and dependency theory, democratic peace, democratization, and ethnic conflict.

Syllabus: The purpose of this course is to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of competing paradigms in Asian and International Studies as well as some of the main theoretical debates over issues that span the fields of International Relations and Comparative Politics. The course format is discussion-type seminars. By the end of the course, students are expected to recognize and critically evaluate different theoretical paradigms. Students are also expected to be able to apply different theoretical approaches to explore and explain real-world events.

Prerequisites: This course is a general one for all first year MA students who qualified for entrance in School of Asian Studies.

Marks are based on: attendance and active participation 25% (on your evident grasp of the readings and the quality and relevance of your questions in classroom discussion); chief discussant essays and presentations 25% (quality of the essays and clarity of the presentations); and final paper 50% (demonstration of the knowledge of literature and critical skills)

Management of Political Crises

Prof. Alexey Maslov

This course aims to examine fundamental concepts in disaster studies and disaster management practices. In so doing, the course will focus on disaster epidemiology, natural history of disasters, rapid epidemiologic assessment, strategy of disaster management, agencies involved in relief operations, development through disaster planning, and mission craft. In addition, the course will also pay special attention to the evolution of disaster policy, the practice of emergency management the major policy issues, including the utility of the “all-hazard” or comprehensive model of emergency management, the role of the military in disaster operations, state and local capacity building, and the design and implementation of hazard mitigation policies and programs. Lessons are drawn from major disasters ranging from the Indian Ocean tsunami, Burma’s Cyclone Nargis disaster and various major earthquakes in China and Japan to food crisis in East Timor.

This course is mainly dedicated for those students who have no or little background in Asian studies so this course could be regarded as a qualifying or preparatory course for more detailed courses.

This course will examine how the Asian states as well as Western powers have tried (and are trying) to shape the geopolitical environment since the mid-18th century to the present. The course will focus primarily on the continuities and discontinuities in East Asian cultural, social, political pattern, international relations.

The following issues will be discussed: the East Asian setting and early European influence to 1800; 19th century European impact on East and Southeast Asia; China's and Japan’s response to the West; the decline and fall of empires in East Asia and national resurrection of Asian states; the Cold War in Asia and postwar nation-building ; the self-reinventing of Japan and China; the rise of nationalism in East Asia and its different models (Chinese, Japanese, etc.); power, authority, and the advent of democracy in Asia; Russia in Pacific Asia; regional dynamics, regional and global perspectives of Asia Pacific; new trends in Asia: isolation, integration, and changes, etc.

Present day Each Asian power confronts challenges and opportunities that influence its national security objectives and strategies. One of the major objectives of this course is to analyze these challenges and opportunities and attempt to reach some consensus on what the alternative futures of Asian Geopolitics will be over the next 15 to 25 years.

The fundamental question of the continuity between the cultural tradition and socio-economic organization of the past and the elements of change and “modernity” in the present, will accompany us during the course and this theme will be developed in the context of the different historical periods.

Prerequisites:

Lectures, readings, excursions, assignments, and discussions are designed to help you develop the skills to:

Think historically, read critically, and write and speak persuasively.

Situate major historical events in East Asian History in their proper geographical, chronological, and thematic context.

Connect and integrate historical understandings, and grasp their political, economic, ethical and moral dimensions.

Appreciate the greatness and complexity of EA and SEA cultural and religious traditions.

To understand continuities and discontinuities in political and state institution of East Asia

Seek for better understanding of the present development of East Asia .

Evaluate and critically assess the validity of historical evidence and interpretations.

Use primary and secondary sources to construct sophisticated, persuasive, and logical interpretations of historical problems and events.

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend class as well as participate in lectures, discussions, and review sessions. Class participation will constitute 25% of the final grade. Each student is allowed a maximum of two (2) and no more than two (2) unexcused absences during the semester. For each unexcused absence thereafter, five (5) points are deducted from your final grade. You are responsible for keeping the professor informed of any situation that prevents you from attending class. Students who have more than 5 unexcused absences will not pass the course

Grading: аn essay and the final oral exam.

Social Hierarchy and Gender Issues in East Asia

Prof. Evgeny S. Steiner

Outline. This course, which has a subtitle “Sino-Japanese Cultural Contexts” is devoted to the analysis of various aspects of social, spiritual, artistic, and gender patterns of Japan (and China, Korea, and India to the extent needed for better comprehension of the sources of Japanese tradition). The focal point of the course is mediaeval Kamakura-Muromachi epochs, when most of crucial societal and cultural phenomena salient for the whole Japanese civilization originated or flourished. At the same time the chronological and geographic scope of the materials under scrutiny oscillates from Shakyamuni to the 20th century Zen masters or – while discussing gender interaction – from archaic ritual poetry utagaki to early modern love songs.

The course is custom-designed by the instructor and built on his own research and publications. The close reading of the period literary and visual texts is a feature.

Most lectures are conducted with PPP of original artefacts; handouts of texts are provided.

Syllabus: The lectures and seminars include several clusters of topics:

the traditional social organization of Japanese society: clans, extended families, and communes;

separation of power between the aristocracy and military classes;

co-existence of the indigenous and adopted religious systems;

Buddhist schools, old and new;

Zen: the Five Mountains monastic institution and its socio-cultural dimension;

Zen: spiritual practices and social challenges;

artistic practices and the formation of the Japanese cultural paradigm (monochrome ink painting, renga poetry, Noh theater, tea ceremony, dry gardens, etc.)

Prerequisites: Introductory courses of Japanese history and/or Japanese civilization. Ability to read Japanese, and – most importantly – ability to comprehend lectures and to participate in discussion in English.

An essay, tests/quizzes, and the final oral exam.

Good Governance and Politics in the Developing World

 Dr. Alexander Korolev,Ph.D

Course Outline: Good governance promotion has become a key objective of foreign policy and aid agencies. Despite significant external development interventions in poor countries towards building good governance and democracy there has been little success. Why might this be? This course considers the nature of regimes in developing countries, the legacy of colonialism and the impact of modern political contest. The aim of the course is to examine the politics of good governance promotion. Why are policies of good governance promotion often resisted by the “developing world”? Why is that liberal forms of democracy are not so easily established in such countries? Understanding the complexity of politics in developing countries can throw light on why good governance and democracy promotion often fails. The interaction between the international agents and various actors in developing countries reveals the difficulty of regime transformation.

Syllabus: The first part of the course focuses on the theoretical aspects of the “good governance.” It highlights important institutional characteristics of the developing countries and explores the causes of the lack of good governance. The second part of the course has empirical focus. It utilizes theoretical and historical material to analyze the successes and failures of good governance promotion in different developing countries.

Prerequisites: The course is for students who have basic knowledge of institutional theory.

Evaluation: Attendance and active participation - 25% (on students’ evident grasp of the readings and the quality and relevance of their questions in classroom discussion); Student’s essays and presentations - 25% (quality of the essays and clarity of the presentations); Final written examination - 50% (demonstration of the knowledge of the literature and critical skills).

Welfare Regimes & Social Policies in East Asia

Dr. Alexander Pantsov, Professor of History

This course examines institutional arrangements governing the creation and allocation of welfare across East Asia and in international perspective. It examines the political and economic dimensions of social policy and problems in the selection and conduct of social policies. It develops comparisons of social policies across and within countries.

This course discusses the ongoing debate about the impact of globalization on welfare systems across the world with the implement to East Asia. Its argument is that economic globalization alters the global balance of forces compared with the ‘Golden Age’ of welfare capitalism, but that its impact on policies and outcomes is decisively mediated by national and regional ‘welfare regimes'. This argument has been developed in relation to the advanced capitalist countries of the north, but is rarely applied to the south. This course applies the argument to the south through a case study of five economically successful countries in East Asia: China, Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

It depicts and analyses their welfare regimes using a new conceptual framework developed at the University of Bath. It then considers the impact of the Asian financial crisis as an example of the new risks faced by exposed countries in the global economy. Despite common, sudden and decisive macroeconomic problems, the social policy reactions have differed across the five countries, in part reflecting variations in their welfare regimes.

Written mid-term exam, written final exam, essay.

International Relations of East Asia

Dr.Olga Volosyuk

Outline: This course will enable students to examine topics on international relations of East Asia from a historical and theoretical viewpoint. The past decade has seen China emerge as a potential economic, political, and military superpower, that some view as a potential rival to the U.S. Japan's economy, although experiencing difficulties, remains the world's second largest and most technologically advanced.

Syllabus: We will focus on the international politics of modern East Asia, and will first examine the interplay of Asian regional powers, including China, Japan, and North and South Korea. The course will evaluate the traditional and changing roles of external powers (the US, Russia and Europe), the emergence of new extra-regional actors (India, Australia, Central Asia), the role of ASEAN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the gradually emerging multilateral regional architecture. It will also introduce three important functional features influencing the emerging regional order: economics, security, and the role of East Asian powers amidst globalization processes.

Prerequisites: Students should be familiar with the basic tools of international relations theory, including western views: realism, liberalism, and institutionalism. An extensive knowledge of Asia is not presumed, but students should be familiar with the history and geography of the region. They should have sufficient working knowledge of the corresponding Oriental and European languages.

Type of assessment: written test.