

Government of Russian Federation
Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of High Professional
Education

National Research University 'Higher School of Economics'
School of Asian Studies

Master's Program
Socioeconomic and Political Development of Modern Asia

Syllabus for the course
“Modern Asian Political Processes”

Author: Ass. Prof. Mikhail Karpov, mikhail-karpov.67@rambler.ru
Recommended by:

Approved by: Academic Council of the School of Asian Studies
Head of the School of Asian Studies
Prof. Alexey Maslov

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Modern Asian Political Processes

MA Course Program

The Aims of the Course

- To familiarize students with the concept of socio-political culture and political process as well as with basic terminology of social and cultural anthropology.
- To develop students' professional insight into the existing fundamental concepts of political power and authority and into the cultural and historic origins of the concept of political power and political process.
- To familiarize students with the historic process of formation and modern evolution of the concepts of political power and processes in different regions of East Asia.
- To develop students' professional insight into the institution building processes and its modern evolution in different regions of East Asia.
- To develop students' abilities to do scientific and analytical research using sources in the English language.
- To develop students' ability to find relevant research information (sources and literature) in the English language.

Students' Knowledge

- Students must know the origins and meaning of the term “political culture” and “political process” and basic terminology of social and cultural anthropology.

- Students must learn existing concepts of political power and authority and political processes as well as cultural and historic origins of the concept of political power and process.
- Students must learn the history of formation and modern evolution of the concepts of political power, authority and political processes in the main regions of East Asia.
- Students must develop professional insight into the structure and dynamics of institution building processes and their modern evolution in the main regions of East Asia.
- Students must upgrade their skills in reading, translating and analyzing of the English language texts on the subject of political culture, political power, political processes and institution building in modern East Asia.
- Students must upgrade their skills with regard to the use of analytical and reference literature on the subject of political culture, political power, political processes and institution building in modern East Asia.

Students' Professional Abilities

- Students must be able to understand the meaning of the terms “political culture”, “political authority”, “political process
- Students must be able to understand historic and cultural origins of the concept of “political power”
- Students must be able to differentiate and explain the differences between political cultures, concepts of authority, institution building and political processes in different countries of East Asia, belonging to the realm of “Confucian civilization”

- Students must be able to read, to translate and to review research and reference literature on the subjects of political cultures, institution building and political processes.
- Students must be able to make English language presentations of the results of their research work and readings on the subject of political culture, political power, institution building and political processes.

Students' Skills

- Students must get skills of independent analytical and research work with the English language literature on Political Science, Social Anthropology and Political Culture.
- Students must be skilled in making English language presentations on the issues of Political Science, Social Anthropology and Political Culture.
- Students must get skills in analyzing and forecasting the current state of affairs and possible tendencies of development of political systems and social process in modern East Asia.

The Place of the Course in the Structure of MA Program

The proposed course belongs to the block of disciplines which provides theoretical training in Political Science, Political Institutionalism, Political Economy and Social Anthropology.

The proposed course is based on the following disciplines:

- East Asian Regional Studies
- International Relations and Conflict Management
- Political Science
- Political Philosophy
- Political Economy of Modernization in East Asia
- Cultural Anthropology

- Social Anthropology
- Cultural History of East Asia

In order to master the contents of the proposed course students must have the following knowledge and skills:

- To have intermediary level of oral and written English language
- To master the basic terminology of the disciplines “Political Science”, “World History” and “Cultural Anthropology”
- To have general understanding of the socio-economic and political development of modern East Asia

The fundamentals of the proposed course can be used by the students in their further studies in the following fields:

- Political Science and the Principles of Political Analysis
- East Asian Regional Studies
- Political Economy of Modernization in East Asia
- International Relations and Conflict Management

Course outlines (syllabus)

№	Topic	Total hours for the topic	Total class hours			Self-study
			Lectures	Seminars	Practical classes	
1	<p>Introduction. The Concepts of Political Culture and Political Process.</p> <p>The concept of Power as the key subject of political culture. Origins and evolution of the concept of Power. The place and role of the myth of “primordial chaos” in the process of</p>	16	4	2	0	10

	<p>formation of political power and political legitimacy. Semantic meaning of the notions of “Power” and “Authority”. Family socialization process as the key link in formation of the concept of political power < political process and political legitimacy.</p>					
2	<p>Socio-Political Culture of the “West” and the East”: The General and the Particular.</p> <p>Original commonality in the concepts of political power and legitimacy in the “West” and in the Asia. “West” is “pulling away” – the processes of social and gender emancipation as the prerequisite for the formation of modern political power (authority) in the “West” – secularity, professional bureaucracy, representation (through elections), utilitarianism and efficiency. Conservation of the concept of sacral political power (authority) in Asia. Forced character of the formation of modern concepts of political power and authority in Asia.</p>	24	4	6	0	14
3	<p>Socio-Political Culture and the Concepts of Political Power and Political Processes in Confucian East Asia: Overalls.</p> <p>The Confucian concept of personality as an element of social and gender hierarchy. The concept of socialized dependence of</p>	24	4	4	0	16

	<p>personality on a group as a key mechanism of socio-political identity and the space of “quest for personal safety and happiness”. The problem of relationships between the “peak” of socio-gender hierarchy (“system”) and (potential) opposition. The key principles of Confucian socialization path: taboo on aggressiveness, emotion and reflection. Socio-political cognitive dissonance. The absence of “body taboo”. The phenomenon of religious syncretism and sacral “this worldly” power. Semantic origins of “demigod” functions of political power in East Asia. Political power performance as “emotionless ritual”.</p>					
4	<p>Socio-Political Culture, Key Characteristics of Political Processes and Institution Building in China.</p> <p>Key principles of Chinese family structure: the absence of the right to primogeniture. The concept of “impeccable moral authority” of the elders. The concepts of “face”, “duty” and “shame” as cultural alternative to Christian “conscience”. Total suppression of aggressiveness. Non-articulation of “personal spirituality”. Mechanisms and typology of quasi kinship relations “guanxi”. Structures and mechanisms of political system’s integrity in traditional China. Reasons for institutional fragility in Chinese political culture. Leninist</p>	24	2	6	0	16

	party-state in contemporary China as a mechanism of socio-political integration: combination of tradition, quasi tradition and modernity. Structure and dynamics of political processes in modern China: “xitong” and “danwei” systems.					
5	<p>Socio-Political Culture, Political Processes and Institution Building in Japan.</p> <p>Japanese socio-political culture as a peculiar phenomenon in the region of East Asia. Confucianism fixed into non-Chinese social system. Traditional Japanese family structure based on the right to primogeniture. “Blurred” character of Japanese political power and responsibility. “Always apologize but never explain”. Legitimate aggression and ritualistic emotion. Relative weakness of “impeccable moral authority” of the elders and stress on “duty” rather than on “face”. Legitimate competitiveness. Japanese peculiarities in quasi kinship “giri” relations: high degree of manifested personalization. Structure and mechanisms of integrity of traditional Japanese socio-political system. “Quazi feudalism” and the lack of centralized political power. Institution building from bottom up and reasons for sustainability of Japanese macro-structures of political power and their legitimacy. Practice of “ringi” as typical</p>	24	2	4	0	18

	Japanese mechanism of political process and decision-making. From Shogunate to “Empire” and from “Empire” to “Democracy”: key mechanisms and impasses of the Japanese socio-political and institutional evolution.					
6	<p>Socio-Political Culture, Political Processes and Institutions in Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan</p> <p>Korean family: Confucian “moral imperative” mixed with competitiveness and the notion of “latent illegitimacy” of socio-political power. The influence of military and political catastrophes on socio-political culture and institution building processes in this country.</p> <p>Vietnamese socio-political culture as the case which is most close to the Chinese traditional patterns. Reasons and key characteristics of differences from the Chinese model. Influence of Hinduism and Buddhism, geopolitical pressure from Chinese “North” and Hindu-Buddhist “West”. Cultural and political legacy of the French colonial rule. Military and political catastrophes and their impact on Vietnamese socio-political culture and institution building processes.</p> <p>Unique “multi-polar” character of Taiwanese social, cultural and political identity</p>	24	2	6	0	16

	as a key prerequisite to formation and development of robust civil society and democratic institution building. Specific characters of multiparty system of the modern Republic of China in Taiwan as a display of intrinsic crisis of cultural and political identity.					
7	<p>Conclusions. Political Processes in Contemporary East Asia and the Problem of Modernization.</p> <p>Forced and “catching up” character of socio-political and institutional modernization in East Asia. Reasons for comparatively high adaptability to political modernization in East Asia. Characteristics and dynamics of the limits on East Asian process of political modernization. The concept of “Dependent Competitiveness” (“Competitiveness vs. Group Identity”).</p>	16	2	2	0	12
		152	20	30	0	102

Grading.

Cumulative grade :

Attendance and Class Participation - 30%

Presentation - 40%

Group Discussion and readings – 30%

Final mark=0.3 cumulative grade+0.7 grade for exam.

Prerequisites:

Marks of the students are based on participation in discussions on readings, lectures and individual presentations. The final mark comes as a result of the oral examination. Oral examination envisages student's professional elaboration on the one of the following topics accompanied by answers to additional questions related to the course material asked by the tutor.

Topics for elaboration at the oral examination:

1. The subject of political culture. The origins of political power and authority.
2. The concepts of political power and authority in the West and in Asia: what is common, what is different?
3. Confucian socio-political culture: main structural characteristics.
4. China: political culture, political processes and institution building.
5. Japan: political culture, political processes and institution building.
6. The case of Taiwan: how democracy became possible?
7. Korea and Vietnam: "halfway" cases between China and Japan.

Main Literature on the Course:

1. Sharma, U. Indian Political Thought. Atlantic Publishers, 2001
2. Curtis, G. The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions and the Limits of Change. Columbia University Press, 1999
3. Morris, S. Why Vietnam Invaded Cambodia: Political Culture and the Causes of War. Stanford University Press, 1999
4. Oksenberg, M., Lieberthal K. Policy Making in China: Leaders, Structures, Processes. Westview Press, 1988

5. Pye, L. *The Mandarin and the Cadre: China's Political Cultures*. Cambr. Mass. 1988
6. Pye, L. *The Spirit of Chinese Politics*.
7. Pye, L., Jackson, K (ed.) *Political Power and Communications in Indonesia*. California: Berkeley University Press, 1978
8. MacCormick, B. *Political reform in Post-Mao China. Democracy and Bureaucracy in the Leninist State*. University of California Press, 1990
9. Tsing, S. (ed.) *The Vitality of Taiwan: Politics, Economics, Society and Culture*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2012
10. Pye, L. *Asian Power and Politics. Cultural Dimensions of Authority*. Harvard University Press, 1985
11. Studwell, J. *China Dream. The Quest for the Last Untapped Market on Earth*. London: Penguin Books, 2002; *How Asia Works. Success and Failure in the World's Most Dynamic Region*. London: Profile Books, 2013