

National Research University – Higher School of Economics
Department of History
Syllabus of the course: “History of Economics and Economic Institutions”
Master’s program “Applied and Interdisciplinary History ‘Usable Pasts’ ”

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This syllabus cannot be used by other university departments and other higher education institutions without the explicit permission of the department of History

- Annotation

This course aims at providing guidance in writing MA dissertations. Discussing chapters submitted according to MA writing and submission timeline, the Research seminar elaborates on diversity of methodologies of possible usage and strengthens research skills.

- Learning outcome:

Upon completion of the course students should:

- have a good grasp of the analysis of historical sources
- have obtained a general overview of the key methods of writing history
- have gained the skills of interdisciplinary research of Usable pasts
- have developed the skills to express sophisticated and large-scale historical arguments both orally and in writing

As a result of completing the course, students will develop the following competences:

System competencies

Code (RUS)	Code (ENG)	Competence description
CK - 2	SC-2	Ability to generate concepts and theoretical models, to test new methods and tools for professional activities
CK - 3	SC-3	Ability to master new research methods, and to transform his or her own professional profile

Professional competencies

Code (RUS)	Code (ENG)	Competence description
ПК - 1	PC - 1	Ability to carry out research practices drawing on up-to-date research methodologies and knowledge in the humanities, social sciences and other relevant areas of scholarship

ПК - 2	PC - 2	Ability to engage in interdisciplinary interaction and collaboration with
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Personal and social competencies

Code (RUS)	Code (ENG)	Competence description
НИД - 2	NID - 2	Mastering, improvement and developing of theoretical and methodological approaches, research methods, methods of analysis in the field of study of the subjects of professional activity
НИД - 4	NID - 4	Analysis and generalization of scholarly research according to the requirements of up-to-date historical scholarship

- Prerequisites, course type, role of the discipline within the structure of Master program

This is an obligatory course taught in the second year of the master’s program “Applied and Interdisciplinary History «Usable Pasts»”.

The following knowledge and competences are needed to study the discipline: Upper-intermediate or advanced reading and speaking skills in English.

- Assessment

Students’ final grade will consist of:

Class engagement: 10 %

Peer-reviews: 40 %

MA Thesis Chapters (2 in total): 50% — due by 04.11. 2018, 17.01.2019.

- Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment

Students are to cover all the weekly readings. Grades will consider the originality of the argument, the use made of secondary sources, the quality of argumentation, and the form and struc-

ture of presentation. Attendance of all sessions is a prerequisite for successful completion of the course.

Internal peer-review

Besides presenting original research, students are expected to contribute to discussing peers' works. Every project presented will undergo internal peer-review. At least two reviewers will be assigned to each student. A review should be a critical, concise, insightful, and unbiased piece of writing, which:

- Briefly summarizes a reviewed text;
- Indicates major points;
- Challenges arguments and conclusions;
- Recommends how to fix flaws, if any;
- Highlights strengths of a proposed piece of writing.

Approaching Sources

Effective analysis of historical evidence is a crucial aspect of the historian's craft, and a major requirement for satisfying gatekeepers within the discipline. Therefore, an MA dissertation should demonstrate a student's ability to critically engage with sources, that is to:

- Distinguish primary sources from secondary;
- Thoughtfully and appropriately utilize relevant materials;
- Undertake *external* criticism of a source for determining its validity;
- Undertake *internal* criticism of a source for challenging its contents;
- Consider relevant standards of citing and referencing;
- Avoid plagiarism.

• Course plan

№	Themes	Total hours	Seminars
1	Introductory session	4	2
2	Session on Chapter 1	16	7
3	Session on Chapter 2	16	8

• Structure and content

The course consists of **3 sessions** and includes according to the MA thesis guidelines:

<https://spb.hse.ru/en/ma/apphist/thesis>

- Evaluation

During the course the students are assigned to submit two chapters of MA thesis (up to 6000 words) based on analysis of historical sources. The students set a research question for each essay themselves consulting their academic supervisors.

These papers make up 50 percent of the grade. The other 50 percent is made up by class engagement and peer-reviews.

- Literature

Obligatory readings

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* [any edition; see, for example: <http://jcs.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/A-manual-for-writers-of-research-papers-theses-and-dissertations.pdf>]

William Strunk Jr., and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style* [any edition; see, for example: <http://www.jlakes.org/ch/web/The-elements-of-style.pdf>]