

**Government of the Russian Federation
Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of High Professional
Education
National Research University 'Higher School of Economics'
Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs
School of Asian Studies**

**Master's Program
in Socioeconomic and Political Development of Modern Asia**

**Syllabus for the course
THEORY IN ASIAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

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I. Course Description

a. Title of the Course

“Theory in Asian and International Studies”.

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b. Prerequisites (Required academic background)

The pre-requisites for participating at the seminar include essential knowledge of the main aspects of world history, history of international relations, geography as well as research methodology. It is desirable that the students have background training in Asian studies. Participation in the seminars requires sufficient competence in using principles and methods of social studies required at the Bachelor level.

In the content respect, the course is closely linked with other courses within the curriculum of the Master’s program “**Socioeconomic and Political Development of Modern Asia**” (courses on history, comparative politics, security, economics, etc.), which determines its harmonious integration in the curriculum. The interdisciplinary nature of the course presupposes that students shall frequently resort to the knowledge and skills obtained during their study at the MA program.

c. Course Type

Compulsory

II. The course aims

This course is aimed at the equipping students majoring in Asian studies with a comprehensive understanding of classical and currently forming theoretical approaches as well as some of the main theoretical debates over issues that span the fields of International Relations and Asian studies. The course addresses the role of theoretical knowledge in the social studies and humanities, and surveys major social science research programs such as rational choice and historical institutionalism. Additionally, the students will examine the major paradigms and theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and area studies (Realism, Liberalism, International Political Economy, Social Constructivism, International Society and non-western approaches) and exercise in analyzing the theoretical and empirical advantages and disadvantages of these approaches.

III. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the students are expected to be able to:

1. **to recognize** and **critically assess** various theoretical paradigms in International Relations and area studies
2. **to use** the key terms and concepts related to the examined theoretical approaches and research programs
3. **to explain** the logic of major theories of International Relations and Asian Studies analyzing and illustrating them with empirical examples of Asian countries’ development
4. **to identify** and **explain** the cutting-edge trends and theoretical shifts in international and Asian studies
5. **to adequately use the mentioned theories and approaches as well as methodological instruments** of the contemporary social science in analyzing real-world events in Asian world
6. to effectively **work** with literature and different types of information resources, to locate, analyse, evaluate, synthesise information on conflict-related issues from a wide variety of sources

7. *to distinguish* between incoherent explanation and well-grounded argumentation
8. *to be able to work in group* on theoretical and practical problems linked to Asian and International Relations studies, *to critically assess* own work and work of the other participants of the course.

IV. The course structure

The course falls into the category of the compulsory and is taught in the 2nd year of the Master's program. The total amount of hours entitled for the course at the first year is 114 hours (42 contact hours at class and 72 academic hours of self-study).

The distribution of the teaching time is as follows:

Number of weeks	7
Number of hours for examination	1

Number of credit units: 3

Syllabus The course schedule

Total class hours		Self-study	Total hours
Lectures	Seminars		
18	24	72	114

Course plan (by topics) and recommended readings

Index number of class	Title of the topic	Distribution of hours by a form of work		
		Lectures	Seminars	Self-study
I	Basic Research Programs and Perspectives In Contemporary International and Asian Studies			
1	Asia as a Region and Space of International Interactions. New Trends in International Relations in Asia	2	2	6
2	The Role of Theory in Social-Scientific Inquiry. The Significance of Theory in International Relations And Area Studies	2	2	8

3	Rational Choice Theory in Contemporary International Relations and Area Studies	2	2	8
4	Institutional Perspective: The Institutional Approach in IR, Comparative Politics and Regional Studies	2	2	8
II	Classical and Contemporary Approaches to International Relations, World Politics and Area Studies with Application to Asian Studies			
5	Realism and Neorealism in Political Science and Area Studies	2	2	6
6	Liberal Tradition in IR and Asian Studies (Classical Liberalism, Neoliberalism, Neoliberal Institutionalism)	2	2	6
7	Constructivism and International Society Approach in International and Area Studies: Their Use in Asian Studies	2	4	10
8	The Basics of International Political Economy and the Role of IPE in Asian Studies	2	4	10
9	Non-Western Approaches to International Relations, World Politics and Asian Studies	2	4	12
Total	114	18	24	72

V. List of recommended literature and sources

A. Essential readings

- Collin, R.O., Martin, P.L. An Introduction to World Politics: Conflict and Consensus on a Small Planet. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012. – URL: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=977242>. – ЭБС ProQuest Ebook Central - Academic Complete.
- McGlinchey, S., Walters, R., Scheinpflug, Ch., eds. International Relations Theory. E-International Relations Publishing, 2017. – URL: <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/international-relations-theory/>.
- Shambaugh, D., Yahuda, M. International Relations of Asia. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014. – (Series: Asia in World Politics). – URL: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1655579> – ЭБС ProQuest Ebook Central - Academic Complete.
- The Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia / Eds. S.M. Pekkanen, J. Ravenhill, R. Foot. Oxford University Press, 2014. – URL: <http://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2131/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199916245.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199916245>. – ЭБС Oxford Handbooks Online (Political Science) 2014.
- Voskresenskii, A.D. Non-Western Theories of International Relations: Conceptualizing World Regional Studies. Springer, 2017. – URL: <https://proxylibrary.hse.ru:2176/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-33738-8>. – ЭБС Springer eBooks (Complete Collection 2017).

B. Additional readings

- Hom, A., McIntosh, Ch., McKay, A., Stockdale, L., eds. Time, Temporality and Global Politics. E-International Relations Publishing, 2016. – URL: <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/time-temporality-and-global-politics/>.
- Mansfield, E.D., Goldstein, A., eds. The Nexus of Economics, Security, and International Relations in East Asia. Stanford University Press, 2012. – URL: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1011060>. – ЭБС ProQuest Ebook Central - Academic Complete.
- McGlinchey, S. ed. International Relations. E-International Relations Publishing, 2016. – URL: <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/beginners-textbook-international-relations/>.
- Orsi, D., Avgustin, J.R., Nurnus, M., eds. Realism in Practice: An Appraisal. E-International Relations Publishing, 2018. – URL: <https://www.e-ir.info/publication/realism-in-practice-an-appraisal/>.
- Wagner, R.H. War and the State: The Theory of International Politics. University of Michigan Press, 2010. – URL: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3414756&query=The+State%2C+War%2C+and+the+State+of+War>. – ЭБС ProQuest Ebook Central - Academic Complete.

VI. Assessment system

“Outstanding”	10 points	A+
“Very good”	8-9 points	A-, A
“Good”	6-7 points	B-, B

“Satisfactory”	4-5 points	C, C-
“Poor”	1-3 points	F

VII. Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment

A. Assessment criteria

The grading system is based at the “10-point” approach to evaluating students’ knowledge. The form of the final control is *examination*.

B. Grading Policy and Assessment Items

Students should participate in all kinds of work during the course.

1. Accumulated Grade: 60%

➤ **Contribution to the seminar discussions** (30%). There will be a number of interactive teaching classes, including discussions on methodology, oral and written answers to the professor’s questions based on the readings, methodology games, etc. One class participation totals max. 10 points. A student abstaining from answer gets 0 points. Class attendance is essential. Students who stayed away from a class can get additional points by fulfilling additional tasks assigned by the professor.

➤ **Group project / tutorial presentation** to share with the class (30%). The presentation reveals students’ knowledge of the topic they have developed, an ability to persuasively answer their colleagues’ questions, make coherent argumentation as well as their public speech skills.

2. Final examination (written): 40%

The formula of calculating the final grade is as follows:

$$\text{Final grade} = 0,6 * \text{accumulated grade} + 0,4 * \text{examination grade}$$

The written answer (essay) requirements:

- Format: Times New Roman, 12, 1 space, min 2-max 3 pages per question.
- The essay should contain elements of scientific research and demonstrate a student’s knowledge of the relevant literature. Where necessary, the author can support his/her answer with empirical examples.
- The paper should be original with bibliography, proper footnotes and quotation marks.
- No late submissions will be accepted.
- Plagiarism will be punished by giving “0” points for the paper.

The written answer (essay) grading criteria

A “10 points” work:

- shows the results of the original student’s research
- should demonstrate analytical and independent research skills of a student – the paper moves beyond merely quoting ideas in the secondary literature
- shows the broader evidence of its findings for the topic discussed or for the discipline of political and conflict studies
- includes explanation of the aim, goals of the research, methodology employed in it as well as substantiation of the theoretical approach applied to the research

- is flawless in reasoning, substance, mechanics
- paragraphs flow smoothly
- one major topic is discussed in a separate paragraph
- each topic is discussed in depth before moving on to the next one
- the paper starts with a substantial statement of intent, maintains its clarity and focus throughout the text
- has good structure and effective order
- all concepts and terminology are used correctly
- has no ambiguity of points under discussion and meanings
- thoughts are completed
- evidence is used in proper context
- paper shows thorough understanding of the course material
- good mechanical and conceptual organization
- the conclusion is directly rooted in and supported by the evidence given in the body of the text

The course policy and requirements

- Students are required to fulfil all the components of assessment in order to get a final grade for the course.
- Reading, analyzing and synthesizing of the required readings is a pre-requisite for participating at every class.
- Attendance of the classes is essential.
- Contribution to the discussions at class is extremely significant for successful completion of the course and for achieving the main learning goals.
- A student's absence at class or abstaining from answer equals to "0" points for participation.
- Students' absence at less than a half of classes equals to "0" points for participation.
- Submitting of less than a half of the required assignments equals to "0" points for activity on seminars.
- Late paper submissions, plagiarism and "copy-paste" are not allowed.

VIII. Teaching methodology

Besides traditional teaching methods, the course involves a number of interactive methods (round table discussions, panel discussions, work in pairs, interactive tutorials, etc.) and requires active participation of students during class discussions. The teaching is aimed at developing academic, cognitive, transferrable skills and is completely oriented at *active learning*. The employed methods of teaching suppose to develop independent thinking, critical assessment, own thought formulation, practice special techniques of analysis. The professor applies a set of traditional and new teaching tools in order to deliver the course in an engaging and effective way.

The professor recommends readings and provides some of them to the students in the electronic form. Students as well are encouraged to find the course-related material themselves upon consultation with the instructor.

Sample examination tasks

Please answer the following questions by providing an essay response:

Question 1: Based on the course materials as well as on your own knowledge of the subject, compare and contrast

- 1) Classical Realism and Neorealism in IR theory (highlight important similarities and point out at least four differences between these two theories);
- 2) Theoretical assumptions of any two International Political Economy theories (Mercantilism, Economic Liberalism, Marxism, Neomarxism, Hegemonic Stability theory, Dependency theory, World System theory);
- 3) Western and Non-Western theoretical approaches to international processes (identify at least four differences and similarities with proper examples);

Question 2: Use any theory (one or more) from those we have studied to explain any (*please choose one*) of the following cases:

- 1) the prospects of implementation of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative;
- 2) the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's role in the Asian region;
- 3) the successes and failures of the United Nations in Asia (if you wish you may choose only one subregion or case related to IR in Asia);
- 4) trade wars between China and the USA;
- 5) North Korea's steps towards peace on the Korean peninsula in 2018.

For the Question 2, each student chooses one question from the above list and develops his/her answer using the following outline:

1. Introduction
2. Main part (origins and current state of an issue, main theoretical approaches to the issue, examples of application of various theories analyzing this case to the Asian cases, criticism and discussion)
3. Conclusion

The essay requirements:

- Format: Times New Roman, 12, 1 space, min 4-max 5 pages for Question 1, min 3-max 4 pages for Question 2.
- The written answers should contain the elements of scientific research and demonstrate a student's knowledge of the relevant literature. Where necessary, the author can support his/her answer with empirical examples.
- The paper should be original with bibliography, proper footnotes and quotation marks.
- No late submissions will be accepted.
- Plagiarism will be strictly punished.

9. **Special Equipment and Software Support:** laptop, projector