

Syllabus

Research seminar

(Master program "Politics. Economics. Philosophy", 1st year)

6 ECTS

(taught in English)

Author – prof. [O. Ananyin](mailto:ananyin@hse.ru), (mailto: ananyin@hse.ru)
HSE Department of Theoretical Economics

1. Course description

- *Course Type*

Compulsory

- *Abstract*

- *The course taught in the first year of the master's program, serves as its "core class" whose fundamental goal is twofold – to develop understanding of the nature, potential and limits of social sciences, and to elucidate the links between political, economic, and philosophical components of the PEP program. The course does count on the students' anterior basic familiarity with philosophy, economics and political science, as well as on their advancement in these academic disciplines through taking other respective classes offered by the program and coordinated with the Research seminar. The Seminar's aspiration is to propel the students' grasp of the constitutive disciplines of PEP through its own devices thereby contributing to the fulfillment of the fundamental interdisciplinary mission of PEP. It is aiming at strengthening students' intellectual outlook, cultivating skills of critical thinking, professional and public discussion.*

2. Learning objectives

- *provide skills of synthesizing methods of research which are conventionally believed to fall within the purview of separate compartmentalized social disciplines and philosophy (as a distinct sort of "knowing"); ability to pursue a "problem-driven" rather than "method-driven" strategy of research;*
- *enhance ability of independent, critical, and innovative thinking;*
- *enhance student's soft skills of writing academic essays in conformity with the internationally established standards, of mastering rhetorical strategies and presentation techniques;*
- *provide a platform for discussion of students' research proposals, literature reviews and term-works;*
- *provide a platform for master-classes of leading scholars.*

3. Learning Outcomes

- *research, writing and presentation competencies;*
- *ability to complete scientific text.*

4. Seminar plan

| ## | Activities | Contact hours | Self-studies | Total |
|------|---|---------------|--------------|------------|
| | 1 - 2 modules | 36 | 40 | 76 |
| I | Introduction to Epistemology of Social Sciences | 14 | 14 | 28 |
| II | Value Judgments in Social Sciences | 18 | 18 | 36 |
| IIa | Developing term-work proposals | 4 | 16 | 20 |
| | 3-4 modules | 36 | 44 | 80 |
| III | Social Change: Diagnostics and Design | 28 | 24 | 52 |
| IIIa | Developing term-work outlines | 4 | 12 | 16 |
| IV | Master-classes with Guest Speakers | 4 | - | 4 |
| V | Defenses of term-works | - | 8 | 8 |
| | Total | 72 | 84 | 156 |

5. Reading List

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

Blaug, M. *The Methodology of Economics*. 2nd ed. (1992). Cambridge University Press.

Hausman, D.M. *The Philosophy of Economics*. An Anthology.(2008).Cambridge University Press.

The SAGE Handbook of the Philosophy of Social Sciences. (2011). Ed. by Ian Jarvie and Jesus Zamora-Bonilla. SAGE

Durkheim, E. (1982/1895). *The Rules of Sociological Methods*, ed. St. Lukes. NY: The Free Press.

Weber, Max. (1968/1922). *Economy and Society*, ed. G. Roth & C. Wittich, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Max Weber on The Methodology of the Social Sciences. (1949). Eds.: E.A. Shils and H.A. Finch. Free Press.

The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political analysis. (2006). Ed. by R.E. Goodin and Ch. Tilly. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The Oxford handbook of philosophy of social science. (2012). Ed. by H. Kincaid. Oxford University Press

The Oxford Handbook of Professional Economic Ethics. (2018). Ed. by DeMartino and D. McCloskey. Oxford University Press.

The Positivist Dispute in German Sociology. (1976 [1962]). London: Heinemann.

Rodrik, D. (2015). *Economics Rules. The Rights and Wrongs of the Dismal Science*. NY-London. W.W. Norton.

Rodrik, D. (2007). *One economics, many recipes: globalization, institutions, and economic growth*. Princeton University Press.

Colander, D. (2005). *From Muddling through to the Economics of Control: Views of Applied Policy from J. N. Keynes to Abba Lerner*. Middlebury College Economics Discussion paper No. 05-33

Fukuyama, F. (1989). "The end of history?", *The National Interest*, No.16 (Summer): 3-18.

Liedtka, J.M. (1998). "Strategic Thinking: Can it be Taught?" *Long Range Planning*, vol. 31 (1): 120-129.

Lindblom, Ch. E. (1959). "The Science of «Muddling Through»," *Public Administration Review*, vol. 19(2):79-88

Minzberg, H. (1994). "Rethinking Strategic Planning. Parts I & II," *Long Range Planning*, vol. 27(3): 12-30.

Offe, Claus. (1996). "Capitalism by democratic design? Democratic theory facing the triple transition in East Central Europe", in C. Offe, *Varieties of Transition. The East European and East German Experience*. Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 29-49.

Polanyi, Karl. (1957) Aristotle discovers the economy. In: *Trade and Market in the Early Empires. Economies in History and Theory*. Ed. by K. Polanyi e.a. The Free Press

Samuels W. (1991). "«Truth» and «discourse» in the social construction of reality", *Journal of*

- Post Keynesian Economics*, vol. 13, N 4
- Sartori, G. (1991). "Comparing and miscomparing," *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 3(3): 243-257.
- Wallerstein, I. (1997). "Social science and the communist interlude, or interpretations of contemporary history," *Polish Sociological Review*, No. 117: 3-12.

6. Grading System and Requirements

The final grade will be composed of the grades for seminar participation and for intermediate (proposal and literature review) and final outcomes of a term-work preparation:

$$Q_{fin} = 0,5Q_{sem} + 0,1Q_{prop} + 0,1Q_{lit_rev} + 0,3Q_{def},$$

where:

- (Q_{sem}) – grade for seminar participation, (Q_{prop}) - grade for the term-work proposal, (Q_{lit_rew}) – grade for the literature review; and Q_{def} - grade for the defense of a term-work.

Additional conditions:

- Final grade below 4 is not rounded.*
- Attendance and class participation are vital for the successful performance. The absence of a student on one-third or more classes will make one's seminar participation grade equal to zero.*
- Failure to fit deadlines for presentation of required texts leads to subtraction of up to 30% of respective grades; failure to fit the deadline for presentation of the term-work leads to non-admission to its defense.*

7. Examination Type

Overall assessment is based on the final grade described in p.6

8. Methods of Instruction

- Interactive lectures and seminars are organized as discussions over either recommended papers, or students' presentations. Students are encouraged to interact with colleagues and teachers.*
- Students are expected to read carefully contributions of class colleagues and actively participate in class discussion.*
- Term paper draft is expected to be formatted according to standards applied to journal articles (structure, citations, references), class presentations should be prepared in PowerPoint.*

9. Software Support

- Most of teaching materials are available for students from the sources of the HSE E-Library, or through LMS system.*
- Seminar discussions at class are supported with class projectors.*