

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

**Syllabus for the course  
The Key Problems in Asian Studies Research  
Актуальные проблемы изучения стран Востока**

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Approved by Academic Council of the Master's Program  
in Socioeconomic and Political Development of Modern Asia 02.04.2019  
Academic Director of the Program  
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## Course Description

a. Course Title **The key problems in Asian Studies research**

**b. Pre-requisites**

The prerequisites for participating in the course include essential knowledge of the main aspects of research methodology, world history, economics, geography, world culture on the undergraduate level. The expected entry level knowledge does imply special background in Asian studies with working knowledge of English and one of the Eastern languages. Participation in the course requires sufficient competence in using scientific research principles and methods, the necessary research skills acquired at the Bachelor's program.

c. Course Type compulsory,

d. Abstract

This course concentrates on the several important problems and issues of Asian Studies that are fundamental for the deeper understanding of classical and modern development of East Asia and focuses on the major theoretical and practical issues and problems in Asian Studies as a discipline. The role of theory, both broadly and narrowly understood, in the social sciences and in Asian Studies in particular, will be clarified and their application to specific issues explained. A comparative area studies approach to learning encourages a broader, contextual understanding of the modern Asian development

### 2. Learning Objectives:

We will concentrate in several key issues that will be the capstone of understanding of cultural and social development of Asia: The new methodology of comparative approaches to the level of socio-economic development of East Asia. We will focus on significant cultural factors which played an enormous role in the great divergence Europe from Asia. The key problems of transformation of modern East Asian society including the anthropology of civilization, modernity and the state.

### 3. Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course the students are expected to be able to undertake a substantial research project through which to demonstrate their research and analytical skills and how well they can apply a given theoretical understanding and methodology to a set problem.

### 4. Course Plan:

Total hours 114	Class (contact) hours 42 (lectures)
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	Lecture	Seminar questions	Readings and Assessments
Week 1	Introducing Asian Studies	How can we interpret cooperation and competition in Asia from a realist, liberal and constructivist perspective?  How do we explain Asia from socio-economic and political perspectives?	
Week 2	US Foreign Policy in Asia	What explains US foreign policy in Asia?	Silove, N., 2016.

		Apply a SWOT and PEST analysis	Schweller, R., 2018.
Week 3	China's Peaceful Rise?	How can we explain the political economy of China?  What is the future of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)?	Mearsheimer, J.J., 2010.  De Graaff, N. and Van Apeldoorn, B., 2018.  Yu, H., 2017.  Literature Review is due
Week 4	India and Japan as Regional Powers or Great Powers?	How can we explain the foreign policy interests of Japan and India?  Are Japan and India 'Great Powers'?  What does nuclear weapons impact the region?	Hughes, C.W., 2016.  Ganguly, S., 2017.  Fatton, L.P., 2018.  Presentations: Group A
Week 5	Deterrence and Compellence in Asia: South Korea and Taiwan	Use a comparative approach to assess whether deterrence in South Korea and Taiwan creates stability or instigates a security dilemma.	Chang, K. and Lee, C., 2018.  Schreer, B., 2017.  Presentations: Group B
Week: 6	Territorial disputes	Why are Asian power risking war for a few 'rocks' in the Sea?  Are the territorial conflicts about nationalism, energy politics, transportation corridor, military security?  Does Asia lack regional institutions?	Scott, D., 2012.  Gries, P.H., Steiger, D. and Wang, T., 2016.  Presentations: Group C
Week: 7	Russia as an Asian/Pacific Power	Is Russia an Asian / Pacific Power?  How does Russia's 'pivot to Asia' impact the region?	Lukin, A., 2017.  Kuhrt, N. and Buranelli, F.C., 2018.  Diesen, G., 2018.  Final Essay is due

## 5. Reading List

### a. Required

Chang, K. and Lee, C., 2018. North Korea and the East Asian Security order: competing views on what South Korea ought to do. *The Pacific Review*, 31(2), pp.245-255. URL:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09512748.2017.1397733?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

De Graaff, N. and Van Apeldoorn, B., 2018. US–China relations and the liberal world order: contending elites, colliding visions?. *International affairs*, 94(1), pp.113-131. URL: [https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/images/ia/INTA94\\_1\\_7\\_232\\_deGraaff\\_vanApeldoorn.pdf](https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/images/ia/INTA94_1_7_232_deGraaff_vanApeldoorn.pdf)

Fatton, L.P., 2018. A new spear in Asia: why is Japan moving toward autonomous defense?. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*. URL: <https://academic.oup.com/irap/advance-article/doi/10.1093/irap/lcy006/4959342>

Ganguly, S., 2017. Has Modi Truly Changed India's Foreign Policy?. *The Washington Quarterly*, 40(2), pp.131-143. URL: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0163660X.2017.1328929>

Gries, P.H., Steiger, D. and Wang, T., 2016. Popular nationalism and China's Japan policy: the Diaoyu Islands protests, 2012–2013. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 25(98), pp.264-276. URL: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284785907\\_Popular\\_Nationalism\\_and\\_China's\\_Japan\\_Policy\\_the\\_Diaoyu\\_Islands\\_protests\\_2012-2013](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/284785907_Popular_Nationalism_and_China's_Japan_Policy_the_Diaoyu_Islands_protests_2012-2013)

Hughes, C.W., 2016. Japan's 'resentful realism' and balancing China's rise. *The Chinese Journal of International Politics*, 9(2), pp.109-150. URL: <https://academic.oup.com/cjip/article/9/2/109/1745011>

Kuhr, N. and Buranelli, F.C., 2018. Russia and the CIS in 2017: Russia in Asia: Succumbing to China's Embrace?. *Asian Survey*, 58(1), pp.55-64. URL: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1467-9256.12053>

b. Optional

Lukin, A., 2017. Russia's Policy in North East Asia and the Prospects for Korean Unification. *International Journal of Korean Unification Studies*, 26(1). URL: <https://publications.hse.ru/mirror/pubs/share//direct/211318984>

Schreier, B., 2017. The Double-Edged Sword of Coercion: Cross-Strait Relations After the 2016 Taiwan Elections. *Asian Politics & Policy*, 9(1), pp.50-65. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/aspp.12290>

Schweller, R., 2018. Opposite but Compatible Nationalisms: A Neoclassical Realist Approach to the Future of US–China Relations. *The Chinese Journal of International Politics*, 11(1), pp.23-48. URL: <https://academic.oup.com/cjip/article/11/1/23/4844056>

Scott, D., 2012. Conflict Irresolution in the South China Sea. *Asian Survey*, 52(6), pp.1019-1042. URL: <https://dscottcom.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/scs-irresolution.pdf>

Silove, N., 2016. The pivot before the pivot: US strategy to preserve the power balance in Asia. *International Security*, 40(4), pp.45-88. URL:<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/152707/2/01>

Yu, H., 2017. Motivation behind China's 'One Belt, One Road' initiatives and establishment of the Asian infrastructure investment bank. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 26(105), pp.353-368. URL: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10670564.2016.1245894>

## 6. Grading 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

Grade = 0.6 G1+0.2 G2+0.2 G3

- G1 - 4,000 word essay (60%)
- G2- 1,000 word literature review (20%)
- G3- 15 minute presentation of project (20%)

## 7. Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment

- The essay is primarily assessed by the ability to use critical analysis, develop and substantiate the key arguments, and structure the paper. We will also focus on the development of a research question and structure the essay accordingly to develop a focused essay.
- Literature review explores the main arguments, approaches, hypotheses, perspectives, and conclusions of the main academic contributors on the topic. The purpose of the literature review is to map the academic discussions around the topic and position the students argument within the existing literature.
- Presentations are assessed by 1) understanding of topic, analysis, 3) communication / preparations

## 8. Methods of Instruction

The classes combine lectures and seminars. Students will compare arguments and approaches of the readings for each week. The key topics are linked to the students' research papers.

## 9. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)

N/A