**Goals of the course**

Main objective of this course is to introduce the concept of public sphere to students and to show its analytical applicability from different social sciences perspectives (media perspective, public policy perspective etc). During this course specialists from different spheres (public policy and media communication) will present their sciences perspectives of this concept, will familiarize students with the different researches about public sphere in their fields.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic | Total hours | Classroom workload | | Individual workload |
| Lectures | Seminars |
| Public sphere, bourgeois society and the democracy | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Political activism, political contestation and meditated public sphere in the network society | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| Territorial issues of public sphere: public sphere in federal state | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Public sphere and counter (alternative) public spheres in the network society | 16 | 4 | 2 | 10 |

**Content of the course**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No of topic | Content of topic |
| 1. | Public sphere, bourgeois society and the democracy |
|  | The idea of mediated public sphere in Habermas’ works. Distinction between *polis* and *oikos.* The development of media sphere in western societies: coordinating of individual behavior on economic and political markets. Mass media within four forms of power (economic, political, symbolic and coercive). Evolution of main forms of power during Modernity and changes within the public sphere and media institutions. Social orders, its evolution and evolution of media systems. |
| 2. | Political activism, political contestation and mediated public sphere in the network society. |
|  | Political behavior and media consumption. Trajectories of political regimes evolution: model of R. A. Dahl. Role of media in influencing degree of political contestation and political participation. Different functions of media within different regimes. Three dimensions of political power by Lukes and role of media at the each level of the political power. Theories of political activism. Role of media in political activism. Theories of digital democracy. Digitally enabled collective actions and direct digital actions. Model of Lance Bennet.  Russian political activism and historical communicative risks of fractures within public sphere. Russian political and economic elites and media. |
| 3. | Territorial issues of public sphere: public sphere in federal state |
|  | Term of identity and it's communicative applications. Model of Turner. Regional identity and the role of media in building up of RI. Balance center-regions in political public sphere. Model of Vallerstein: centers and territories. Concept of digital divide in the regional level. Administrative taxonomy of regions and it's relationships with media. Russian centralized model of regional media power and implications of it. Media in regional policies in Russia during 1990s and 2000s. Media disparities between Russian regions. media disparities and mapping Russian media capital. |
| 4. | Public sphere and counter (alternative) public spheres in the network society |
|  | Bourgeois and proletarian public spheres in post-habermassian concepts. Idea of the network society. Networked capitalism of M. Castells. Typology of power forms in Castells works. Network-actor theory in field of media. Main actors influencing opposite public discourse in Russian media. Public discourse studies. Main discourse study approaches. Public discourse in Russian media and blogosphere. |

**Main bibliography and sources.**

Topic 1

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**Plan of seminars**

1 seminar (2 hours): During this seminar group should discuss main topics concerning historical tradition of Russian public sphere development in its relation with social and economic development. Students will be divided on groups and each group will obtain some readings before the seminar and should make the comparative presentation during the seminar to present different stages of development of Russian public sphere (before the soviet period, during soviet period and after the soviet period).

2 seminar (2 hours): This seminar is devoted to profound analysis of the public sphere and political life in Russia. Students should divide on 4 groups, each group will obtain reading prior the seminar and should prepare the work on the reading connecting different political phenomena (like political split, institution of political parties, political participation, political activism). After all presentation the presenter will sum up.

3 seminar (3 hours): This seminar will be practically-oriented. During this seminar students (divided on 3 groups) will do the practical work of constructing and constituting networks in public sphere. Students will work on biographies of Russian journalist and political analysts and connect them to each other and to their institutions.