**Рабочая программа дисциплины «Новейшие тенденции в политической науке (Current Trends in Political Science)»**

для образовательной программы «Политические науки»

направления подготовки 41.06.01 Политические науки и регионоведение

уровень: аспирантура

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Согласовано: Академический совет аспирантской школы по политическим наукам

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# Course description

The program of the course builds up the minimum requirements to the knowledge and skills of an PhD student and determines the content and types of classes and assessment. The program is designed for teachers of this discipline, learning assistants and students of political science PhD programs.

The program is developed according to:

•Educational Program «Political science»

•University Academic Plan of NRU HSE for PhD level education

# Course goals

The course explores current tendencies, topical issues and prospective advances in political science.

The course concentrates on recent achievements and results of political research that are particularly significant for the academic agenda and ongoing research of political science community of the National Research University “Higher School of Economics”.

The course also exposes critical junctures of contemporary political research and challenges that haunt present-day political science.

The course encourages PhD students to read and interpret current achievements in political studies, particularly those that are topical for their own research and provide PhD students with pioneering guidance.

The course is taught in English.

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of the course the students should:

**Know**:

the main breakthroughs and advancements in the current political science research,

specific achievements and publications that are recognized in the world-wide political science community,

the core of ideas and scientific results that shape the present profile of political science and some of its trends and subdisciplines.

**Be able to**:

interpret texts of political investigations, their context and prospects of further development,

use novel ideas and research results in one’s own studies,

use appropriate research principles, designs and framework in one’s own dissertation research,

develop coherent and persuasive argumentation in their own academic work.

**Gain experience in:**

analysis of the texts of political investigations, writing their summaries and critical apprisals,

professional use of achievements of alternative scholarly trends and traditions.

The course is aimed at giving students the following skills: UК-2, UК-6, ОPК-1, ОPК–2, ОPК–9, PК-1, PК-2

# Course placement in the Program

The course is delivered to the first year PhD students, as a part of their professional development. The course is mandatory.

The course is closely tied to the following disciplines:

* Research Seminar
* Writing PhD dissertation

It is designed to provide information on political science advancement and develop skills necessary for designing dissertation research.

# Forms of assessment

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Types of assessment | Forms of assessment | Semester  1 | Options |
| Ongoing assessment | Class participation | + | * discussion based on learning materials distributed for the course * reaction papers of 2 – 3 pages as well as 10 minutes presentation in class |
| Presentations on specific exemplary cases of advanced research | + | + | 2 academic hours, the language is English. For a sample of the task see 9 |

## 5.1. Сriteria of assessment

## Ongoing assessment is based on the work in the class, in particular, on presentations of the method / inquiry strategy and participation in discussion.

Final assessment is based on the written exam. ***The students whose cumulative ongoing grade is 8 and higher can take their cumulative grade as the final assessment***.

# The content of the course.

**Part 1. Advancement of Political Studies.**

**Unit 1. Making Political Science genuinely scientific.**

Scientism in political studies. Ongoing attempts to make political studies fitting scientific standards, particularly those of hard sciences. Expressed ambitions “to make PS more scientific”. The case of Rein Taagepera. His assertion that attempts to quantify political studies tend to miscarry. Taagepera’s claim that “sciences walk on two legs, but political science hops on one”.

**Unit 2. Fallacies in Political Science.**

Tradition of overcoming limitations and deficiencies of scientific research from Baconian idola to current criticism of research fallacies. Typical research biases and cognitive fallacies in political science – naturalist, reductionist, sequential, environmental, nirvana, vehicle, attribution etc. Current attempts to overcome specific fallacies.

**Part 2. Political Order and Institutions**

**Unit 3. The Study of Political Regimes**

Defining democracy and autocracy, classifying/measuring regimes, varieties of autocracy, regime survival and breakdown, regime maintenance, authoritarian parties, authoritarian elections, authoritarian responsiveness, repression, varieties of democracy

**Unit 4. Institutional design and good governance.**

Executive-legislative relations. Quality of government and corruption.

Civil-military relations, coups, and military rule.

Governance and good enough governance. Paradoxes of quality of governance.

**Part 3. Political Process**

**Unit 5. The Political Economy of Development.**

Economic Growth. Property rights. Institutions. State capacity and state-building. Rule of Law. Private-sector investment. Political connections. Corruption. Public goods provision. Causal inference and indigeneity. Experimental tools in Political Science and Economics.

**Units 6. Migration and global refugee crisis.**

Globalization and long-term demographic trends. Current trends of population dynamics and social inequality. Current global and regional trends of migration. Refugee crisis and attempts to control it. Role of states, international and regional organizations.

**Part 4. Political Communication and Media.**

**Unit 7. Public Opinion and Political Science.**

Political preferences, Political attitudes, Political Participation and vote choice, Measuring Public Opinion, Aggregating public opinion, Analysis of public opinion, Political knowledge and cognition, Information cues and shortcuts, Rational choice, Economic motives, Socialization, Group Identities, Ideology, Survey Design, Survey experiments

**Unit 8. Media and Public Opinion in New Media Environment.**

Media ecology. The brief history of mass media. The structural transformation of the public sphere. Media system: news, entertainment and advertising. Media effects: agenda-setting, framing, priming. The hybrid nature of new media environment. Political information cycle. Discursive participation as a form of political engagement. Media and democracy: beehives and echo chambers. Media and authoritarian regimes: the menu of manipulation.

**Part 4. Russian Studies.**

**Unit 9. Russian Studies. Political parties and elections in Russia.**

Russia’s party system establishment and development. The weak role of parties in the political system: problems of institutional design and practices. Regional and corporate political machines as substitutes for political parties in Russia. Party engineering and “the party of power” phenomenon. Projects of the reserve party of power formation and their failures. Russian electoral system evolution and its impact onto political institutions and practices. Electoral authoritarianism and its transformation. 2011-2012 electoral legitimacy crises and the way out. Needs and prospects of party system modernization. Electoral system at regional and local levels, their diversity. 2014-2018 regional elections.

**Unit 10. Russian Studies. State-territorial composition, its evolution**.

USSR disintegration and Russia’s shift to Asia. Russian federalism: by the Constitution and in reality. Subjects of federation: composition, number, statuses. Waves of regions’ enlarging in Soviet past. Parade of sovereignties in early 1990-ies and regions enlarging in 2005-2008. Regions’ borders: stability and changes, border disputes. The 2000 federal reform and federal districts. Logics of their establishment: political and managerial, their design and functions, changes in composition. Integration of Crimea into Russian space. Municipal reforms of 2003 and 2014. Managerial networks: military, railroad, water basins etc. Associations of regional economic cooperation.

# 8. Teaching methods and tools

# The course consists of lectures and seminars. To prepare their presentations for the seminars, students need to search, read and analyze a relevant research literature.

**9. Assessment details**

**The task for presentations at the seminar**

You are expected to prepare at least 2 presentations on specific exemplary cases of advanced research. Each presentation consists of a written reaction paper of 2 – 3 pages. These papers should be brief critiques and reflections of any of the reading assignments for a given week. Each brief should focus on either an evaluation of the argument and the evidence used to back it or be a discussion of the ways in which the pieces assigned build into a broader argument or debate. Briefs will be due the day before a given class. In class you supplement the circulated briefs a short oral expose based on PowerPoint presentation of 3-4 slides. In this presentation you not repeat the text of the briefs but give its an alternative lively rhetorical interpretation inviting a debate, probably formulation questions for the debate.

**A sample of the task for the written exam.**

Please, explain the reasons why the research X is significant for the current political science?

What academic challenges the research X has responded to?

Please, sum up its achievements? What are its comparative merits vis-à-vis similar research?

What are problematic aspects of the research X? Has it fully explored its research question? Do further questions crop up?

Would you be able to use lessons taught from the research X use in your own PhD investigation? If yes, how would you improve approach and techniques of the research X use in your own PhD research? If no, explain why.

# 10. Grade determination

**Final grade:**

Final assessment is based on the ongoing assessment and written exam. The ongoing assessment is composed of the assessments of the work in class Oaud and of the presentation of a particular mixed methods method / strategy of inquiry Opresent. ***The students whose cumulative ongoing grade is 8 and higher can take their cumulative grade for ongoing assessment as the final assessment***.

For students whose cumulative grade for ongoing assessment is below 7 the final grade is calculated according to the following formula:

*Gradefinal = 0,3·Grade presentation + 0,5·Gradeexam + 0,2·Gradeaud*

**Criteria for the assessment of the presentation at seminar:**

**8-10 (Excellent)**To earn **Excellent**, an exam paper must meet all of the criteria below:

The presentation provides a consistent description of a selected research project. The selection itself is amply explained and justified. It thoroughly interprets crucial parameters of the research. It is based on relevant examples of the author’s contribution to political science. The analysis of the research is both critical and constructive. Potential use of research finding and techniques in presenter’s PhD thesis (if relevant) is clearly exposed.

**6-7 (Good)**To earn **Good**, a paper must meet all of the criteria below:

The presentation provides a fairly good description of the research project X. The selection itself is explained to a significant extent but not consistently. It thoroughly interprets crucial parameters of the research. It provides visual examples of the author’s contribution to political science. The analysis of the research project X is relevant but not profound or critical enough. Potential use of research finding and techniques in presenter’s PhD thesis (if relevant) is mainly explained.

**4-5 (Satisfactory)**To earn **Satisfactory**, a paper must meet all of the criteria below:

The presentation provides a fair but not accurate description of the research project. The selection itself is explained only partially. It roughly interprets crucial parameters of the research. The presentation provides only random examples of the author’s contribution to political science. The analysis is satisfactory but unsystematic and not sufficiently critical. Potential use of research finding and techniques in presenter’s PhD thesis (if relevant) remains unclear.

**1-3 (Failing)**  
To earn **Failing**, a paper will exhibit one or more of the weaknesses below:

The presentation is not prepared. The scope of the presentation is insufficient. Interpretation is poor and confusing. Analysis is unhappy and sometimes misleading.

**Criteria for the assessment of the written exam:**

**8-10 (Excellent)**To earn **Excellent**, an exam paper must meet all of the criteria below:

The paper consistently explains the reasons why the research X is significant for the current political science. It clearly outlines what academic challenges the research X has responded to. The research achievements are fully summarized. The research question and design of the study are fully explored. The paper delineates further research challenges of the project. The student is able to use lessons taught from the research X in her/his own PhD investigation.

**6-7 (Good)**

To earn **Good**, a paper must meet all of the criteria below:

The paper explains the reasons why the research X is significant for the current political science. It adequately outlines what academic challenges the research X has responded to. The research achievements are partially summarized. Significant aspects of the research question and design of the study are explained. The paper indicates only some of the further research challenges of the project. The student may be able to use certain lessons taught from the research X in her/his own PhD investigation.

**4-5 (Satisfactory)**To earn **Satisfactory**, a paper must meet all of the criteria below:

The paper only hints why the research X is significant for the current political science. It very roughly mentions some of the academic challenges the research X has responded to. It mentions only selected research achievements. Random aspects of the research question and design of the study are discussed. The paper is unclear about the scope of the further research challenges of the project. The student is uncertain about the use of specific lessons taught from the research X in her/his own PhD investigation.

**1-3 (Failing)**  
To earn **Failing**, a paper will exhibit one or more of the weaknesses below:

The paper does not explain why the research X is significant for the current political science or academic challenges the research X has responded to. The research achievements mentioned are random or insignificant. The research question and design of the study are not explained. The student would hardly use if use at all scholarly implications of the research X in her/his own PhD investigation.

# 11. Teaching and learning materials: textbooks, designed materials, Internet resources

**Required (mandatory) reading**

Политическая наука: новые направления / Под ред. [Р. Гудина](http://opac.hse.ru/absopac/index.php?url=/auteurs/view/12861/source:default), [Х.-Д. Клингеманна](http://opac.hse.ru/absopac/index.php?url=/auteurs/view/12864/source:default);. – М.: Вече, 1999.

Tsygankov, A. P. (2012). *Russia and the West from Alexander to Putin: honor in international relations*. Cambridge University Press.

**Optional literature**

Мельвиль А. Ю. /Мир политической науки. М.: Просвещение: МГИМО - Университет.,

2004 .

Taagepera R. Making social sciences more scientific: The need for predictive models. –Oxford: OUP, 2008.

# 12. Required equipment

Computer or laptop, multimedia projector, text editing software.