

COURSES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES for ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS

at Sofia University

2018/2019 academic year

FACULTY OF CLASSICAL AND MODERN PHILOLOGY

Faculty coordinator: Assoc. Prof. Galina Sokolova,

Programme: Master's Degree Programme Geopolitics and Society in South, East and South-East Asia

Course code	Course title (in English)	Language of instruction	Course offered to BA/BS, MA/MS, PhD	Semester	ECTS	Number of hours			Lecturer/s's name	Lecturer/s's E-mail
						Lectures	Seminars	Practical work		
	East Asia and the Pacific: key to the global future	English	MA	summer	5	30			Alexander B. Alexiev	a.alexiev@uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course

The course "East Asia and the Pacific: Key to the Global Future" aims to show that successful resolving of problems in East Asian (EA) and Asia-Pacific (AP) region as the new world economic center of the 21-st Century is key to the global future. EA and AP countries bear an important responsibility with respect to national governments and global institutions on the planet to successfully address the challenges of global governance: unprecedented demographic, economic, technological, social, ecological and other mega-tendencies with potentially existential consequences for the whole of mankind. The only chance for success is to attract all countries around the world to participate in global governance and avoid the stalemate of a bipolar world (G-2, China-US). This thesis is defended by initially tracking the specific features of governments in EA and Southeast Asia, formed under the influence of Chinese civilization: Confucian traditions of a single centralized state with a meritocratic administration. The subsequent cultural and civilizational clash with the West in the period from the 16-th to the mid-20th century fundamentally undermines the traditional countries of Eastern and South Asia, but also promotes successful reform and modernization in countries such as China (including Taiwan), Hong Kong under British rule, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, etc. in the second half of the 20-th century. Hence, the rise of China and its transformation, together with Japan and the aforementioned "Asian Tigers" into the largest economic and political power in the region and second in the world, has led to the transformation of the whole EA&AP into a new global economic center, with powerful global institutions - the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); with a new, third in relative weight reserve currency in the World Bank and IMF - the Chinese yuan; with a new global reformation plan - "The New Silk Road" of the PRC or the "Economic Belt and Maritime Road" Initiative (OBOR, BRI).

Requirements for enrollment: NO

If any, please describe the specific requirements:

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						Lectures	Exercises/ Seminars	Practical work		
	China's Silk Road concept: The “One Belt, One Road” (OBOR) Initiative	English	MA	Summer	5	30			Alexander B. Alexiev	a.alexiev@uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course

The course introduces China's newest geopolitical initiative “The New Silk Road: “One Belt, One Road”, also called "China’s second opening up to the world." It discusses the economic and geopolitical motives behind the OBOR initiative, the Chinese concepts of the objectives and tasks of this two-part strategy, its drafting and implementation deadline, conceptual framework of its six economic corridors, key areas and mechanisms of cooperation. It reflects on the geostrategic and economic importance of the initiative for both the European Union and China, also noting the serious challenges to the implementation of this mega-project. Special attention is paid to the role of Bulgaria as one of the 16 CEE countries in an area that is key to success of the New Silk Road with its own separate cooperation mechanism with China (16 + 1). In fact, the whole area of the Balkans is an intermediate zone, a transport node where the routes of the Belt intersect with those of the maritime Road, the latter of which start from the port of Piraeus, its major European hub. Linking China and Asia as a whole with Europe is the main strategic goal of the OBOR, and in particular the reliable and rapid logistical relationship with the developed countries of Western Europe. As a result, communications between the CE&SE Europe, Eastern Partnership countries and the Mediterranean region as a whole become subject of further attention.

Requirements for enrollment: NO

If any, please describe the specific requirements: Basic knowledge of Chinese language is an asset.