

**«Economic Transformation in Modern World»  
Program of the course**

**Course for master degree students**

Lomonosov Moscow State University, Economic department; 'Economic theory' direction.

4 credits

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**Summary**

Differentia specifica of the course are interconnected with accent on the analysis of economic (1) system in (2) their transformation. Consequently, main goal of the course is to develop knowledge and analytical potential of the students in specific theoretical spaces, covering problems of economic transformations, both internal and external, in the interconnection with transformations of technologies, institutions, social and cultural life. Geoeconomic and geopolitical aspects are also included in the analysis. Among key questions of transformations authors will teach theory of genesis of knowledge-based economy and consequent transformations of market, money, capital and property relations. Another important chapter of the course - counter-points of transformation during last 100 years of Russian (pre-soviet, soviet, post-soviet) economic system.

**Program**

**Topic 1.**

***Economic systems and their development***

Economic systems: neoclassic, classic, institutional and neoinstitutional approaches. Types of economic systems: methodology of formation and civilization approaches, methodology of comparative economics. Structure of economic systems. Historical character of economic systems. Development and performance. Pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial systems. Traditional, market and post-market economies. Pre-capitalist, capitalist and post-capitalist economic systems.

**Topic 2.**

***Economic transformations.***

Transformations of economic systems: neoclassic, classic, institutional and neoinstitutional approaches. Inter-system transformations: genesis and 'sunset' of economic systems. Inter-system transformations. 'Mega'-transformations: 'stable' and transformation economies: methodology and theory of analysis, differentia specifica. Space and time of economic transformations; specific features.

Non-linear transformations. Progress and regress, e- and in-volution, Progressive and regressive economic transformation. Objective laws and historical variations of economic transformation.

Types of transformations. Political economy of revolutions and reforms. technological, economic, social, political and cultural transformations; their interconnection.

**Topic 3.**

***Non-linear transformation from industrial towards post-industrial economy and reindustrialization: changes in the structure, type and resources of development (chapter I)***

Variations of the 'names' of transformation: service, post-industrial, information, knowledge-based, neo-, digital etc. economies. Problem of transformation towards 'post-economic formation' and 'realm of freedom' (Marx).

Main socio-economic changes, produced by post-industrial transformation:

New structure of economy; problem of 'service' economy and 'fictitious' sector; new role of education, science, culture and nature; labor, free and leisure time; place and role of industry and agriculture in post-industrial economy; Reindustrialization and new quality of material production. New actors: e-cottage, creative corporation, net-work enterprise. Information and knowledge as main resources of development. Information and knowledge as common and private goods. New type of interconnection between society and nature; nature as cultural value and economic resource. Political economy of sustainable development: theoretical foundations.

**Topic 4.**

***Non-linear transformation from industrial towards post-industrial economy and reindustrialization: market and money, capital and labor (chapter II)***

Transformations of market relations: 'market fundamentalism' or total 'marketisation' of human life. Political economy of the sign and market of simulacra. Virtual money and sector of fictitious values. World economic and financial crisis in the context of post-industrial transformations.

Global hegemony of capital and its technological basis. Financialisation and its technological basis. New economic role of knowledge, creativity and personality: intellectual, human, social and so on 'capitals'. Intellectual property, intellectual rent and their future.

Work, labor and creativity; 'homo economicus' and homo creator: transformations of values and motivations; post-economic values and motivation. New types and forms of employment: part-time job, job-sharing, and so on.

Creative activity and problem of its exploitation.

**Topic 5.**

***Non-linear transformation from industrial towards post-industrial economy and reindustrialization: contradictions and future (chapter III)***

If post-industrial transformations reality as global ones: debates. Geo-economics of industrial and postindustrial systems. North – South: contradiction of 'post-industrial' capital and industrial labor? Potential and limits of catching-up development: lessons from development economics of XX century. 'Leap-frog strategy': dream or reality?

Post-industrial world and crisis of modern economic model: revival of neo-liberalism, qualitative renovation of 'social state' or post-market and post-capitalist economy?

New economic phenomenon: 'wikinomics', 'open source', 'free soft-ware', 'copy-left' and 'old' ideas of economy of solidarity. Creative activity and problem '80-20': new economy of 'realm of freedom'.

**Topic 6.**

***Transformation in post-soviet economies***

Soviet-type economy: nature, genesis and fall (neoliberal and different Marxists interpretations. Theoretical and methodological qualification of Russian transformations in XX century. Post-soviet transformations: discussions on the nature, models and strategic goals of 'reforms'.

What kind of economy do we have in modern Russia: differentia specifica of market and regulation, capital and labor, performance and development.

Social and political prerequisites and consequences of economic 'reforms' in post-soviet economy. National invariants and global context of Russian transformations.

Discussions about future model of Russian economy: public and private sectors, role of the state and civil society in regulation of economy, social justice and market efficiency in specific Russian context. Russian economy: oil-oriented stagnation, neo-industrialization or leap-frog strategy of transformation towards knowledge-based economy?

**Sources:**

- Bell D. The Coming of Post-Industrial Society: A Venture in Social Forecasting, New York, 1973,
- Boltanski L., Chiapello D. New spirit of Capitalism. N.Y., 2005
- Buzgalin A., Kolganov A. Critical political economy: the 'market-centric' model of economic theory must remain in the past—notes of the post-soviet school of critical marxism // Cambridge Journal of Economics. 2015. First published online: January 27, 2015. doi: 10.1093/cje/beu080. URL: <http://cje.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/01/26/cje.beu080>
- Buzgalin A. V., Kolganov A. I. The anatomy of twenty-first century exploitation: From traditional extraction of surplus value to exploitation of creative activity // *Science and Society*. 2013. Vol. 77, no. 4. P. 486–511. URL: <http://guilfordjournals.com/doi/abs/10.1521/siso.2013.77.4.486>
- Castells M. The Information Society and the Welfare State: The Finnish Model. Oxford UP, Oxford (2002) (co-author, Pekka Himanen )
- Castells M. The Network Society: From Knowledge to Policy. Center for Transatlantic Relations (2006) (co-editor)
- Cohen D. The Wealth of the World and the Poverty of Nations. Cambridge, MA, - L.: 1998.
- Florida R. Creative class., N.Y., 2002
- Hall P. A. and Soskice D. Varieties of capitalism. The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage. Oxford University press.
- Hardt M. and Negri A., Empire, Harvard University Press, 2000.
- Hardt M. and Negri A., Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire, New York: Penguin Press, 2004.
- Hardt M. and Negri A., Commonwealth, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009.
- Gregory P., Stuart R. Comparative Economic Systems.- Boston, 1995.
- Kennet D. A New View of Comparative Economic Systems. N.Y., 2001.
- Kotz D., Wier F. Russia from Gorbachev to Putin. N.Y., 2005
- The revolution from Above
- Landes D. The Welth and Poverty of Nations. Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor. L.: 1998.
- Open, but not as usual. As "open-source" models move beyond software into other Porter M.E. The Competitive Advantage of Nations. N.-Y.: 1990.
- Tapscott D. Williams A. Wikinomics: How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything., 2006
- Toffler A. Revolutionary wealth, 1995
- World Development Reports from 2000.
- Zizek S. Reflections in the Red Eye..., L., 2009.

**Collective projects:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> collective project: 'Economic Systems in Transformations: Methodology (Pluralism of Political Economy and 'Economic Imperialism' of Mainstream),
- 2<sup>nd</sup> collective project: 'Market and Capital in Transformations'

**Topics for written papers, based on the observation of modern original English-language sources (from journals, listed below):**

1. Economic systems: definition, nature and structure
2. Civilizations and economic systems
3. Nonlinear and regressive economic transformations.
4. Specific features of transitional economies in comparison with stable ones.
5. Economic imperialism in social theory: new debates
6. Potential, discontents and limits of mainstream economics
7. Classic (Marxist) political economy and its role in the XXI century
8. Post-industrial (information, knowledge...) society: new researches after 2008
9. Market as totalitarian phenomenon

10. Market of simulacra
11. Virtual money and fictitious capital: before and after World Crisis
12. Capitalist exploitation in XXI century: does it exist?
13. Exploitation of the creative (intellectual) activity (labor)
14. Intellectual Rent: nature and sources
15. Information as private and social good: debates
16. Intellectual [private] property: defense and critique
17. Property of everybody on everything
18. Homo creator and homo economicus: comparative analysis of nature, values and motivations
19. Russian post-Soviet Economy: Modern Western Debates

**Journals for observations:**

- **Cambridge Journal of Economics**
- Economics and Philosophy
- Economics of Transition
- **Historical Materialism**
- International Critical Thought
- Journal of Comparative Economics
- Journal of Economic Theory
- **Journal of Political Economy**
- Post-Communist Economics
- Science and Society
- **World Review of Political Economy**