



COURSE SYLLABUS SME 0085

1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of European Studies
1.3 Department	International Relations and German Studies
1.4 Field of study	International Relations and European Studies
1.5 Study level	MA
1.6 Programme of study/ Qualification	Transatlantic Studies

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	<i>Comparative Politics and Institutions in Europe and North America</i>						
2.2 Course holder	Associate Professor PhD Habil. Valentin Naumescu						
2.3 Seminar holder	Associate Professor PhD Habil. Valentin Naumescu						
2.4 Year of study	1	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment ¹	E	2.7 Type of module ²	OB

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 No. of hours per week	3	3.1 of which for course	2	3.3 of which for seminar	1
3.4 Total no. of hours in the curriculum	42	3.5 of which for course	28	3.6 of which for seminar	14
Time distribution:					Hours
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					10
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					10
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					10
Tutoring					10
Examinations					10
Other activities:					
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study					30
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester					72
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points					6

¹ E - exam, ME - multi-term examinations, C - collocutional examination/assessment test

² OB - core module, OP - elective module, F - extracurricular module

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 of curriculum	• --
4.2 of competencies	• --

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 For the development of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video-projector
5.2 For the development of the seminar/laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video-projector • Photocopies • Access to internet

6. Specific skills acquired

Professional skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic concepts in Comparative Politics • Introductory skills in professional careers related to public policy, government and administration • Integrating specific knowledge in the larger paradigm of political science • Critical, comparative and analytical skills related to different political contexts (e.g. SWOT analyses)
Interdisciplinary skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding different contexts, political values, traditions, approaches and perspectives • Assuming the cause-effect-solution mechanism of political thinking • Focusing on comparative analyses • Developing positive, creative thinking

7. Course objectives (based on list of acquired skills)

7.1 General objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing initial skills for understanding or starting a professional career in an environment related to public policies, government institutions and administration
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge in the field of Comparative Politics • Familiarising with comparative political analyses • Developing a permanent interest for connecting with political agenda and reporting professional activities to a systemic understanding of politics, government and institutions

8. Contents

8.1 Lecture	Teaching methods	Observations
Basic concepts in comparative politics	Lecture, dialogue	
The functions of the political systems	Lecture, dialogue	
The legislative branch	Lecture, dialogue	

The executive branch	Lecture, dialogue	
The judicial branch	Lecture, dialogue	
Types of political systems: presidential, semi-presidential and parliamentary	Lecture, dialogue	
Models of democracy: majoritarian, consesus	Lecture, dialogue	
Electoral systems	Lecture, dialogue	
Party systems and types of coalitions	Lecture, dialogue	
Centralized vs. federal systems	Lecture, dialogue	
The principle of the separation of power	Lecture, dialogue	
The relations between governments branches in the United States (presidential regime)	Lecture, dialogue	
The relations between government branches in the United Kingdom (parliamentary regime)	Lecture, dialogue	
The relations between government branches in France and Romania (semi-presidential regime)	Lecture, dialogue	
Bibliography:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naumescu, V., (2003), <i>Sisteme politice comparate</i>, Cluj-Napoca: Editura Fundației pentru Studii Europene • Lijphart, A., (2000), <i>Modele ale democrației</i>, Iași: Polirom • Bale, T. (2008), <i>European Politics: A Comparative Introduction</i>, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan • Almond, G., Powell, B., (1996), <i>Comparative Politics: A Theoretical Framework</i>, Second Edition, New York: Harper Collins • Hague, R., Harrop, M., (2007), <i>Political Science: A Comparative Introduction</i>, 5th Edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan 		

8.2 Seminar / Laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
Political systems	Discussion, text analysis	
Separation of power	Discussion, text analysis	
Electoral systems	Discussion, text analysis	
Party systems	Discussion, text analysis	
Case study: the US political system	Discussion, text analysis	
Case study: the UK and Canadian political systems	Discussion, text analysis	
Case study: French and Romanian political systems	Discussion, text analysis	
Bibliography:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Neil, P., Fields, K., Share, D., (2006), <i>Cases in Comparative Politics</i>, Second Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company • Naumescu, V., (2010), <i>Politics and Government in Canada: An Introduction</i>, Toronto: Maple Red Publishing House 		

9. The correspondence between the content of the course and the expectations of the academic community, professional associations and representative employers in the field:

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10. Assessment

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4 Course/Lecture	7 points	Final written examination	60%
10.5 Seminar	3 points	4 p. (presentation, text analysis)	40%
10.6 Minimum standard of performance: Students shall pass the exam if they obtain at least the grade 5 in their written examination			

Date	Course holder signature	Seminar holder signature
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Date of departmental approval	Head of department signature
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