



## COURSE SYLLABUS

### 1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher Education Institution	Babeș-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	International Relations, Foreign Policy and Crisis Management

### 2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	<b>Methods of Research and Analysis in Social Sciences</b>						
2.2 Course holder	Șerban Văetiși, Lecturer						
2.3 Seminar holder	Șerban Văetiși, Lecturer						
2.4 Year of study	1	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment <sup>1</sup>	E	2.7 Type of module <sup>2</sup>	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: conventional hours: <b>no. of credit points 6 x 25 = 150 / 14 = 11</b>					Hours
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					3
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					3
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					2
Tutoring					2
Examinations					1
Other activities: .....					-
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study	6				
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester	42				
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points	6				

### 4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

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

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

<sup>2</sup> OB - core module, OP - elective module, F - extracurricular module

## 5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 For the development of the course	• --
5.2 For the development of the seminar/laboratory	• --

## 6. Specific skills acquired

Professional skills	<p>Students following this course are expected to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>properly understand and use the <b>theoretical and methodological principles</b> of social sciences</li> <li>understand the rationale and requirements of <b>scientific method</b> and the particularities of <b>analysis</b> utilized in social-political sciences</li> <li>identify and comment on some major <b>research topics</b> and <b>research strategies</b> in social sciences, with focus on international relations topics</li> <li>use basic <b>concepts, theories, models</b> and <b>methods</b>, appropriate for researching and analysing in the field of social sciences, international relations and related domains of study</li> <li>build a <b>research design</b> on a selected topic in international relations</li> <li>respect the appropriate <b>research steps and stages</b> in a selected research topic</li> <li>understand and adopt <b>critical thinking</b> in analysing social phenomena</li> <li>follow <b>academic principles</b> of building research and writing scientific papers</li> </ul>
Interdisciplinary skills	<p>Students following this course are expected to be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to understand and utilize theoretical and methodological principles</li> <li>to adopt methodological perspective</li> <li>to build a methodological plan and develop methodological techniques</li> <li>to develop research and writing skills</li> <li>to enhance their ability to read analytically and critically</li> <li>to develop research plan on selected topics</li> <li>to correlate and communicate information and knowledge in scientific and academic ways</li> <li>to respect academic honesty and follow the principles of ethical research</li> </ul>

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

7.1 General objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The course aims at discussing and practically utilizing the <b>research methods in social sciences</b> through the presentation of: (i) <b>methodological</b> and <b>thematic</b> aspects of the study of social topics, (ii) the <b>stages of research design and practice</b>, and (iii) some <b>case studies</b>.</li> </ul>
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The course is designed from the perspective of <b>theoretical-methodological principles</b> of social-political sciences, and some <b>exemplified topics</b> of research in the fields of international relations and political studies</li> <li>Students should improve their <b>research and methodological skills</b> as well as their <b>academic integrity and ethical norms</b></li> </ul>

## 8. Contents

8.1 Lecture	Teaching methods	Observations
<b>1. Introducing</b> Research and Analysis in Social Sciences <i>PART I: Research Guidelines</i>	Comprehensive lectures, PowerPoint presentations	Materials used in the educational process:
<b>2.</b> Formulating topics; Research perspective		
<b>3.</b> Theory in Social-Political Science and Research		
<b>4.</b> Methodology; Methods Utilized in Social-Political Sciences		
<b>5.</b> The Research Process; Analysis in Social-Political Sciences		
<b>6.</b> Paper Structure, Sections and References; Citation Styles; Plagiarism and Avoiding Plagiarism <i>PART II: Research and Analysis</i>	Illustrations, contextualization, debates, specific analyses, critical thinking, reviews	Computer, Projector, PowerPoint presentation (slides), visual illustrations (pictures, maps, charts, videos), handouts of bibliography excerpts.
<b>7.</b> The Academic Ethics and Integrity in Social Research		
<b>8.</b> Research Design		
<b>9.</b> Data Collection		
<b>10.</b> The Case Study		
<b>11.</b> Data Analysis; Discourse Analysis	Short video screenings and discussions	
<b>12.</b> Evaluating Research		
<b>13.</b> Presenting Research		
<b>14.</b> Conclusions. Preparing Exam		
<b>Bibliography:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bhattacharjee, A. <i>Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices</i>. University of South Florida, 2012</li><li>Biklen, S.K.; Casella, R. <i>A Practical Guide to Qualitative Dissertation</i>. Columbia University, 2007</li><li>Black, T.R. <i>Understanding Social Science Research</i>. SAGE, 2002</li><li>Goodin, R.; Tilly, C. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis</i>. Oxford Univ. P., 2008</li><li>Howarth, D.; Norval, A., Stavrakakis, Y. <i>Discourse Theory and Political Analysis: Identities, Hegemonies and Social Change</i>. Manchester University Press, 2000</li><li>Johnson, J.B. <i>Political Science Research Methods</i>. CQ Press College, 2011</li><li>Kalof, L.; Dan, A.; Dietz, T. <i>Essentials of Social Research</i>. Open University Press, 2008</li><li>McGlinn, M.; Bolick, C. <i>The Wiley Handbook of Social Studies Research</i>. Wiley Blackwell, 2017</li><li>Ruane, J. M. <i>Essentials of Research Method. A Guide to Social Science Research</i>. Blackwell, 2005</li><li>Staines, G.; Johnson, K.; Bonacci, M. <i>Social Sciences Research: Research, Writing, and Presentation Strategies for Students</i>. Scarecrow Press, 2008</li></ul>		

8.2 Seminar		Teaching methods	Observations
1. Research perspectives in Social Sciences		Comprehensive lectures, PowerPoint presentations	
2. Contexts of Analysis (Examples)	Goodinn & Tilly Ch: 1		
3. Ethical Responsibility in Social Research	Somekh & Lewin Ch: 6		
4. Principles of Academic Integrity	Macfarlane Part II		
5. Argumentation and Academic Ethics	Swatridge: Chs: 1,4,5		
6. Critical Thinking and Academic Ethics	Brooke Chs: 1,2,3		
7. Social Analysis as Social Critique	Herzog Ch: 1		

**Seminar Bibliography:**

- Brooke, N., *Critical Thinking*. McGraw Hill, 2007
- Goodin, R.; Tilly, C. *The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis*. Oxford Univ. P., 2008
- Herzog, B. *Discourse Analysis as Social Critique*. Palgrave Mcmillan, 2016
- Macfarlane, B. *Researching with Integrity The Ethics of Academic Enquiry*. Routledge, 2008
- Somekh B.; Lewin, C. *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*. Sage 2005
- Swatridge, C. *The Oxford Guide to Effective Argument and Critical Thinking*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2014

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

Upon completing this course the students will deepen their theoretical understanding and improve their methodological approaches of researching in the field of socio-political sciences.

These will help them in their future professional lives and working environments, in the proper professional-scientific activities that they will further develop.

**10. Assessment**

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
Lecture and Seminar	(1) using specific notions introduced and utilized throughout the course (2) communicate information and present individual work	- assessing the capacity to use the research guidelines - assessing the capacity to use actual research methods and types of analyses - assessing the capacity to communicate information and present individual work	<b>100%</b>
10.6 Minimum standard of performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The capacity to utilize the research guidelines and presentation of individual works.</li></ul>			

Date

Course holder signature

Seminar holder signature

Date of departmental approval

Head of department signature