



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	European Studies and Governance
1.4 Field of study	Interational Relations and European Studies
1.5 Study level	MA
1.6 Programme of study/ Qualification	European Governance

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	Methods of Research and Analysis in Social Sciences						
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 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: conventional hours: no. of credit points 6 x 25 = 150 / 14 = 11					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	• --

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

² 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"> properly understand and use the theoretical and methodological principles of social sciences understand the rationale and requirements of scientific method and the particularities of analysis utilized in social-political sciences identify and comment on some major research topics and research strategies in social sciences, with focus on international relations topics use basic concepts, theories, models and methods, appropriate for researching and analysing in the field of social sciences, international relations and related domains of study build a research design on a selected topic in international relations respect the appropriate research steps and stages in a selected research topic understand and adopt critical thinking in analysing social phenomena follow academic principles of building research and writing scientific papers
Interdisciplinary skills	<p>Students following this course are expected to be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to understand and utilize theoretical and methodological principles to adopt methodological perspective to build a methodological plan and develop methodological techniques to develop research and writing skills to enhance their ability to read analytically and critically to develop research plan on selected topics to correlate and communicate information and knowledge in scientific and academic ways to respect academic honesty and follow the principles of ethical research

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

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

8. Contents

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

8.2 Seminar	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Research perspectives in Social Sciences	Comprehensive lectures, PowerPoint presentations Illustrations, contextualization, debates, specific analyses, critical thinking, reviews	
2. Contexts of Analysis (Examples)		
3. Ethical Responsibility in Social Research		
4. Principles of Academic Integrity		
5. Argumentation and Academic Ethics		
6. Critical Thinking and Academic Ethics		
7. Social Analysis as Social Critique		

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	100%

10.6 Minimum standard of performance:

- The capacity to utilize the research guidelines and presentation of individual works.

Date

Course holder signature

Seminar holder signature

Date of departmental approval

Head of department signature