



COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Information about the program

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

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	American Political Geography						
2.2 Course holder	Șerban Văetiși, Lecturer						
2.3 Seminar holder	Șerban Văetiși, Lecturer						
2.4 Year of study	2	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment ¹	C	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: 14 weeks					150
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					15
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					10
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					15
Tutoring					8
Examinations					8
Other activities:					15
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study	25				
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester	56				
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points	5				

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"> ▪ use the key notions of political geography as well as the major ideas of the interdisciplinary approaches of these type of studies (history, international relations, political science, sociology, development studies, security studies) ▪ properly use the basic data, theories and methodologies, relevant for analysing the different types of political facts that characterize the American geography ▪ understand concepts, theories, and basic models, suitable for analysing different political evolutions, policies, laws and strategies about population, regions, states, borders, cities, neighborhoods, natural resources, public spaces in American society, in contemporary, historical, and critical perspectives ▪ properly describe and present the formation, the evolution and the organizing principles of American public and political institutions in spatial and geographical senses ▪ interpret the particularities of the various regions, states and spatially defined entities, and how information about them are produced and contextualized ▪ properly use the basic knowledge for explaining some evolutions and characteristics of the political formation and administration of space in America such as: <i>discovery and colonization; conquest and empire; regionalism and federalism; spatial representation of revolutions and wars; migrations and settlements; borders and lands; differences between East and West, North and South; critical urban spaces, segregated spaces; ethnic spaces; public spaces; economic spaces; entertainment spaces; spatial representations of policies and political strategies; the geography of political elections and decisions; differences, segregation and political identities in various spaces and regions; surveilled, virtual and invisible spaces; transnational spaces, global spaces and geopolitical spaces</i> etc.
Interdisciplinary skills	<p>Students following this course are expected to be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to learn from different disciplinary approaches ▪ to enhance their ability to read analytically and critically ▪ to identify and discuss issues in their proper historical-political and social-cultural contexts ▪ to communicate and correlate information and knowledge from different domains and fields of research/interest ▪ to debate issues regarding critical or controversial aspects of contemporary society

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

7.1 General objective	<p>This course aims at introducing, describing and debating the topic of political construction and representation of space in the United States, from historical and contemporary perspectives.</p> <p>Students following this course should be able to present the evolution, the importance and the challenges of space in America, in their major aspects, and to understand and discuss some of their social, political and cultural implications.</p>
7.2 Specific objectives	<p>The course will introduce in their <i>historical-political</i> contexts:</p> <p>(1) theoretical concepts related to the subject of American political geography</p> <p>(2) major characteristics and issues of the construction and administration of space in America, as well as</p> <p>(3) expressions and problematizations of American political geography.</p>

8. Contents

8.1 Lecture	Teaching methods	Observations
1. What is Political Geography about? Introductory Notions of American Political Geography.	<p>Comprehensive lectures, PowerPoint presentations</p> <p>Illustrations, contextualization, debates, specific analyses, critical thinking, reviews</p> <p>Short video screenings and discussions</p>	<p>Materials used in the educational process:</p> <p>Computer, Projector, PowerPoint presentation (slides), visual illustrations (pictures, maps, charts, videos), handouts of bibliography excerpts.</p>
2. Overview of US Geography. US Maps. Spatial processes in America.		
3. The Political Geography of America's Discovery and Colonization.		
4. The Political Geography of American Revolution and Civil War.		
5. Spatial and Territorial Comparisons in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives: East and West; North and South.		
6. America and the Geography of Overseas Control (1). The Philippines.		
7. America and the Geography of Overseas Control (2). The Caribbean. Case study: the Panama Canal.		
8. The Political Geography of Indian Reservations. The Political Geography of Racial Segregation.		
9. Critical Urban Spaces in America: Downtown and Suburbs. Case studies: Ethnic spaces: the African American ghetto; the Hispanic barrio.		
10. Politics of Spaces in America (1). Case study: Public Art.		
11. Politics of Spaces in America (2). Case study: Economic and Entertainment Spaces		
12. Politics of Spaces in America (3). Case study: Militarization and Surveillance of Public Spaces after 9/11.		
13. America and the Geography of Globalization.		
14. Course review. Preparing exam.		

Bibliography:

- Agnew, J., Mitchell, K. – *A Companion to Political Geography*. Blackwell 2003
- Axelrod, A. – *America’s Wars*. John Wiley 2002
- Carmona, M. – *Public Places. Urban Spaces*. Architectural Press 2003
- Gallaher, G. – *Key Concepts in Political Geography*. Sage 2009
- Gelman, A. – *Red State, Blues State, Rich State, Poor State. Why Americans Vote the Way They Do*. Princeton University Press, 2010
- Gottdiener, M. – *The New Urban Sociology*. Boulder, 2010
- Hall, T. – *Urban Geography*. Routledge, 1998
- Harvey, D. – *Spaces of Capital. Towards a Critical Geography*. Routledge 2001
- Hough, J. – *Changing Party Coalitions: The Mystery of the Red State-Blues State Alignment*. Agathon, 2006
- Hubbard, P. – *Key Texts in Human Geography*. Sage 2008
- Hudson, F. – *A Regional Geography of the U.S. and Canada*. John Hopkins Univ. 2002
- Jones, M., Rhys, J., Woods, M. – *An Introduction to Political Geography: Space, Place, and Politics*. Routledge 2004
- Kazin, M. – *The Encyclopedia of American Political History*. Princeton 2011
- Kunstler, J. – *The Geography of Nowhere. The Rise and Decline of America’s Man-Made Landscape*. Touchstone 1993
- Latham, A. – *Key Concepts in Urban Geography*. Sage 2009
- Miyares, I., Arries, C. – *Contemporary Ethnic Geographies in America*. Rowman & Littlefield 2007
- Oruma, A. – *Common Ground? Readings and Reflections on Public Space*. Routledge 2010
- Pacione, M. – *Urban Geography. A Global perspective*. Routledge 2005
- Short, N. – *An Introduction to Political Geography*. Routledge 2003
- Smith, N. – *American Empire*. Univ. of California Press 2003
- *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the United States*, Thomson&Gale 2004

8.2 Seminar / Laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
<p>Students will make <i>seminar presentations</i> of U.S. States, covering the following 6 points of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - primary geographical characteristics and features - state history - development and urbanization - political characteristics - cultural institutions & events, people - major recent events 	<p>PowerPoint presentation, discussions, questions</p>	<p>Materials used in the educational process:</p> <p>Computer, Projector, PowerPoint presentation (slides), visual illustrations (pictures, maps, charts, videos),</p>

Seminar Bibliography:

- Hudson, F. *A Regional Geography of the U.S. and Canada*. John Hopkins Univ. 2002
- Gelman, A. *Red State, Blues State, Rich State, Poor State. Why Americans Vote the Way They Do*. Princeton University Press, 2010
- *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the United States*. Thomson & Gale 2004
- *Internet resources:*
 - <http://www.infoplease.com/states.html>
 - <http://www.netstate.com/index.html>
 - <http://www.theus50.com>

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

After completing this course, students will have a **good knowledge** of American political geography; will **demonstrate awareness and comprehension** for the political dimension of geography and will be able to **understand and use social-political concepts** (such as revolution, wars, elections, power, ethnicity, inequality, surveillance) in a geographical sense, and **geographical concepts** (such as space, place, natural resources, border, capital, city, population group etc.) in political sense.

These will **help** them in **understanding** and **approaching** the critical processes occurring at the intersection of politics and geography in their own environments, from issues of the reorganization of local public spaces to geopolitical evolutions.

The topic of political geography should be *profoundly understood and appropriately treated* as an issue they will confront to, in their social participation and future professional lives, within an increasing geopolitically driven society and globalized world.

10. Assessment

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4 Lecture	(1) using specific informations, notions and analyses introduced and utilized throughout the course	- testing the knowledge taught/acquired - assessing the capacity to use information, interpret, and analyse - assessing the comprehension and understanding of specific aspects	70%
10.5 Seminar	(2) assessing the capacity to gather relevant information and make presentation, followed by questions, in front of their colleagues	- joining the seminar discussions, presenting seminar projects, responding questions	30%
<p>10.6 Minimum standard of performance</p> <p>The capacity to properly describe the evolution and the challenges of the American space as political construction, representation and administration. The capacity to properly refer to some key terms or examples discussed throughout the course.</p>			

Date signature

.....

Course holder signature

.....

Seminar holder

.....

Date of departmental approval

.....

Head of department signature

.....