



COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Information about the program

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

2. Information about the discipline

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|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|
| 2.1 Module | | Introduction to Political Science | | | | | |
| 2.2 Course holder | | | Lect.univ.dr. Ovidiu Vaida | | | | |
| 2.3 Seminar holder | | | Lect.univ.dr. Ovidiu Vaida | | | | |
| 2.4 Year of study | 1 | 2.5 Semester | 2 | 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 | 4 | 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: 6*25 = 150 | | | | | |
| Study using handbooks, reader, bibliography and course notes | | | | | 36 |
| Additional library/specialised online research, field research | | | | | 22 |
| Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays | | | | | 26 |
| Tutoring | | | | | 8 |
| Examinations | | | | | 2 |
| Other activities: | | | | | - |
| 3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study | 84 | | | | |
| 3.8 Total no. of hours per semester | 150 | | | | |
| 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 | • 75% attendance |

6. Specific skills acquired

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Professional skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the theories related to political sciences; • Critical analysis and synthetic processing of political ideas; • Good knowledge and use of key concepts in political science; • Development of critical thinking; • Analysis of media coverage (newspapers) on political topics; • The ability to use the research methods applied to politics; |
| Interdisciplinary skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of complex professional tasks under conditions of autonomy and professional independence; • Academic writing; • Ability to deliver oral and written presentations and personal conclusions. • Team or individual work on professional or research projects |

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

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|-------------------------|--|
| 7.1 General objective | • Discipline aims at familiarizing students with the basics of political science and political phenomenon in general. |
| 7.2 Specific objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good understanding of the key concepts of comparative politics • good knowledge of the main features of contemporary political systems, especially those in the EU • good understanding of the political and constitutional procedures, as well as of the day-to-day political environment |

8. Contents

| 8.1 Lecture | Teaching methods | Observations |
|--|----------------------|--------------|
| What is Politics? | Lecture, discussions | |
| Power, legitimacy, authority | Lecture, discussions | |
| State and nation | Lecture, discussions | |
| Political Culture. Political Socialization | Lecture, discussions | |

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Political Cleavages | Lecture, discussions | |
| Political Ideologies | Lecture, discussions | |
| Political Institutions | Lecture, discussions | |
| Political Parties | Lecture, discussions | |
| Party systems | Lecture, discussions | |
| Electoral systems | Lecture, discussions | |
| Democracy, Transition | Lecture, discussions | |
| Concluding remarks | Lecture, discussions | |
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Bibliography:

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, Macmillan, Basingstoke/London, 1997
K. Newton, J.W. van Deth, *Foundations of Comparative Politics. Democracies of the Modern World*, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2010
Rod Hague, Martin Harrop, *Comparative Government and Politics*, 6th edition, Basingstoke/New York, Palgrave MacMillan, 2004
Peter Mair (ed.), *The West European party system*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1990
John T. Ishiyama, *Comparative Politics. Principles of Democracy and Democratization*, Wiley Blackwell, 2012
Marcus E. Ethridge, Howard Handelman, *Politics in a Changing World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*, 5th Edition, Wadsworth, Boston, 2010
Andrew Heywood, *Political Theory. An Introduction*, 3rd Edition, Palgrave MacMillan, Basingstoke/New York, 2004

| 8.2 Seminar / Laboratory | Teaching methods | Observations |
|---|--|--------------|
| Key concepts in politics; Political system, Political culture | Text analysis, case studies, role play, brainstorming | |
| The functioning of political institutions 1 | -//- | |
| The functioning of political institutions 2 | -//- | |
| Case-study presentations | Presentations, discussions, Q & A | |
| Case-study presentations | -//- | |
| Case-study presentations | -//- | |
| Debate: EP elections | Role play, simulation, debate | |
| Electoral systems | Case studies, discussions, calculation of seats distribution | |

Bibliography:

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, Macmillan, Basingstoke/London, 1997
K. Newton, J.W. van Deth, *Foundations of Comparative Politics. Democracies of the Modern World*, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2010

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

The course take into consideration demands from the employers. Therefore, the course deals, besides the analysis of different key concepts and texts, the study of some texts that are related to some public institutions, both at local or national level: mayor and city council, parliament, the European Parliament, etc. Also, students are encouraged to attend local and county council meetings and to discuss during seminars the observations they made.
 Last but not least, students may use, during the preparation of their presentations, applied research techniques, in order to gather data needed for their work.

10. Assessment

| Type of activity | 10.1 Assessment criteria | 10.2 Assessment methods | 10.3 Percentage of the final grade |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 10.4 Seminar | 5 points written exam | Written exam | 50% |
| | 5 points seminar | Evaluation of each student activity | 50% |
| 10.5 Minimum standard of performance | | | |
| At least 5 points out of 10, at both written exam and seminar, cumulated | | | |

Date

Course coordinator signature

Seminar coordinator signature

Date of departmental approval

Head of department signature
