



COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Information about the programme

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| 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 |
| 1.5 Study level | BA |
| 1.6 Programme of study/ Qualification | American Studies |

2. Information about the discipline

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|--------------------|---|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|
| 2.1 Module | Pragmatism: American and European Perspectives | | | | | | |
| 2.2 Course holder | Lecturer Gabriel Gherasim, Ph.D. | | | | | | |
| 2.3 Seminar holder | Lecturer Gabriel Gherasim, Ph.D. | | | | | | |
| 2.4 Year of study | 2 | 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)

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|---|-----|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| 3.1 No. of hours per week | 4 | 3.1 of which for course | 2 | 3.3 of which for seminar | 2 |
| 3.4 Total no. of hours in the curriculum | 56 | 3.5 of which for course | 28 | 3.6 of which for seminar | 28 |
| Time distribution: | | | | | 9 |
| 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 | | | | | 1 |
| Tutoring | | | | | 1 |
| Examinations | | | | | 1 |
| Other activities: | | | | | |
| 3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study | 1 | | | | |
| 3.8 Total no. of hours per semester | 126 | | | | |
| 3.9 No. of ETCS credit points | 5 | | | | |

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

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| 4.1 of curriculum | • none |
| 4.2 of competencies | • none |

5. Conditions (where applicable)

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

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

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| 5.1 For the development of the course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none |
| 5.2 For the development of the seminar/laboratory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none |

6. Specific skills acquired

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Professional skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the basic concepts and methodologies of a humanistic or social science and the mechanisms for integrating the contributions made by various social sciences and humanities in an interdisciplinary approach, logically and conceptually coherent. |
| Interdisciplinary skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting deadlines and carrying out professional tasks rigorously, efficiently and responsibly, while respecting the ethical principles of scientific activity and correctly applying citations rules. • searching for, identifying and using efficient learning methods and techniques; awareness of the extrinsic and intrinsic motivations for learning. |

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

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|-------------------------|---|
| 7.1 General objective | Using the basic concepts and methodologies specific to pragmatic philosophical approaches in America and Europe. Understanding and identifying the general characteristics of pragmatism and its place in the philosophical tradition. |
| 7.2 Specific objectives | Respecting the ethical principles of scientific inquiry in drafting seminar and research papers. Searching for, identifying and using efficient learning methods and techniques to grasp the concepts of American pragmatic philosophy. Developing critical thinking and philosophical debate skills. |

8. Contents

| 8.1 Lecture | Teaching methods | Observations |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| General characteristics of classical American philosophy | Interactive lecture | |
| Premises of pragmatism: empiricism, enlightenment, transcendentalism | Interactive lecture | |
| Early pragmatic orientations in Kant, Bain and Wright | Interactive lecture | |
| The birth of classical pragmatism. The Metaphysical Club | Interactive lecture | |
| General considerations on the philosophy of Charles S. Peirce | Interactive lecture | |
| William James's pragmatism as radical empiricism | Interactive lecture | |
| The pragmatic view on democracy in John Dewey | Interactive lecture | |
| Behaviorism and pragmatism in George H. Mead | Interactive lecture | |
| The performative turn in philosophy: John | Interactive lecture | |

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|--|---------------------|--|
| L. Austin | | |
| Richard Rorty's neopragmatism | Interactive lecture | |
| The pragmatic view on science in Thomas Kuhn | Interactive lecture | |
| Pragmatism at Harvard: the early philosophy of Quine | Interactive lecture | |
| Contemporary sources of relativism | Interactive lecture | |
| General overview of course topics | Interactive lecture | |

Bibliography:

1. Andrei Marga (ed.), **Filosofia americană**, vol. I: **Filosofia americană clasică**, All, București, 2000.
2. Andrei Marga, **Reconstrucția pragmatică a filosofiei**, vol. I, Polirom, Iași, 1998.
3. Andrei Marga, **Relativismul și consecințele sale. Relativism and Its Consequences**, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2007.
4. Bruce Kuklick, **The Rise of American Philosophy**, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1977.
5. Charles S. Peirce, **Semnificație și acțiune**, Humanitas, București, 1980.
6. Henry Steele Commager, **The American Mind**, New York: Bantam Books, 1970.
7. Horace S. Thayer, **Meaning and Action. A Critical History of Pragmatism**, Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1981.
8. John Dewey, **From Absolutism to Experimentalism**, in **Contemporary American Philosophy**, vol. II, New York: Russell and Russell, 1962, pp. 13-27.
9. John Dewey, **The Practical Character of Reality**, in John Dewey, **Philosophy and Civilisation**, Peter Smith, Gloucester, Mass., 1968, pp. 36-55.
10. Richard Rorty, **Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature**, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1979

| 8.2 Seminar / Laboratory | Teaching methods | Observations |
|--|--|--------------|
| Introduction. The reception of pragmatist philosophy in the double context of the American and European philosophy | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Philosophical premises of pragmatism | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| What is pragmatism? | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Pragmatism, pragmaticism, practicalism | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Fundamental texts of Charles S. Peirce | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Fundamental texts of William James | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Fundamental texts of John Dewey | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Truth in classical pragmatism | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Truth in neopragmatic philosophy | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Fundamental texts of Richard Rorty | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| The meaning of neopragmatism | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Contemporary developments in the philosophy of pragmatism I | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| Contemporary developments in the philosophy of pragmatism II | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
| General overview of seminar topics | Interpreting and analyzing philosophical texts | |
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Bibliography:

Seminar 1. Introduction. The reception of pragmatist philosophy in the double context of the American and European philosophy

Seminar 2. Philosophical premises of pragmatism

Stoner, James, *Is There a Political Philosophy in the Declaration of Independence?* in *The Intercollegiate Review*, 2005, pp. 3-11;

Emerson, Ralph W., *The Transcendentalist*, Lecture read at the Masonic Temple, Boston, 1842;

Seminar 3. What is pragmatism?

James, William, *Pragmatism: A New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking*, in *Writings 1902 -1910*, New York: The Library of America, 1987, Lecture I;

Peirce, Charles S., *Ce este pragmatismul?*, in *Semnificație și acțiune*, Humanitas, București, 1990, pp. 177-202;

Seminar 4. Pragmatism, pragmaticism, practicalism

Peirce, Charles S., *Probleme centrale ale pragmaticismului*, in **Marga, Andrei** (ed.), *Filosofia americană*, vol.I, All Educational, București, 2000, pp. 125-146;

Dewey, John, *Dezvoltarea pragmatismului american*, in **Marga, Andrei** (ed.), *Filosofia americană*, vol.I, All Educational, București, 2000, pp. 265-283;

Seminar 5. Fundamental texts of Charles S. Peirce

Peirce, Charles S., *How to Make Our Ideas Clear*, in **Houser and Kloes** (eds.), *The Essential Peirce. Selected Philosophical Writings*, Volume I, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992, pp. 124-141;

Peirce, Charles S., *Fixarea convingerii*, in **Marga, Andrei** (ed.), *Filosofia americană*, vol.I, All Educational, București, 2000, pp. 84-102;

Seminar 6. Fundamental texts of William James

James, William, *What Pragmatism Means*, in *Pragmatism: A New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking*, New York: The Library of America, 1987, Lecture II;

James, William, *Philosophy and its Critics*, in **Bronstein, Krikorian and Wiener** (eds.), *Basic Problems of Philosophy*, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1964, pp. 608-616;

Seminar 7. Fundamental texts of John Dewey

Dewey, John, *Caracterul practic al realității*, in **Marga, Andrei** (ed.), *Filosofia americană*, vol.I, All Educational, București, 2000, pp. 284-300;

Dewey, John, *The Democratic Conception in Education*, in *Democracy and Education*, The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001, pp. 85-105;

Seminar 8. Truth in classical pragmatism

Santayana, George, *How Thought is Practical*, in *The Life of Reason*, volume I, New York: Dover Publication, 2004.

James, William, *The Meaning of Truth. A Sequel to Pragmatism*, in *Writings 1902 – 1910*, New York: The Library of America, 1987, cap. 8, pp. 47-56;

Seminar 9. Truth in neopragmatic philosophy

Austin, John L., *Truth*, in *Philosophical Papers*, second edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1970, pp. 117-133;

Mead, George Herbert, *The Objective Reality of Perspectives*, in *The Philosophy of the Present*, London: The Open Court Publishing Company, 1932, pp. 161-175;

Seminar 10. Fundamental texts of Richard Rorty

Rorty, Richard, *Introduction*, in *Consequences of Pragmatism*, University of Minnesota Press, 1982;

Rorty, Richard, *The World Well Lost*, in *The Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 69/1972, pp. 649-665;

Seminar 11. The meaning of neopragmatism

Rorty, Richard, *Edification and Naturalism*, in *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature*, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1979, pp. 379-389;

Kirk, Robert, *Rorty's Postmodern Pragmatism*, in *Relativism and Reality. A Contemporary Introduction*, New York: Routledge, 1999, pp. 134-143;

Seminar 12. Contemporary developments in the philosophy of pragmatism I

Putnam, Hilary, *Pragmatism Resurgent*, in *Pragmatism and Realism*, New York: Routledge, 2002, pp. 3-13;

Brandom, Robert, *Irony and the Pragmatist Enlightenment*, in *Boundary 2/2002*, pp. 1-28;

Seminar 13. Contemporary developments in the philosophy of pragmatism II

Goodman, Nelson, *The Fabrication of Facts*, in *Ways of Worldmaking*, Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1978;

Sellars, Wilfrid, *The Scientific Image*, in *Philosophy and the Scientific Image of Man*, California: Ridgeview

Publishing Company, 1991, pp. 18-25;
Seminar14. General overview of seminar issues.

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 development of critical thinking and rational argumentation are fundamental assessment criteria for the activity of anyone working in an institutional environment.

10. Assessment

| Type of activity | 10.1 Assessment criteria | 10.2 Assessment methods | 10.3 Percentage of the final grade |
|---|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 10.4 Course | Familiarisation with the concepts and the philosophical thought of American and European pragmatists | Written exam | 67% |
| 10.5 Seminar | Using philosophical terms, concepts, arguments easily; the capacity to understand a philosophical text. | Power-point presentation | 33% |
| 10.6 Minimum standard of performance | | | |
| The minimum grade 5 depends on the added result of the written exam and the seminar activity. | | | |

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