



## COURSE SYLLABUS

### 1. Information about the programme

1.1 Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	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	Transatlantic Studies

### 2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	Research methods and standards						
2.2 Course holder	Lecturer Raluca Moldovan PhD (raluca@euro.ubbcluj.ro)						
2.3 Seminar holder	Lecturer Gabriel Gherasim PhD (gherasim88@yahoo.com)						
2.4 Year of study	2	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment <sup>1</sup>	C	2.7 Type of module <sup>2</sup>	OP

### 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:					9
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					2
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					1
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					1
Tutoring					1
Examinations					0.5
Other activities: .....					
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study	3,5				
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester	42				
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points	5				

### 4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

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

### 5. Conditions (where applicable)

<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

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

## 6. Specific skills acquired

Professional skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• multi-perspective analysis (rhetorical, content, contextual) of various types of sources from different fields (public discourses, mass culture, international relations, politics)</li> <li>• applying various research methods for successfully designing and carrying out research projects</li> </ul>
Interdisciplinary skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting deadlines and carrying out tasks rigorously, efficiently and responsibly, by respecting the ethical principles of scientific research and correctly applying citation rules</li> <li>• applying team building techniques; developing interpersonal communication skills and taking on specific roles during team work</li> </ul>

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

7.1 General objective	The course will introduce students to the fundamentals of academic research: formulating a research question, deciding on a methodology, identifying relevant sources, etc. During the course, the students will also learn about different qualitative and quantitative methods (discourse analysis, content analysis, historical analysis, evaluation and interpretation, survey, sampling); they will later be able to apply them to various research projects such as academic papers or dissertations. The course also includes information on how to successfully design relevant case studies and how to use the internet for academic research.
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulating a relevant research hypothesis</li> <li>• structuring research according to logical principles</li> <li>• choosing the most relevant research method(s) to demonstrate one's working hypothesis</li> <li>• applying various research methods to specific topics in order to derive valid observations and interpretations</li> <li>• formulating pertinent conclusions</li> </ul>

## 8. Contents

8.1 Lecture	Teaching methods	Observations
<b>I. Introduction to academic research</b>		
1. Defining a research project and choosing a methodology	Interactive lecture	
2. Formulating a research question	Interactive lecture	
3. Structuring a project and finding relevant sources. Quoting sources correctly.	Interactive lecture	

<b>II. Qualitative and quantitative research methods</b>		
4. Qualitative methods – general overview	Interactive lecture	
5. Discourse analysis	Interactive lecture	
6. Content analysis	Interactive lecture	
7. Historical analysis and <i>evaluation</i>	Interactive lecture	
8. Interpretation	Interactive lecture	
9. Quantitative methods – general overview	Interactive lecture	
10. Measurement, survey, sampling	Interactive lecture	
<b>11 – 12. Designing case studies</b>	Interactive lecture	
<b>13-14. Doing Internet research</b>	Interactive lecture	
<b>Bibliography:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Atkinson, Sara Delamont, eds. <i>Sage Qualitative Research Methods</i>, London: Sage Publications, 2011.</li> <li>• John W. Creswell. <i>Research Design. Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approaches</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, London: Sage, 2009.</li> <li>• Catherine Dawson. <i>A Practical Guide to Research Methods</i>, Oxford: HowTo Books, 2007.</li> <li>• Audie Klotz, Deepa Prakash, eds. <i>Qualitative Methods in International Relations. A Pluralist Guide</i>, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.</li> <li>• Detlef F. Sprinz, Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias, eds. <i>Models, Numbers and Cases. Methods for Studying International Relations</i>, Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2004.</li> <li>• Max Travers. <i>Qualitative Research through Case Studies</i>, London: Sage, 2001.</li> <li>• Arch G. Woodside. <i>Case Study Research. Theory, Methods, Practice</i>, Bingley: Emerald, 2010.</li> </ul>		
Additional bibliography is available upon request.		

8.2 Seminar / Laboratory	Teaching method	Observations
Week 1-7. Establishing the topic of a research project, formulating the research question, finding the bibliographic sources and selecting a research method for the case studies	Open discussions Questions and answers	
Week 8-14. Individual presentations of research projects following the above-mentioned criteria	Oral presentations Questions and answers	
<b>Bibliography: available upon request</b>		

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

At the end of this course, the students will be able to apply the knowledge gathered about how to conduct systematic research into any given topic based on a logical structure, relevant sources and appropriate methodology in a variety of contexts, be they academic or business-related, so that they can successfully write complex research projects regardless of their nature.

**10. Assessment**

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4 Course	Demonstrating the ability to write a detailed research project outline, formulating pertinent	Writing a paper (2000-2500 words) or a literature review on any topic, which proves the	50%

	working hypotheses, finding relevant sources, formulating appropriate conclusions.	students' ability to apply any of the research methods discussed during the course in a consistent and ethical manner (i.e., respecting the standards of academic research regarding the correct and complete quotation of sources).	
10.5 Seminar	Assessment of the way in which students respect all the fundamental requirements of scientific research in the field of social sciences	Oral presentation of a case study research project on the topic of federalism considering the requirements of scientific research	50%
10.6 Minimum standard of performance			
Obtaining the minimal grade 5.			

Date  
10.09.2015

Course holder signature  
Dr. Raluca Moldovan

Seminar holder signature  
Dr. Gabriel Gherasim

Date of departmental approval

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Head of department signature

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