



## Course syllabus Academic year 2023-2024

### 1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher Education Institution	<b>Babeș-Bolyai University</b>
1.2 Faculty	<b>European Studies</b>
1.3 Department	<b>International Relations and German Studies</b>
1.4 Field of study	<b>International Relations and European Studies</b>
1.5 Study level	<b>Bachelor</b>
1.6 Programme of study/ Qualification	<b>International Relations and European Studies (English line of study)</b>

### 2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Title	<b>European Political Systems</b>						
2.2 Course holder	<b>Vaida Ovidiu</b>						
2.3 Seminar holder							
2.4 Year of study	<b>2</b>	2.5 Semester	<b>1</b>	2.6. Type of assessment <sup>1</sup>	<b>C</b>	2.7 Type of module <sup>2</sup>	<b>OP</b>

### 3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 No. of hours per week	<b>4</b>	3.2 of which for course	<b>2</b>	3.3 of which for seminar	<b>2</b>
3.4 Total no. of hours in the curriculum	<b>56</b>	3.5 of which for course	<b>28</b>	3.6 of which for seminar	<b>28</b>
Time distribution:					Hours
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					18
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					4
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					18
Tutoring					2
Examinations					2
Other activities: .....					
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study	44				
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester	100				
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points	4				

### 4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 of curriculum	❖ -
4.2 of competencies	❖ Good knowledge of English

### 5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 For the development of the course	❖ Projector
5.2 For the development of the seminar/laboratory	❖ Projector

<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



## 6. Specific skills acquired

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

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

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

## 8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Introduction	Discussions.	
2. Governments, Systems and Regimes	Lecture, discussions.	
3. Democracy and Models of Democracy	Lecture, discussions.	
4. Constitutions and Constitutional Regimes	Lecture, discussions.	
5. Parliaments and Assemblies	Lecture, discussions.	
6. Executives	Lecture, discussions.	
7. Political Systems: the UK	Lecture, discussions.	
8. Political Systems: the USA	Lecture, discussions.	
9. Political Systems: France	Lecture, discussions.	
10. Political Systems: Germany	Lecture, discussions.	
11. Political Systems: Romania	Lecture, discussions.	
12. Political Systems: EU 1	Lecture, discussions.	
13. Political Systems: EU 2	Lecture, discussions.	
14. Conclusions	Discussions.	

### Bibliography:

- Gallagher, Tom, Laver, Michael, Mair, Peter, *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011
- Donald Horowitz, "Comparing Democratic Systems", in *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 1, nr. 4, 1990, pp. 73-79.
- Alfred Stepan & Cindy Skach, "Presidentialism and Parliamentarism in Comparative Perspective", in Juan J.



Linz, Arturo Valenzuela (eds.), *The Failure of Presidential Democracy*, The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore-London, 1994, pp. 119-136

- Easton, David, *The Political System: An Inquiry into the State of Political science*, 2nd ed, Alfred Knopf, New York, 1971
- Lijphart, Arendt, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms & Performance in Thirty-six Countries*, Second Edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012
- Duverger, Maurice, *Le système politique français*, PUF, Paris, 1980
- Sartori, Giovanni, *Comparative Constitutional Engineering*, New York: New York University Press, 1994

8.2 Seminar/Laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The seminar is complementary to the course. The students will deliver a group project on a chosen political system campaign and prove their understanding of the structure, roles and political mechanisms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case study analysis, debates, brainstorming, interactive presentations, discussions</li> </ul>	

**Bibliography:**

- Gallagher, Tom, Laver, Michael, Mair, Peter, *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011
- Donald Horowitz, “Comparing Democratic Systems”, in *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 1, nr. 4, 1990, pp. 73-79.
- Alfred Stepan & Cindy Skach, “Presidentialism and Parliamentarism in Comparative Perspective”, în Juan J. Linz, Arturo Valenzuela (eds.), *The Failure of Presidential Democracy*, The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore-London, 1994, pp. 119-136
- Easton, David, *The Political System: An Inquiry into the State of Political science*, 2nd ed, Alfred Knopf, New York, 1971
- Naumescu, Valentin, *Sisteme politice comparate*, Casa cărții de știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2003, disponibilă la Biblioteca Facultății de Studii Europene
- Lijphart, Arendt, *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms & Performance in Thirty-six Countries*, Second Edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012
- Lijphardt, Arendt, *Modele ale democrației. Forme de guvernare și funcționare în treizeci și șase de țări*, Polirom, Iași, 2000 (FSE)
- Duverger, Maurice, *Le système politique français*, PUF, Paris, 1980
- Sartori, Giovanni, *Comparative Constitutional Engineering*, New York: New York University Press, 1994

**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 Course	5 points	Final written exam	50%
10.5 Seminar/ Laboratory	4 points	Evaluations of each student activity	40%
			<i>Ex officio</i> : 1 point
10.6 Minimum standard of performance			
For grade 5: Attending at least 50% of seminars, and receiving at least 4 points from both the written exam and seminar activity.		For grade 10: Attending at least 50% of seminars, and receiving at least 9 points from both the written exam and seminar activity.	

Date

01.09.2023

Course holder signature

.....

Seminar holder signature

.....

Date of departmental approval

01.09.2023

Head of department signature