COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of 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	Cultural Diplomacy and International Relations

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	**Methods of Research and Analysis in Social Sciences**						
2.2 Course holder			Şerban Văetişi, Lecturer				
2.3 Seminar holder			Şerban Văetişi, Lecturer				
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	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					
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					2
Tutoring					2
Examinations					1
Other activities:					-

3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study	6
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	● --

[1] E - exam, ME - multi-term examinations, C - collocutional examination/assessmenț 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	Students following this course are expected to be able to: • properly understand and use the **theoretical and methodological principles** of social and political sciences • understand the rationale and requirements of **scientific method** and the particularities of **analysis** utilized in social-political sciences • identify and comment on some major **research topics** and **research strategies** in social-political sciences, with focus on international relations topics • use basic **concepts, theories, models** and **methods**, appropriate for researching and analysing in the field of social sciences, international relations and related domains of study • build a **research design** on a selected topic in international relations • respect the appropriate **research steps and stages** in a selected research topic
Interdisciplinary skills	Students following this course are expected to be able: • to understand and utilize theoretical and methodological principles • to adopt methodological perspective • to build a methodological plan and develop methodological techniques • to develop research and writing skills • to enhance their ability to read analytically and critically • to develop research plan on selected topics • to correlate and communicate information and knowledge in scientific and academic ways

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

7.1 General objective	▪ The course aims at discussing and practically utilizing the **research methods in social-political sciences** through the presentation of: (i) **methodological** and **thematic** aspects of the study of international relations , (ii) the **stages of research design and practice**, and (iii) some **case studies**.
7.2 Specific objectives	▪ The course is designed from the perspective of **theoretical-methodological principles** of social-political sciences, and some **exemplified topics** of research in the field of international relations ▪ Students should improve their **research and methodological skills** through analysing some proposed topics

8. Contents

8.1 Lecture and Seminar	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Introduction: Researching the Social for International Relations 2. *Methods of Research 1:* Formulating topics 3. *Methods of Research 2:* Research perspective 4. *Methods of Research 3:* Theory and Ideology 5. *Methods of Research 4:* Contexts and Processes 6. *Methods of Research 5:* Research Typology 7. *Methods of Research 6:* The Research Problem 8. *Methods of Research 7:* Policy Research 9. *Methods of Research 8:* Paper Structure and Research References 10. *Analysis 1:* Understanding the complexity of a research topic 11. *Analysis 2:* Historical comparative research 12. *Analysis* 3: Recontextualizing socio-political analysis 13. *Analysis 4*: Critical socio-geopolitical analysis 14. Conclusions. Preparing Exam	Comprehensive lectures, PowerPoint presentations Illustrations, contextualization, debates, specific analyses, critical thinking, reviews Short video screenings and discussions	Materials used in the educational process: Computer, Projector, PowerPoint presentation (slides), visual illustrations (pictures, maps, charts, videos), handouts of bibliography excerpts.

Bibliography:

Methods of research

- BIKLEN, S. & CASELLA, R.   *A Practical Guide to Qualitative Dissertation*. Columbia University 2007
- BRYMAN, A. *Social Research Methods.* Oxford University Press 2008
- CRESWELL, J., *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design.* Sage 2007
- GOODIN, R.; TILLY, C. *The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis*. Oxford University Press 2006
- GRAY, D. *Doing Research in the Real World.* Sage 2004
- PIERCE, R. *Research Methods in Politics. A Practical Guide.* Sage 2008
- RUANE, J. *Essentials of Research Methods. A Guide to Social Science Research.* Blackwell 2005
- SEALE, C., ed., *Social Research Methods. A Reader.* Routledge 2004
- SOMEKH, B.; LEWIN, C. *Research Methods in the Social Sciences.* Sage 2005

Illustrative Analyses

- ARNEIL, B. *Diverse Communities. The Problem with Social Capital.* Cambridge 2006
- BARKAN, S. *Social Problems: Continuity and Change.* University of Minnesota 2010
- ETZIONI, A. *From Empire to Community.* Palgrave MacMillan 2004
- TOWNSEND, C. *Tales of Two Cities: Race and Economic Culture in Early Republican North and South America.* University of Texas Press 2000

Online resources (academic writing guidelines & seminar handouts from):
- USC: University of Southern California – Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper | http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide
- EIR: E-International Relations – The World's Leading Open Access Website for Students and Scholars of International Politics | http://www.e-ir.info

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

Upon completing this course the students will deepen their theoretical understanding and methodological approaches of researching in the field of socio-political sciences.

These will help them in their future professional lives and working environments, in the proper professional-scientific activities that they will further develop.

10. Assessment

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
Lecture and Seminar	(1) using specific notions introduced and utilized throughout the course (2) communicate information and present individual work	- assessing the capacity to use the research guidelines - assessing the capacity to use actual research methods and types of analyses - assessing the capacity to communicate information and present individual work	**40%**
Project	(3) completing a research project according to a model on an individual research topic	- evaluate research project	**60%**

10.6 Minimum standard of performance:
- The capacity to utilize the research guidelines and completion of individual works.

Date	Course holder signature	Seminar holder signature
25.02.2022	*Vaetisi*	*Vaetisi*

Date of departmental approval

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Head of department signature

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