



Course syllabus Academic year 2020-2021

1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	European Studies
1.3 Department	European Studies and Governance
1.4 Field of study	Political Science/International Relations and European Studies
1.5 Study level	PhD
1.6 Programme of study/ Qualification	Doctoral School 'The European Paradigm'

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Title	Discourse Theory. Applications in Political Science and International Relations						
2.2 Course holder	Sergiu Mişcoiu, PhD Professor						
2.3 Seminar holder	Sergiu Mişcoiu, PhD Professor						
2.4 Year of study	1	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment ¹	C	2.7 Type of module ²	OP

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 No. of hours per week	3	3.2 of which for course	2	3.3 of which for seminar	1
3.4 Total no. of hours in the curriculum	52	3.5 of which for course	28	3.6 of which for seminar	14
Time distribution:					Hours
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					15
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					10
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					15
Tutoring					8
Examinations					8
Other activities:					
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study			15		
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester			70		
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points			10		

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 of curriculum	❖
4.2 of competencies	❖

5. Conditions (where applicable)

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

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

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



6. Specific skills acquired

Professional skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The capacity to use the analytical approach of discourse theory in the research process ❖ The ability to use discourse theory in order to analyse various developments in the fields of political science and international relations ❖ The capacity to build analytical frameworks based on the approach of discourse theory in order to assess processes, events and phenomena in the political world.
Interdisciplinary skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The ability to corroborate theoretical incentives from discourse theory with those of other disciplines ❖ The capacity to use the cross-disciplinary tools in order to propose and organize scientific research projects

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

7.1 General objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Familiarising PhD students with the theoretical approach of discourse theory
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Acquiring the basic knowledge regarding the frameworks of analysis and interpretation pertaining to discourse theory ❖ Acquiring the capacity to use the fundamental concepts from the field of discourse theory in describing and explaining events or processes; ❖ Acquiring the ability to determine and explore the domains of interest and priorities in domestic and international politics, as proposed by discourse theory

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Observations
Introduction to Discourse Theory. Methods. From structuralism to post-structuralism	Lecture, discussion	
Discourse Theory. Methods. From structuralism to post-structuralism	Lecture, simulation exercise	
The three generations of discourse theory. Demarche and methods. The first generation	Lecture, video	
The Second generation: Critical Discourse Analysis (I)	Lecture	
The Second generation: Critical Discourse Analysis (II)	Lecture, simulation exercise	
The Third generation – premises	Lecture, discussion	
The Third generation – theoretical achievements	Lecture, video	



The Third generation – the definition of populism	Lecture	
The Third generation – the analysis of populism	Lecture, discussion, audio	
The three generations of discourse theory. Comparative achievements	Lecture, discussion, video	
Discourse Theory – critiques and answers	Lecture, debate	
Discourse Theory – perspectives	Lecture, discussion	
Discourse Theory – conclusions. An interdisciplinary breakthrough	Lecture, debate	
Bibliography:		

8.2 Seminar/Laboratory	Teaching methods	Observations
The three generations of discourse theory. Demarche and methods. The first generation	Students' presentation, discussions and debates	
The three generations of discourse theory. Demarche and methods. The Second generation: Critical Discourse Analysis	Students' presentation, discussions and debates	
The three generations of discourse theory. The Third generation - Generalities	Students' presentation, discussions and debates	
The three generations of discourse theory. The Third generation - Populism	Students' presentation, discussions and debates	
Discourse and Society	Students' presentation, discussions and debates	
Discourse and Conflict	Students' presentation, discussions and debates	
Discourse and Hegemony	Students' presentation, discussions and debates	
Bibliography:		
P. Chilton, <i>Analysing Political Discourse. Theory and Practice</i> , Routledge, 2004		
D. Howarth, J. Torfing (eds.), <i>Discourse Theory in European Politics</i> , Palgrave, 2005		
E. Laclau, "Discourse" in R.E. Goodin, Ph. Pettit (eds.), <i>The Blackwell Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy</i> , Blackwell, pp. 431-437		
Sergiu Mișcoiu, Sergiu Gherghina and Sorina Soare, <i>Contemporary Populism: A Controversial Concept and its Diverse Forms</i> , Cambridge, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2013		



D. Howard, *Defining the Political*, Macmillan, 1987
T. Van Dijk, W. Kintisch, *Strategies of Discourse Comprehension*, N.Y., Academic Press, 1983
R. Wodak, *Disorders of Discourse*, Longman, 1996

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

As the course is destined to be followed by PhD students, it responds to their needs to acquire critical, alternative and interdisciplinary skills for approaching their thesis topics in a way that would allow them to successfully write and defend the result of their researches.

10. Assessment

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4 Course	Showing the capacity to apply discourse theory in a particular case study	Active participation Final paper	60%
10.5 Seminar/ Laboratory	Demonstrating the capacity of understanding and synthetizing a pre-given text in the field of discourse theory	Active participation Presentation	40%
			<i>Ex officio</i> : 1 point
10.6 Minimum standard of performance			
For grade 5: Identifying and explaining in a correct way the added value of discourse theory		For grade 10: Explaining and analysing in a thorough manner the way of functioning of a discourse theory-based analysis	

Date 16.09.2021

Course holder signature

Seminar holder signature

Date of departmental approval

Head of department signature

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