



COURSE SYLLABUS

in accordance with the study plan applicable in 2025-2026

1. Data 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. Level of study	PhD
1.6. Study Programme/Qualification	Doctoral School European Paradigm

2. Data about the subject

2.1. Name of the subject		Methodology and ethics of research in International Relations, European Studies and Political Science					
2.2. Course holder		Prof. Sergiu MIŞCOIU, PhD					
2.3. Seminar holder		Prof. Sergiu MIŞCOIU, PhD					
2.4. Year of study	I	2.5. Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment ¹	E	2.7. Type of module ²	OB

3. Estimated study time (number of teaching hours per semester)

3.1. No. of hours per week	4	Out of which 3.2. Course	2	Out of which 3.3. seminar/ laboratory	2
3.4. Total number of hours in the study plan ³	56	Out of which 3.5. course	28	Out of which 3.6. seminar/ laboratory	28
Time repartition conventional classes⁴ 133					hours
Study based on textbook, course materials, bibliography and personal notes					40
Additional documentation in the library, on specialized electronic platforms and in the field					35
Preparation for seminars/ laboratories, homework, articles, portfolios and essays					20
Tutorial session					5
Examination					5
Other activities:.....					
3.7. Total number of hours of individual study			105		
3.8. Total number of hours per semester			133		
3.9. Number of ECTS points:			10		

4. Prerequisites (if applicable)

4.1. regarding curriculum	•
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¹ Evaluation type: **E** – exam, **CE** –continuous evaluation, **C** – colloquim.

² **Type of module: OB** - mandatory, **OP** - optional, **F**- **facultative**

³ For the final years, the second semester has only 12 weeks; for the others, 14.

⁴ 25 x no. of credits (same as for the total number of hours per semester), from which we deduct the course and seminar hours in order to obtain the total number of individual study hours, as distributed on the six rubrics

4.2. regarding competences	•
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5. Conditions (if applicable)

5.1. regarding the course development 5.2. regarding the seminar/laboratory development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONLINE https://zoom.us/j/94861420157?pwd=pcFbf8ubKGeHF11gGaEKb2LEmxRrqn.1 Passcode: 123654
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6. Specific competences acquired

Professional competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have an insight and a better understanding of the IRESPS research domain • Elaboration of an ontological/epistemological framework that enables the sorting, ranking and making differences between the IRESPS theories • The development of the methodological abilities required for carrying out scientific research in IRESPS
Transversal competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to analyse the actors, the structures and the processes of the international politics using diverse IRESPS theories • The ability to identify the sphere and the limits of different theories and models of IRESPS • Enhancing of the writing, synthesis, presenting skills in IRESPS domain

7. Objectives (based on the specific competences acquired)

7.1. Main objective of the subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main goal of the subject is to provide an updated overview of the main contemporary debates in the field of IRESPS theories and methodology of IRESPS domain, based on a number of paradigmatic examples.
7.2 Specific objectives of the subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist the students in choosing proper theoretical and methodological approaches for their research projects • To assist the students in articulating research proposals for scientific projects and papers

8. Content of the course and of the seminar

Course	SEMINAR PhD candidates activities	Date
1. Introduction. Organisation. Overview of the subject.	Presentations	
2. Research question	Example: Sergiu Miscoiu & Sergiu Gherghina (2021): „Poorly designed deliberation: explaining the banlieues’ non-involvement in the Great Debate”, <i>Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research</i> , https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epub/10.1080/13511610.2021.1978283?needAccess=true	
3. Revision of the specialized literature	Lisa Baglione, Ch. 4: „Making Sense of the Scholarly Answers to Your Research Question Writing the Literature Review”, in: <i>Writing a Research Paper in Political Science. A Practical Guide</i> , SAGE, 2016, pp. 75-90.	Presentation:
4. The design of scientific research - The purpose of research	Ezequiel González-Ocantos, „Designing Qualitative Research Projects: Notes on Theory Building, Case Selection and Field Research” in: Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese (eds.), <i>The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations</i> , 2014, pp. 104-120.	Presentation:
5. From research questions to hypotheses	William Roberts Clark, „Asking Interesting Questions”, in: Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese (eds.), <i>The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations</i> , 2014, pp. 7-25.	Presentation:
6. Qualitative research. The interview	Barbara Czarniawska, Ch. 4: “Narratives in an Interview Situation”, In: <i>Narratives in Social Science Research</i> , SAGE, 2004, pp. 47-59	Presentation:
7. Focus-groups	Virginie Van Ingelgom, „Focus Groups: From Qualitative Data Generation to Analysis”, In: Luigi Curini and Robert Franzese (eds.), <i>The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations</i> , 2014, pp. 1190-1211.	Presentation:
8. Ethnography and netography	Hugh Gusterson, „Ethnographic Research”, In: Audie Klotz and Deepa Prakash (eds.), <i>Qualitative Methods in International Relations. A Pluralist Guide</i> , 2008, pp. 93-113	Presentation:
9. Process training. The structure of the scientific paper	Christopher Lamont, Ch. 9: “Field Research in International Relations”, In: <i>Research Methods in International Relations</i> , 2015, pp. 209-225	
10. Ethics of scientific research. conclusions		

Bibliography:

Example: Sergiu Miscoiu & Sergiu Gherghina (2021): „Poorly designed deliberation: explaining the banlieues’ non-involvement in the Great Debate”, *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, DOI: 10.1080/13511610.2021.1978283
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epub/10.1080/13511610.2021.1978283?needAccess=true>

Baglione, Lisa (2016), *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science. A Practical Guide*, SAGE

Curini, Luigi and Robert Franzese (eds.) (2014), *The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*, SAGE

Czarniawska, Barbara (2004), *Narratives in Social Science Research*, SAGE

Klotz, Audie and Deepa Prakash (eds.) (2008), *Qualitative Methods in International Relations. A Pluralist Guide*

Lamont, Christopher (2015), *Research Methods in International Relations*, SAGE

9. Corroborating the contents of the discipline with the expectations of the representatives of the epistemic community, the professional associations and the representative employers in the field related to the program

The course focuses on the roles of research theories and methods in IRESPS. PhD students are introduced to basic ontological and methodological concepts and major epistemological perspectives in the field against theories and approaches in the field. Moreover, students will be familiar with the substantive debates in the philosophy of social sciences that are subject to different methodological approaches.

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1. Evaluation criteria	10.2. Evaluation methods	10.3. Weight from the final grade
10.4. Course	Summative evaluation that takes into account: - Participation in courses and involvement in discussions on the topic of each course	- Evaluation of the course activity based on a predetermined algorithm	30 %
10.5. Seminar/ laboratory	Summative evaluation that takes into account: Presentation of bibliographic material		70 %
10.6. Minimum performance standard			
To be admitted with the level of performance "well"		To be admitted with the level of performance "very well":	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of the paper for the seminar • Passing the written exam and solving at least half of the subjects related to this test • Browsing the required bibliography 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum attendance at 80% of course and seminar activities • Active participation in the course and seminar • Handing over the final paper • Reading the obligatory bibliography and at least three works from the complementary bibliography 	