

FIȘA DISCIPLINEI

1. information about the program

1.1 Name of the university	Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
1.2 Faculty	Facultatea de Științe Politice, Administrative și ale Comunicării
1.3 Department	Departamentul de Științe Politice
1.4 Field of study	POLITICAL SCIENCE
1.5 Level of study	Bachelor of Arts
1.6 Study program / Qualification	POLITICAL SCIENCE

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Discipline title	Research seminar						
2.2 Course lecturer							
2.3 Seminar assistant	Toma Burean						
2.4 Year of study	3	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Evaluation type	E	2.7 Discipline type	COMPULSORY

3. Total estimated time (hours of didactic activities per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	4	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	2
3.4 Total hours in the study plan	56	of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	28
Time distribution:					ore
Studying the manual, course reader, bibliography and notes:					2x14
Supplementary documentation in the library, on electronic platforms and in the field:					1x14
Preparing seminars/laboratories, homework, syntheses, portfolios and essays:					1x14
Tutorials					
Examinations					7
Other activities:					
3.7 3.7 Total hours of individual study	28				
3.8 3.8 Total hours per semester	112				
3.9 3.9 Number of credits	5				

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 based on the curriculum	To know the specific concepts accumulated during courses on quantitative analysis in social sciences
4.2 based on competences	To be capable to read research papers in English

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 for the course	<p>Students have to respect the following rules:</p> <p>Those that will plagiarize or will engage in academic fraud will get 1 and will be reported to the department with a recommendation to be expelled.</p> <p>Please guide yourself according to the following criteria:</p> <p>Team work that is not approved by the course lecturer is academic fraud.</p> <p>The presentation of a paper written by someone else or a paper presented at the same time to another course constitutes plagiarism.</p> <p>Using materials or unauthorized sources during exams constitutes cheating.</p> <p>..</p>
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5.2 for the seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="539 91 1501 228">• Seminar attendance is mandatory for 75% of the classes. You have to attend 10 out of 14 seminars in order to be accepted to submit the final paper.
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6. Accumulated specific competencies

Professional competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and manage project plans, programs and actions of social-political Building, supporting and promoting a project, plan, program or social-political action Using the basic rules for understanding and assessment of projects, plans, programs, and social and political action
Transversal competencies	<p>Handling specific information required for solving complex tasks (receiving, transmitting, stocking information) by using an international language</p> <p>Application of efficient team work techniques in a multidisciplinary team on different hierarchical levels</p> <p>The objective self evaluation of the need for professional training for entering and adapting to the requirements of the job market</p>

7. Discipline objectives (from the accumulated competencies grid)

7.1 General objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this discipline is to offer third year students the theoretical and practical support for the organization, planification and writing of their ba thesis
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will learn what are the requirements for a succesfull BA thesis and will learn about the criteria according to which their papers will be evaluated We review several topics that refer to the form of a BA thesis and content covered in academic writing classes and methodology courses By the end of the semester students should know what they have to do when researching a topic:

8. Conținuturi

8.1 Course	Teaching Methods	Observations
1. Introduction to the course.	Presentation of the course materials.	
2. Evaluation of a dissertation – criteria of evaluation. Presentation and discussions	Explaining the criteria for a dissertation paper	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
3. Identification of a research topic.	Brain storming discussing the papers students had to read	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.

4. Literature Review	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
5. Theoretical background	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class..
6. Research questions and hypotheses.	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class..
7. Research design. (I) General aspects.	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
8. Research design – (II) Comparative Research Design	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class..
9. Research design – (III) Case Study Research Design	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
10. Research design – (IV) Experimental Research Design	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
11. Collecting and presenting data. Presenting and analysing results	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
12. References and ways to avoid plagiarism	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.

1. Presentations on the progress of students' theses. (1 – the first half of the students, based on initial scheduling)	Learning by feedback	
1. Presentations on the progress of students' theses. (2 – the second half of the students, based on initial scheduling)	Learning by feedback	

Bibliography

Topic 1

Presentation of the course

Topic 2

Firebaugh, G. 2008. "Seven Rules for Social Research". Princeton: Princeton University Press – Capitolul : paginile 1-31;

Ragin, Charles, C. 1994. Capitolul 2: "The Goals of Social Research." In Constructing Social Research. Pine Forge Press, pp. 31-53;

Gerring, John. 2012. "Social Science Methodology. A Unified Framework". Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Second Edition. Finding a Research Question, pp.37-57

Topic 4

Murray, T. R. and Brubaker, D. L. 2008. "Theses and Dissertations. A Guide to Planning, Research, and Writing". Second edition. London: Corwin Press, Literature Review, pp 26-52

JOHNSON, Janet Buttolph si Richard A. Joslyn. 1995. "Political Science Research methods. Third Edition", Conducting a Literature Review, pp. 153-169

Topic 5

Murray Thomas, R. 2003. "Blending Qualitative and Quantitative. Research Methods in Theses and Dissertations" . London: Corwin Press; Ch. 10 – Applying, Testing and Generating Theories: 147-170

Kellstedt, P. M. si Whitten, G. D. 2009. Capitolul 2 "The Art of Theory Building". In The Fundamentals of Political Science Research. Cambridge University Press, pp. 22-44;

Topic 6

JOHNSON, Janet Buttolph si Richard A. Joslyn. 1995. "Political Science Research methods. Third Edition", The Building Blocks of Social Scientific Research: Hypothesis, Concepts and Variable, pp. 41-70

Lyons, P. and Howard J. Doueck, 2010. "The Dissertation. From Beginning to End", New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 3. The Literature Review, Theory, Problem Statement, and Hypotheses, pp. 53-80

Topic 7

Kellstedt, P. M. si Whitten, G. D. 2009. Capitolul 4 "Research Design". In The Fundamentals of Political Science Research. Cambridge University Press, pp. 67-86;

Denscombe, M. 2010. "Ground Rules for Social Research. Guidelines for Good Practice." Second Edition. New York: Open University Press, Research Design 99-115

Topic 8

Ragin, Charles, R. 1987. "The Comparative Method. Moving beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies. ", University of California Press, p. 1-19 si 34-85;

Ragin, Charles, R. 1994. Capitolul 5. "Using Comparative Methods to Study Diversity". In Constructing Social Research. Pine Forge Press, pp. 105-131;

Topic 9

Yin, R. K. 2003. Case Study Research. Design and Method, 3rd Edition. London: Sage Publications – Capitolul introductiv: pp. 1-15;

THOMAS, Gary, 2011. "How to do your Case Study. A guide for students & researchers", Your Process, pp.137-158

Topic 10

KELLSTEDT, Paul M. si Guy D. WHITTEN. 2009. "The Fundamentals of Political Science Research". Experimental Research Design, pp.68-77

JOHNSON, Janet Buttolph si Richard A. Joslyn. 1995. "Political Science Research methods. Third Edition", Research Design. Experimentation, pp. 111-133

Topic 11

Henn, M., M. Weinstein & N. Foard. 2006. A Short Introduction to Social Research. London: Sage Publications;

- Cap 8: "The Analysis of Data", pp. 184-217
- Cap 9: "Writing up and presenting research results", pp. 218 -248

Topic 12

The reading will be distributed during the class

Topic 13

Presentations

Topic 14

Presentations

8.2 Seminar	Metode de predare	Observații
1. Presentation of the course materials.		

2. Evaluation of a dissertation – criteria of evaluation. Presentation and discussions	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
3. Identification of a research topic.	Learning by feedback	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
4. Literature Review	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
5. Theoretical background	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
6. Research questions and hypotheses	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
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10. Research design – (IV) Experimental Research Design	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
11. Collecting and presenting data. Presenting and analysing results	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.

	Interactive discussions.	
12. References and ways to avoid plagiarism	Presentation of a set of concepts and theories related to the course material. Interactive discussions.	Students have to read the article assigned for this class.
13. Presentations on the progress of students' theses. (1 – the first half of the students, based on initial scheduling)	Learning by feedback	
14. Presentations on the progress of students' theses. (2 – the second half of the students, based on initial scheduling)	Learning by feedback	

Bibliography

Topic 1

Presentation of the course

Topic 2

Silbergh, David M., 2001. "Doing Dissertation in Politics. A student Guide", London: Routledge, Ch. 1. Doing Dissertation in Politics, pp. 1-19

Topic 3

Garson, David G., 2002. "Guide to Writing Empirical Papers, Theses, and Dissertations", New York: Marcel Dekker AG, Ch. 1. Selecting the Topic, pp.1-35

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams, 2003. "The Craft of Research", Chicago: Chicago University Press, Ch. 3. From Topics to Problems, pp. 40-53

Topic 4

RANDOLPH, Justus J. 2009. "A Guide to Writing the Dissertation Literature Review", in Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation, Vol 14, no.13, pp 1-13

SILBERGH, David M., 2001. "Doing Dissertation in Politics. A student Guide", London: Routledge, Ch. 4. Refining the Problem: Literature Review, pp.73-89

Topic 5

KELLSTEDT, Paul M. si Guy D. WHITTEN. 2009. "The Fundamentals of Political Science Research", How do I know I have a good theory?, pp. 40-43

Lyons, P. and Howard J. DOUECK, 2010. "The Dissertation. From Beginning to End", New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 3. The Literature Review, Theory, Problem Statement, and Hypotheses, pp. 53-80

Topic 6

POLLOCK III, Philip H. 2012. "The Essentials of Political Analysis", Framing Hypothesis, pp. 54-58

Topic 7

Murray, T. R. and Brubaker, D. L. 2008. "Theses and Dissertations. A Guide to Planning, Research, and Writing". Second edition. London: Corwin Press, Catalogue of Methods, pp. 15-57

Silbergh, David M., 2001. "Doing Dissertation in Politics. A student Guide", London: Routledge, Ch.2. Research Design and the Dissertation.

Topic 8

Landman, T. 2008. 'Why compare countries?' In Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics. London: Routledge. pp. 3-23

Topic 9

THOMAS, Gary, 2011. "How to do your Case Study. A guide for students & researchers", Kinds of case-studies: Finding your case, pp.76-109

Topic 10

DRUCKMAN, James et al. 2006. "The Growth and Development of Experimental Research in Political Science", American Political Science Review, Vol. 100, No. 4, pp.627-635

COBB, Paul et al. 2003. "Design Experiments in Educational Research", Educational Researcher, 32, pp.9-13

Topic 11

Silbergh, David M., 2001. "Doing Dissertation in Politics. A student Guide", London: Routledge, Ch. 8. Making Sense of it all: Critical Thought and Data Analysis, pp. 164-176

Lyons, P. and Howard J. Doueck, 2010. "The Dissertation. From Beginning to End", New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 6. Data Management and Analysis, pp. 132-153

Topic 12

Davis, J. P. 2004. "The Rowman and Littlefield Guide to Writing with Sources". Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield

Weston, A. 2000. "A Rulebook for Arguments. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company"

Harvey, G. 1998. "Writing with Sources. A Guide for Students". Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company;

Topic 13

Presentations

Topic 14

Presentations)

9. The corroboration of discipline contents with the expectations of epistemic community representatives, professional associations and representative employers in the study program's corresponding field

This seminar is required for all the political science courses because it presents the methods and writing techniques of specialized works. The syllabus took into account the recommendations of professors and their course requirements. Students should know how a research paper in political science is elaborated

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Weight in final mark
10.4 Course	Presentation of the literature review of students BA		20%
	The written literature review		40%
10.5 Seminar/laboratory			
	Active participation in class and doing homeworks		40%

10.6 Minimum performance standard

Seminar attendance is compulsory according to University rules to at least 75% of the classes. Students have to accomplish the homeworks and the critical review. Students have to respect the following rules:
 Those that will plagiarize or will engage in academic fraud will get 1 and will be reported to the department with a recommendation to be expelled.
 Please guide yourself according to the following criteria:
 Team work that is not approved by the course lecturer is academic fraud.
 The presentation of a paper written by someone else or a paper presented at the same time to another course constitutes plagiarism.
 Using materials or unauthorized sources during exams constitutes cheating.
 Seminar attendance is mandatory for 75% of the classes. You have to attend 10 out of 14 seminars in order to be accepted to submit the final paper.

date
20.09.2016

Course lecturer signature

Seminar assistant signature

dr. Toma Burean



Date of approval in the Department
30.09.2016

Head of department's signature
dr. Cosmin Marian