**DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION**

**1. Information about the program**

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| 1.1 Higher education institution | Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania |
| 1.2 Faculty | Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences |
| 1.3 Department | Political Science |
| 1.4 Field of study | Political Science |
| 1.5 Level of study | Undergraduate |
| 1.6 Study program / Qualification | Political Science |

**2. Information about the discipline**

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| 2.1 Discipline title | | | European political parties and electoral systems | | | | | | |
| 2.2 Course lecturer | | | | | George Jiglau (jiglau@fspac.ro) | | | | |
| 2.3 Seminar assistant | | | | | Ovidiu Oltean (ovidiuoltean@fspac.ro) | | | | |
| 2.4 Year of study | 2 | 2.5 Semester | | 2 | | 2.6. Evaluation type | E | 2.7 Discipline type | Mandatory |

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

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| 3.1 Number of hours per week | 6 | | Of which: 3.2 course | | 2 | 3.3 seminar/laboratory | 4 |
| 3.4 Total hours in the study plan | 84 | | Of which: 3.5 course | | 28 | 3.6 seminar/laboratory | 56 |
| Time distribution: face-to-face study: 6 hours. Individual study: 3 hours | | | | | | | hours |
| Studying the manual, course reader, bibliography and notes: | | | | | | | 3x14 |
| Supplementary documentation in the library, on electronic platforms and in the field: | | | | | | | 1.5x14 |
| Preparing seminars/laboratories, homework, syntheses, portfolios and essays: | | | | | | | 1.5x14 |
| Tutorials | | | | | | |  |
| Examinations | | | | | | | 11 |
| Other activities: .................. | | | | | | |  |
| 3.7 Total hours of individual study | | 42 | |
| 3.8 Total hours per semester | | 126 | |
| 3.9 Number of credits | | 5 | |

**4. Prerequisites (where applicable)**

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| 4.1 based on the curriculum | * Not required |
| 4.2 based on competences | * Not required |

**5. Conditions (where applicable)**

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| 5.1 for the course | The notion of plagiarism is defined in accordance with the Department of Political Science policies:  (http://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/). Plagiarism and attempted fraud examination is punishable and the case presented to the Dean to take appropriate administrative measures. Final exam fraud is punishable by removal from the exam. |  |
| 5.2 for the seminar/laboratory | Attendance at seminars is required by university regulations to a level of 75%. Note: arrear exam includes seminar component. If the work done by the student does not meet the seminars requirements to promote this discipline, it is mandatory to re-take it in the next academic year. |  |

**6. Accumulated specific competencies**

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| **Professional competencies** | The capacity to evaluate the role and evolution of parties within political systems.  Organizational abilities in the context of political organizations.  The capacity to understand and operate with the main components of electoral systems. |
| **Transversal competencies** |  |

**7. Discipline objectives (from the accumulated competencies grid)**

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| 7.1 General objective | The course of "political parties and electoral systems" aims to introduce the main concepts of the domain (party systems, ideology, legitimacy, legality, elections, political socialization, electoral competition, etc.), to present the various elements and categories of electoral systems, to present approaches and methods to provide an overview of theoretical approaches to present the main areas of study of political parties and party politics. The course will review a number of classical texts from the literature on political parties and party systems. |
| 7.2 Specific objectives | The discipline aims to introduce some basic concepts of social science research: political power, state, regime, democracy, political culture, ideology, legitimacy, legality, political socialization, liberalism, Marxism, voting, elections, political parties, the system electoral formula electoral party system, legitimacy, legality, political behavior, political preferences, the political system, institutionalism, nationalism, multi-ethnicity. |

**8. Contents**

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| **8.1 Course** | **Teaching methods** | **Observations** | |
| **What is a political party? The crisis of political parties** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Party origins, functions of parties** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Types of parties, internal party organization** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Families of parties, parties and ideologies** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **European parties and transnational party structures** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **What is a party system? Origins of party systems** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Categories and indicators of party system** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **The Romanian party system** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Introduction to electoral systems. Multiple elements of electoral systems** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **The core elements and categories of electoral systems** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Types of electoral formulas I** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Types of electoral formulas II** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Types of elections and electoral systems (micro, local, regional, national, supranational)** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **Parties, party systems and electoral systems in non-democratic regimes** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| **The future of political parties** | Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples. | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus | |
| Bibliography: Giovanni Sartori, Parties and Party Systems. ECPR Press. 2016.  LaPalombara, Joseph, and Myron Weiner. 1990. The Origin and Development of Political Parties, in Peter Mair (ed.), *The West European Party System*. OxfordUniversity Press, pp.3-42.  Mair, Peter. 2002. “Comparing Party Systems,” în LawrenceLeDuc, Richard G. Niemi, and Pippa Norris (eds.), *Comparing Democracies 2: New Challenges in the Study of Elections* *and Voting*. London: Sage, pp. 88-107.  J. Blondel, Party Systems and Patterns of Government in Western Democracies, în Canadian Journal of Political Science / Revue canadienne de science politique, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Jun., 1968), pp. 180-203.  Blais, André, and Louis Masicotte. 2002. “Political Consequences of Electoral Systems,” in Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi, and Pippa Norris (eds.), *Comparing Democracies 2:* *New Challenges in the Study of Elections and Voting*. London: Sage, pp. 56-63.  Lijphart, Arend. 1999. “Electoral Systems and Party Systems,” in *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, CT:YaleUniversity Press, pp. 165-170.  Enyedi, Zsolt. 2006. “Party politics in post-communist transition,” în Richard S. Katz and William M. Crotty (eds.), *Handbook of Party Politics.*London and Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, pp. 228-239.  Jack Bielasiak, The Institutionalization of Electoral and Party Systems in Postcommunist States, în Comparative Politics, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Jan., 2002), pp. 189-210.  Dyer, Michael. 2003. “Elections and Electoral Systems,” in Roland Axtmann (ed.), Understanding Democratic Politics: An Introduction. Sage, pp. 143-153.  Farrell, David M. 1997. Comparing Electoral Systems. Macmillan (Chapter 1, “The Study of Electoral Systems”, pp. 1-11).  Birch, Sarah. “Ukraine: The Perils of Majoritarianism in a New Democracy.” ACE Project, <https://aceproject.org/main/english/es/esy\_ua.htm>.  Huneeus, Carlos. “Chile: A System Frozen by Elite Interests.” ACE Project, <http://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/es/annex/esy/esy\_cl>.  Reilly, Benjamin. “Papua New Guinea: Electoral Incentives for Inter-Ethnic Accommodation.” ACE Project, <http://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/es/esy/esy\_pg>.  Mudde, Cas. 2014 (April 14). “The 2014 Hungarian Parliamentary Elections, or How to Craft a Constitutional Majority.” The Washington Post Monkey Cage, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/04/14/the-2014-hungarian-parliamentary-elections-or-how-to-craft-a-constitutional-majority/>.  Reilly, Benjamin. 2001. “The rise and fall of centripetalism in Papua New Guinea,” in Benjamin Reilly, Democracy in Divided Societies: Electoral Engineering for Conflict Management. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (pp. 58-70, 81-86, 90-92).  Scheppele, Kim Lane, Miklós Bánkuti, and Zoltán Réti. 2014 (April 13). “Legal But Not Fair (Hungary).” The Conscience of a Liberal Blog, <http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/04/13/legal-but-not-fair-hungary/>.  Barasch, Emily. 2017. “The Twisted History of Gerrymandering in American Politics.” The Atlantic (May 27), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/09/the-twisted-history-of-gerrymandering-in-american-politics/262369/>.  Caulfield, Michael J. 2010. “Apportioning Representatives in the United States Congress - Paradoxes of Apportionment,” Convergence (November), DOI: 10.4169/loci003163. <https://www.maa.org/press/periodicals/convergence/apportioning-representatives-in-the-united-states-congress-paradoxes-of-apportionment>.  Fesnic, Florin. (2018). “Voter Registration and the 2016 US Presidential Election.” <https://www.dropbox.com/s/m1860il94ai8fzn/trump.ppt>. | | | |
| **8.2 Seminar / laboratory** | **Teaching methods** | | **Observations** |
| **What is a political party? The crisis of political parties** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Party origins, functions of parties, and types of political parties** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Internal party organization** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Families of parties, parties and ideologies, left and right** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **European parties and transnational party structures** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **What is a party system? Origins of party systems** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Categories and indicators of party system** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **The Romanian party system** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Introduction to electoral systems. Multiple elements of electoral systems** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **The core elements and categories of electoral systems** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Types of electoral formulas I** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Types of electoral formulas II** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Types of elections and electoral systems (micro, local, regional, national, supranational)** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |
| **Parties, party systems and electoral systems in non-democratic regimes** | Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples. | | Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus |

**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**

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| The course aims to present the way we think / conceive the study of political parties and party systems. The course explores general questions about the political parties and presents case studies to help understand them.  At the end of the semester students should:  - Understand the basic concepts in comparing parties and party systems;  - Be familiar with the main theories and approaches to discipline;  - Be familiar with the main analysis techniques;  - To be able to conduct a comparative study;  Basic concepts : comparative method, case study, the political system, democracy, electoral system , electoral formula , the majority electoral systems , proportional electoral systems , political culture , participatory culture , political party , party system |

**10. Evaluation**

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| Type of activity | 10.1 Evaluation criteria | 10.2 Evaluation methods | 10.3 Weight in final mark |
| 10.4 Course | Evaluation of expert knowledge taught in class. Assessment of exposure and clarity of expression level of specialized knowledge taught in class | Oral Examination | 40% |
| 10.5 Seminar/laboratory | Work in the seminars | Quality of replies to questions about the topics discussed in seminars and meeting the deadlines for the seminar assignments. | 30% |
| Final paper | Students will select a country characterized by a pluralist political environment and undertake an in-depth analysis of its party system, political dynamics, and electoral framework. Throughout the semester, students will submit sections of their research paper as seminar assignments for class discussion. These submissions will be consolidated in a final research paper, to be presented during the exam period. | 30% |
| 10.6 Minimum performance standard | | | |
| Evaluation of students will combine an assessment of the work of the whole group of students (especially the seminar) to an individual assessment. The final grade of the seminar will be composed as follows:  - Active participation in the course/seminar discussion topics and assignment presentation = 30%  - Final presentation: 30%  - Oral exam: 40%  You have to come to at least 11 seminars otherwise you will have to retake the course next year. If you miss a seminar, let me know in advance by email.  Attendance at seminars is required by university regulations to a level of 75%.  The notion of plagiarism is defined in accordance with the Department of Political Science regulations: (<http://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/>). | | | |