

COURSE SYLLABUS
Research ethics
 2025-2026 Academic year

1. Information about the program

1.1. Higher education institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	History and Philosophy
1.3. Department	Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies
1.4. Field of study	History
1.5. Course of study	Doctorate
1.6. Study Program / Qualification	Doctorate
1.7. Form of education	

2. Discipline information

2.1. Name of the course	Research ethics			Course code	RISS_05		
2.2. Course activity holder	Senior Researcher Lucian NASTASĂ-KOVACS						
2.3. Seminar activities holder	Senior Researcher Lucian NASTASĂ-KOVACS						
2.4. School year	1	2.5. Semester	2	2.6. Type of evaluation	C	2.7. Discipline status	OB

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

3.1. Number of hours per week	5	From which: 3.2. course	3	3.3. seminar/ laboratory/ project	2
3.4. Total hours in the curriculum	60	From which: 3.5. course	36	3.6 seminar/laboratory	24
Distribution of time allocation for individual study (IS) and self-learning activities (SL)					hours
Study using the textbook, course materials, bibliography, and notes (SL)					60
Additional research in the library, on specialized electronic platforms, and in the field					30
Preparation of seminars/labs/projects, homework, reports, portfolios, and essays					60
Tutoring (career counseling)					0
Examinations					6
Other activities [two-way communication with the course instructor / tutor]					34
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-learning activities (SL)				190	
3.8. Total hours per semester				250	
3.9. Total number of credits				10	

4. Preconditions (where applicable)

4.1. curriculum	Not applicable
4.2. competencies	Not applicable

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1. for the lecture	Not applicable
5.2. for the seminar/laboratory	Not applicable

6.1. Specific competencies acquired

Professional/essential skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and critically analyze forms of inappropriate academic conduct and scientific fraud, with reference to national and international standards on research integrity. 2. Rigorously apply the principles of good conduct in scientific research, preventing and avoiding practices of data falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism in the preparation of academic works. 3. Assess the ethical, professional, institutional, and legal consequences of research fraud, demonstrating an understanding of its impact on the credibility of the academic environment. 4. Properly utilize the normative, administrative, and deontological framework specific to scientific research, in order to carry out academic activities in accordance with standards of integrity and professional responsibility.
Cross-disciplinary skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Systematizes and integrates information from diverse sources (legislative, theoretical, methodological), using it to develop coherent and critically grounded academic analyses. 2. Optimizes the organization of research activities through the efficient use of techniques and tools specific to the field, demonstrating scientific responsibility and methodological rigor. 3. Recognizes and critically analyzes research compromised by fabrication, falsification, or data polishing procedures, demonstrating the ability to assess the validity and integrity of scientific results.

6.2. Learning outcomes

Knowledge
1. Explain the fundamental notions and concepts of research ethics and academic integrity
2. Describe and contextualize the dynamics of European academic and intellectual environments in the 20th and 21st centuries, and how they influence the circulation of ideas and practices regarding research methods
3. Demonstrate knowledge of national and international legislation, field-specific ethical codes, and regulations regarding academic fraud
4. Identify forms of misconduct in research and academic integrity
Skills
1. Critically and contextually analyze complex ethical dilemmas that may arise in one's own research process or in the evaluation of other works, relating them to European academic and intellectual environments and the Romanian context.
2. Evaluate, using a rigorous methodology, the procedures governing contemporary research
3. Examine the short, medium, and long-term implications of issues arising from the ethical framework of research.
4. Develop a coherent theoretical and methodological framework for in-depth individual research in the field of knowledge transfer within physical and cyber spaces
5. Efficiently utilize and organize archival materials and specialized sources, structuring them systematically for individual research
6. Produce analytical and critically argued scientific studies, integrating research results into the field of both theoretical and applied research methodology
Responsibility and autonomy
1. Plans and independently carries out documentation (library, specialized platforms, field/archives) and manages their individual study time to support doctoral research.

2. Take responsibility for methodological rigor and the validity of interpretations, while critically utilizing sources related to research methodology and the ethical framework of contemporary research
3. Integrates information from diverse sources and responsibly utilizes it in coherent analyses and studies, grounded in theory.
4. Demonstrates autonomy in writing an individual paper and in presenting a colloquium, meeting the minimum standard: applying theoretical concepts in the preparation of scientific papers.

7. Objectives of the discipline (outcome of the acquired competencies)

7.1 General objective of the discipline	- Familiarizing students with the most important concepts of the discipline from an academic, administrative, and legal perspective.
7.2 Specific objective of the discipline	- Understanding the theoretical framework of best practices in academic research - Identifying the most effective research processes for scientific papers - Theoretical, administrative, and legal knowledge of the framework for ethical research.

8. Content

8.1 Course	Teaching-Learning Methods	Observations
Conceptualization and approaches to research	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
What is ethics and what is research in the context of social and human sciences	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Deliberate fraud, honest mistake, and questionable practices	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Data fabrication and data falsification	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Plagiatul din perspectivă academică, administrativă și legală	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Case Study - Plagiarism in the Romanian Interwar University Environment	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Plagiarism in the international academic space	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Case study - instances of plagiarism that have distorted and discredited the results of scientific research	exposition, argumentation, lecture	

Attribution and Ownership of Research Outcomes (I)	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Attribution and Ownership of Research Outcomes (II)	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Academic fraud in the virtual world	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Conclusions	exposition, argumentation, lecture	
Bibliography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lahman, M. (2018). Ethics in Social Science Research: Becoming Culturally Responsive. Sage Publications - Jaap, B. (2020). Research Ethics for Students in the Social Sciences, Springer Nature. - Cochrane, J. H. (2005). Writing Tips for Ph. D. Students. Chicago, SUA: Graduate School of Business University of Chicago 		
8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching-Learning Methods	Observations
Conceptualization and approaches to research	exposure, debate	
What is ethics and what is contemporary research	exposure, debate	
Deliberate fraud, honest error in the Romanian academic environment	exposure, debate	
Falsifying data or fictitious citations	exposure, debate	
Plagiarism from the Perspective of the Romanian Legal Framework	exposure, debate	
Plagiarism and mechanisms for combating it at the European level	exposure, debate	
Plagiarism and its negative effects on the academic environment	exposure, debate	
How fraud distorts the perception of the academic environment in the eyes of the public	exposure, debate	
Attribution and Ownership of Research Results in the Social and Human Sciences	exposure, debate	
Artificial Intelligence and Academic Fraud (I)	exposure, debate	
Artificial Intelligence and Academic Fraud (II)	exposure, debate	
Conclusions	exposure, debate	
Bibliography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cohen, B. C. (n.d.). Nazi Medical Experimentation: The Ethics Of Using Medical Data From Nazi Experiments. Jewish Virtual Library. (https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-ethics-of-using-medicaldata-from-nazi-experiments) 		

- Creswell, J. W. (2007). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions*. (ed. a 2-a). Thousand Oaks, SUA: Sage Publications Inc.
- Frunză, A. (2016). *Către o nouă expertiză etică - deconstruind valorile etice*. Iași, România: Lumen
- Randolph, J. (2009). *Guide to writing the dissertation literature review*. *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation*, 14(13)
- Legea nr. 8 din 14 martie 1996, privind drepturile de autor și drepturile conexe, -publicată în „Monitorul Oficial al României”, Partea I, nr. 60, 26 martie 1996.
- Legea nr. 285 din 23 iunie 2004, pentru modificarea și completarea Legii nr. 8/1996 privind dreptul de autor și drepturile conexe, publicată în “Monitorul Oficial”, Partea I, nr. 587, 30.VI.2004
- Ordonanța de Urgență a Guvernului nr. 123 din 1 septembrie 2005, privind modificarea și completarea Legii nr. 8/1996 privind dreptul de autor și drepturile conexe publicată în „Monitorul Oficial al României”, Partea I, nr. 843, 9.IX.2005
- Legea nr. 329 din 14 iulie 2006, privind aprobarea Ordonanței de Urgență a Guvernului nr. 123/2005 pentru modificarea și completarea Legii nr. 8/1996 privind drepturile de autor și drepturile conexe, publicată în “Monitorul Oficial al României”, Partea I, nr. 657 din 31.VII.2006

9. Corroborating the content of the discipline with the expectations of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers within the field of the program

- The course was developed in accordance with works in the field, published both nationally and internationally;
- Some topics within the course cover relevant aspects that are the focus of specialized institutions or international scientific conferences, including debates in internationally circulated journals

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation Criteria	10.2 Evaluation Methods	10.3 Weight of the final grade
10.4 Course	- knowledge of the subject matter and bibliography	Colloquium based on an individual paper	80%
	- analytical and synthetic capacity		
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	- knowledge of the subject matter and bibliography	Colloquium	20%
	- analytical and synthetic capacity		
10.6 Minimum passing standard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of theoretical elements and their use in preparing theoretical and legal scientific papers. 			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)¹

	The general label for Sustainable Development							
								
								

Date of completion:

Signature of the course lecturer

Signature of the seminar tutore

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Date of notification in the department:...

Department director's signature

20.10.2025

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¹ Select a single label, the one that, according to the ODD Label Application Procedure in the academic process, best fits the discipline. If the discipline addresses the topic of sustainable development in a general manner (e.g., by presenting/introducing the general framework of sustainable development, etc.), then the general Sustainable Development label can be assigned. If none of the labels describe the discipline, select the last option: "No label applies".