

SYLLABUS

General research methods and the methodology of preparing scientific papers

University year 2025/2026

1. Information regarding the programme

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| 1.1. Higher education institution | Babeş-Bolyai University |
| 1.2. Faculty | of History and Philosophy |
| 1.3. Department | of International Studies and Contemporary History |
| 1.4. Field of study | Political Science |
| 1.5. Study cycle | Doctorate |
| 1.6. Study programme/Qualification | Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies / Doctor in International Relations and European Studies |
| 1.7. Form of education | Frequently |

2. Information regarding the discipline

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|-----------------------------|---|---------------|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------|----|
| 2.1. Name of the discipline | General research methods and the methodology of preparing scientific papers | | | Discipline code | | | |
| 2.2. Course coordinator | Mihai Croitor | | | | | | |
| 2.3. Seminar coordinator | Mihai Croitor | | | | | | |
| 2.4. Year of study | 1 | 2.5. Semester | 2 | 2.6. Type of evaluation | E | 2.7. Discipline regime | DS |

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

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|---|----|----------------------|----|------------------------|--------------|
| 3.1. Hours per week | 5 | of which: 3.2 course | 2 | 3.3 seminar/laboratory | 3 |
| 3.4. Total hours in the curriculum | 70 | of which: 3.5 course | 28 | 3.6 seminar/laborator | 42 |
| Time allotment for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA) | | | | | hours |
| Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes (SA) | | | | | 40 |
| Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation) | | | | | 40 |
| Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays | | | | | 20 |
| Tutorship | | | | | 40 |
| Evaluations | | | | | 20 |
| Other activities: | | | | | 20 |
| 3.7. Total individual study hours | | | | | 180 |
| 3.8. Total hours per semester | | | | | 250 |
| 3.9. Number of ECTS credits | | | | | 10 |

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

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| 4.1. curriculum | |
| 4.2. competencies | |

5. Conditions (if necessary)

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| 5.1. for the course | |
| 5.2. for the seminar /lab activities | |

6.1. Specific competencies acquired ¹

¹ One can choose either competences or learning outcomes, or both. If only one option is chosen, the row related to the other option will be deleted, and the kept one will be numbered 6.

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| Professional/essential competencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determining and exploring areas of interest and priorities in European and international policies. - Analyzing a given situation by applying fundamental principles, theories, and methods from the field of international relations. |
| Transversal competencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applying efficient work techniques in a multidisciplinary team appropriate to various hierarchical levels. - Objectively self-assessing the need for professional training for the purpose of integration and adaptability to labor market demands. |

6.2. Learning outcomes

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| Knowledge | The student knows the stages of appropriate scientific research. |
| Skills | The student is able to develop a research design. |
| Responsibility and autonomy: | The student has the ability to work independently in order to carry out their scientific research under good conditions. |

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

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|---|--|
| 7.1 General objective of the discipline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have an in-depth knowledge of general research methods. |
| 7.2 Specific objective of the discipline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To choose the research topic based on clear criteria. • To formulate the research hypotheses and research questions. • To develop an appropriate research design. • To easily use general research methods. |

8. Content

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 8.1 Course | Teaching methods | Remarks |
| 1. Idea, concept, method | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |

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|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 2. Choosing the research topic and defining the variables | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 3. Research Design | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 4. Review of the specialized literature | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 5. Developing the research project and systematic investigation | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 6. Schools of International Relations | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 7. Classic qualitative methods: discourse analysis | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 8. Classic qualitative methods: historical representations | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 9. Classical qualitative methods: ethnographic research | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 10. Classic qualitative methods: process tracing | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 11. The Case Study as a Method in International Relations | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 12. Quantitative methods: quantitative-empirical approaches in the study of international relations. | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 13. Formal Methods in the Study of International Relations | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |
| 14. Interviews in the study of international relations | Lecture, analysis, explanation | |

Bibliography

Audie Klotz, Deepa Prakash (ed.), *Qualitative Methods in International Relations. A Pluralist Guide*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2008;

Detlef F. Sprinz, Yael Wolinsky (ed.), *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*, University of Michigan Press, 2004;

Sharon Spray, Laura Roselle, *Research and Writing in International Relations*, Longman, Boston, 2012;

Guillaume Devin (ed.), *Resources and Applied Methods in International Relations*, Palgrave Macmillan, Paris, 2018;

Cornelia Navari (ed.), *Theorising International Society. English School Methods*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2009.

| 8.2 Seminar / laboratory | Teaching methods | Remarks |
|--|------------------|---------|
| 1. Choosing and defining a specific concept in international relations. | Applied research | |
| 2. Choosing the research topic and defining the variables | Applied research | |
| 3. Research Design | Applied research | |
| 4. Review of the specialized literature | Applied research | |
| 5. Developing the research project and systematic investigation | Applied research | |
| 6. Academic analysis and writing | Applied research | |
| 7. Classic qualitative methods: discourse analysis | Applied research | |
| 8. Classic qualitative methods: historical representations | Applied research | |
| 9. Classical qualitative methods: ethnographic research | Applied research | |
| 10. Classic qualitative methods: process tracing | Applied research | |
| 11. The Case Study as a Method in International Relations | Applied research | |
| 12. Quantitative methods: quantitative-empirical approaches in the study of international relations. | Applied research | |

| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| 13. Formal Methods in the Study of International Relations | Applied research | |
| 14. Interviews in the study of international relations | Applied research | |
| <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Audie Klotz, Deepa Prakash (ed.), <i>Qualitative Methods in International Relations. A Pluralist Guide</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2008;</p> <p>Detlef F. Sprinz, Yael Wolinsky (ed.), <i>Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations</i>, University of Michigan Press, 2004;</p> <p>Sharon Spray, Laura Roselle, <i>Research and Writing in International Relations</i>, Longman, Boston, 2012;</p> <p>Guillaume Devin (ed.), <i>Resources and Applied Methods in International Relations</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, Paris, 2018;</p> <p>Cornelia Navari (ed.), <i>Theorising International Society. English School Methods</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2009.</p> | | |

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course contents were developed in full accordance with specialized studies published abroad. |
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10. Evaluation

| Activity type | 10.1 Evaluation criteria | 10.2 Evaluation methods | 10.3 Percentage of final grade |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 10.4 Course | Acquisition of the information related to the course. | Oral exam | 70% |
| 10.5 Seminar/laboratory | Evaluation of individual seminar activity throughout the entire semester | Individual interventions, preparation of reports | 30% |
| 10.6 Minimum standard of performance | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mastering general research methods. | | | |

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)²



Date:
1.10.2025

Signature of course coordinator

Signature of seminar coordinator

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Date of approval:

Signature of the head of department

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² Keep only the labels that, according to the [Procedure for applying ODD labels in the academic process](#), suit the discipline and delete the others, including the general one for *Sustainable Development* – if not applicable. If no label describes the discipline, delete them all and write „*Not applicable.*”.