

Course Syllabus

Governance and Security in International Studies

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. Doctoral school	International Relations and Security Studies
1.4. Field of study	History/ International Relations and European Studies /Sociology
1.5. Study cycle	Doctorate

2. Discipline information

2.1. Name of the course	Governance and Security in International Studies			Course code	RISS_01
2.2. Course activity holder	Prof. dr. Adrian Liviu Ivan				
2.3. Seminar activities holder	Prof. dr. Adrian Liviu Ivan				
2.4. School Year	1	2.5. Semester	2	2.6. Type of evaluation	Exam
2.7 Discipline status	Optional	2.8. Discipline type	Specialization course		

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

3.1. Number of hours per week	5	From which: 3.2. curs	3	3.3. seminar/ laboratory/ project	2
3.4. Total hour in the curriculum	60	From which: 3.5. curs	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					70
Preparation of seminars/labs/projects, homework, reports, portfolios, and essays					56
Tutoring (career counseling)					
Examinations					4
Other activities					
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-learning activities (SL)				190	
3.8. Total hours per semester				250	
3.9. 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	Logistic support: video projection, whiteboard/ flip chart
5.2. for the seminar/ laboratory	Logistic support: video projection, whiteboard/ flip chart

6. Specific learning outcomes of the subject

Knowledge
1. Explain the main approaches and schools of thought in security governance, using specialized terminology and conceptual distinctions from international relations, political science, and security studies.
2. Critically discuss essential theories of security and the analytical tools used in security governance, relating them to the evolution of security as a global phenomenon.
3. Describe how political structures, security institutions/personnel, and dominant ideologies influence the dynamics of security in the international system.
4. Identify key vulnerabilities of the contemporary international system and formulate plausible responses based on scenarios.
5. Explain the institutional responses to crises of international institutions and organizations, and evaluate their relevance for security governance.
6. Evaluate how global governance influences different regional security complexes and explain why the effects differ between regions.
Skills
1. Analyze and assess how contemporary conflicts affect individuals and communities, using theoretically grounded reasoning.
2. Assess the impact of international commitments and treaties on global order and peace, drawing reasoned conclusions based on evidence.
3. Analyze the short- and long-term implications of decisions shaping the global security community, including secondary effects.
4. Design and communicate security plans/projects, presenting objectives, rationale, and deliverables in a manner appropriate for a professional and academic audience.
5. Apply analysis and decision-making methodologies in the field of security to difficult problems, selecting methods appropriate to the research question and context.
6. Develop a structured risk analysis using qualitative and/or quantitative approaches, including the formulation of hypotheses and research design choices.
S7. Conduct literature reviews and case studies, correlating security concepts/theories with empirical material and concrete situations.
S8. Manages domain-specific information flows (collection, processing, storage, communication) and uses a foreign language at an advanced level for documentation and analysis.
Responsibility and autonomy
1. Independently defines research objectives and hypotheses and selects an appropriate research design (methods, case selection) in accordance with doctoral-level standards.
2. Takes responsibility for developing evidence-based scenario proposals that address identified vulnerabilities, explicitly including assumptions and limitations.
3. Demonstrates professional responsibility in developing and communicating advanced security analyses and plans, ensuring clarity, coherence, and appropriate technical language.
4. Works efficiently with complex information in high-uncertainty contexts, deciding which evidence is relevant, how it should be processed, and how it should be presented for decision-making support.

7. Contents

7.1 Course	Teaching- Learning Methods	Observations¹
1. Security Governance. Introductory Concepts.	Presentation, interactive methods	
2. Security Governance at the End of the Cold War	Presentation, interactive methods	
3. The main actors in the security environment. Security Institutions and International Organizations	Presentation, interactive methods	

¹ For example, organizational aspects, recommendations for students, specific aspects related to the course/seminar such as inviting practitioners in the field, etc.

4. The risk-vulnerability-threat triad. Toward a new interpretation of security	Presentation, interactive methods	
5. The European Union and its involvement in global security governance	Presentation, interactive methods	
6. The dynamics of the global security environment, between geostrategy and geoeconomics	Presentation, interactive methods	
7. Environmental Security Governance	Presentation, interactive methods	
8. Conflict Management and Humanitarian Intervention	Presentation, interactive methods	
9. Securitization and Its Impact on Security Governance	Presentation, interactive methods	
10. Global security policies and the new European Union Security Strategy	Presentation, interactive methods	
11. Social security and human security. Vision and future projections	Presentation, interactive methods	
12. New security threats and the capacity of the global security environment to manage them	Presentation, interactive methods	

Bibliography

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- Biscop, Sven (2008) *The European Security Strategy in Context: A Comprehensive Trend*, Routledge.
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7.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching- Learning Methods	Observations
1. 1. Fundamentals of Security Governance: From National Security to Global Security. The Conceptual Framework of Security Governance: Theories and Paradigms	Interactive Methods. Case Study	
2. 2. Reconfiguring Security Architecture after 1989: Transitions and Transformations. From Bipolarity to Multipolarity: The Evolution of Security Governance in the Post-Cold War Era	Interactive Methods. Case Study	
3. 3. The securitization paradox: Existentialist discourse and technocratic solutions. Traditional security versus non-traditional security: New theoretical perspectives	Interactive Methods. Case Study	
4. 4. European Approaches to Security in the 5G Era: Between Strategic Autonomy and Geopolitical Pressures. EU Common Foreign and Security Policy: Challenges and Perspectives	Group project presentation	
5. 5. Geoeconomics as a paradigm for research on international security. Competition for energy resources: Geopolitical tensions and conflicts	Interactive Methods. Case Study	
6. 6. Environmental Securitization: Between Ecological Security and Resource Securitization. Natural Resources and Critical Infrastructure as Components of National Security.	Interactive Methods. Case Study	
7. 7. From Conflict Prevention to Reconstruction: The Therapeutic Logic of Preemption. Humanitarian Intervention in the Context of Securitization: Ethical and Practical Dilemmas.	Group project presentation	
8. 8. Securitization in state practice: Comparative case studies. The moral correctness of securitization: Critical perspectives.	Group project presentation	
9. 9. Security strategies in the era of non-traditional threats. The evolution of security strategies: From military security to comprehensive security	Interactive Methods. Case Study	

10. From state security to human security: Paradigm shifts. The dimensions of human security: Availability, accessibility, and acceptability	Group project presentation	
11. Final project presentation	Group project presentation	
12. Review and final projects	Group project presentation	

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8. Evaluation

Type of activity	8.1 Evaluation Criteria ²	8.2 Evaluation methods ³	8.3 Weight of the final grade
8.4 Course	Participation in discussions, reviewing the specialized bibliography	Colloquium exam	70%
8.5 Seminar/laboratory	Creating a specialized contribution based on the methodological template proposed in the seminar, which demonstrates the doctoral students' understanding of the main guidelines in governance and security	Discussions, debates, group projects	30%

² The evaluation criteria must directly reflect the learning outcomes targeted at the program level, as well as at the course level. More specifically, the learning achievements mentioned in the anticipated learning outcomes are assessed.

³ It is recommended to establish both the methods of final evaluation and the ongoing assessment strategy.

8.6 Minimum passing standard

To obtain the minimum passing grade and the attendance certificate:

1. Minimum attendance of 50% in course and seminar activities. Preparation of at least 1 material for the seminar.
2. Description of the specialty issues without major errors and active participation in at least 2 debates.

Minimum requirements for a grade of 10 (how a grade of 10 is awarded):

1. Minimum attendance of 80% for lectures and seminars, preparation of the seminar materials according to the template.
2. Adherence to the deadlines for completing the seminar project.
3. Completion of the final project and its presentation.
4. Active participation and providing at least 3 well-argued answers during the specialized colloquium.

9. SDG Labels (Sustainable Development Goals)⁴

		The general label for Sustainable Development						
								
								
								No label applies
								

Date of completion:

10.10.2025.

Signature of the course lecturer

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Signature of the seminar tutor

.....

Date of notification in the department:

20.10.2025

Department director's signature

.....

⁴ 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".