

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Normativity: ethics, law, politics

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Programme-related data

1.1. Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	Faculty of History and Philosophy
1.3. Department	Doctoral School of Philosophy
1.4. Field	Philosophy
1.5. Level of study	Doctoral
1.6. Degree programme / Qualification	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Level 8 CNC/EQF)
1.7. Form of education	Full-time, Part-time

2. Course-related data

2.1. Course title	<i>Normativity: ethics, law, politics</i>			Course code	SDF03
2.2. Course coordinator	Prof. dr. Ion Copoeru				
2.3. Seminar coordinator	Prof. dr. Ion Copoeru				
2.4. Year of study		2.5. Semester		2.6. Type of assessment	Exam
2.7. Course status	Optional			2.8. Course type	Specialisation subject

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

3.1. Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2. course	2	3.3. seminar/ laboratory/ project	1
3.4. Total of hours in the curriculum	36	of which: 3.5. course	24	3.6. seminar/ laboratory	12
Time allocation for individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)					hours
Learning from textbooks, course materials, bibliography, and notes (IS)					70
Additional research in the library, on subject-specific electronic platforms, and on-site					60
Preparing seminars/ laboratories/ projects, assignments, reports, portfolios, and essays					40
Tutoring (professional guidance)					30
Examinations					6
Other activities					8
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)				214	
3.8. Total hours per semester				250	
3.9. Number of credits				10	

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1. curriculum-related	
4.2. skills-related	

5. Specific conditions (where applicable)

5.1. course-related	
5.2. seminar/laboratory-related	

6.1. Competencies resulting from the completion of the degree programme

Professional competencies	
Competency code	Competency



PC1	a) Advanced knowledge in the field of Philosophy; b) Ability to identify, formulate, and creatively solve research problems; c) Mastery of methods and techniques of advanced research in Philosophy;
PC2	d) Knowledge of research project management;
PC3	f) Skills in documentation and utilization of scientific works; g) Ability to write scientific papers and other academic materials at an advanced level, in a style appropriate
PC4	i) Academic-level language skills in internationally used languages necessary for documentation and preparation of scientific works.
PC5	h) Understanding and ability to apply the principles and values of research ethics in the field of Philosophy;
Transversal competencies	
Competency code	Competency
CT1	a) Communication skills, both written and oral, in the field of science and culture; b) Advanced language skills in internationally used languages, including the ability to express and formulate ideas in multicultural and multilingual contexts;
CT2	d) Interpersonal and teamwork skills; f) Knowledge of career management, as well as mastery of techniques for job searching and creating employment opportunities for others;
CT3	h) Knowledge of critical thinking, including the ability to analyze, interpret, or formulate reasoning in different contexts; i) Knowledge of the use of legislation in the field of intellectual property rights.

6.2. Learning outcomes relevant to the degree programme

Learning outcomes targeted by the subject		
Competency code	Knowledge and comprehension	Specific academic skills
PC1	1. The doctoral student demonstrates knowledge at the most advanced level in the field of study Philosophy.	1. The doctoral student possesses and applies the most advanced and specialized skills and techniques, including the ability to synthesize and evaluate, necessary for solving critical research problems in Philosophy.
PC4	2. The doctoral student demonstrates advanced knowledge at the border between different socio-human fields	2. The doctoral student possesses and applies innovation skills and for the expansion and redefinition of existing knowledge or professional practices in the socio-human fields
TC2	1. (Responsibility and autonomy) The doctoral student demonstrates a high level of authority, innovation, autonomy, scientific and professional integrity.	1. (Responsibility and autonomy) The doctoral student demonstrates a sustained commitment to developing new ideas or processes at the forefront of a work or study situation, including research.

7. Subject-specific learning outcomes

Knowledge and comprehension
1. Knowledge and deepening of concepts, methods, hypotheses, main contributions, and controversies in the field of Philosophy.
2. Application of principles and methods of interpretation and explanation to identify and solve complex problems in the field of Philosophy
3. Understanding the ethical implications of interpretation and explanation techniques used in philosophical research
4. Ability to implement research theories and methods interdisciplinarily for the preparation of scientific materials.
Specific academic skills
1. Ability to develop original research that contributes to innovation in the field of Philosophy

2. Ability to identify and solve complex problems using innovative methods
3. Ability to achieve innovative results through research that respects ethical principles
4. Ability to critically analyze and evaluate existing knowledge and methodologies, and to express one's own positions in scientific articles or other publishable materials.

8. Contents

8.1. Course	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks ¹
1. Introduction: definitions and domains	Interactive lecture, complemented by interactive methods	
2. Phenomenological approaches to normativity (Husserl)	Interactive lecture, complemented by interactive methods	
3. Phenomenological approaches to normativity (Gallagher)	Interactive lecture, complemented by interactive methods	
4. Sociolinguistic approaches to normativity: stages of sociolinguistics	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
5. Sociolinguistic approaches to normativity: indexicality	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
6. Sociolinguistic approaches to normativity: discourse and political power	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
7. Normativity and politics (based on H. Arendt)	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
8. Normativity – ethics – law (M. Maesschalck)	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
9. Normativity and law: recent approaches	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
10. Normativity and law: political legitimacy	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
11. Normativity and law: ethics of legal professions	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	
12. Conclusions: interconnections; key concepts	Interactive lecture, complemented by creativity and group and collaborative working methods	

Bibliography

Ed. Husserl, *La Crise des sciences européennes et la phénoménologie transcendantale* (1936), Gallimard, Paris, 1989.
 Adolph Reinach, *Les fondements apriori du droit civil*, trad. Ronan de Calan, Paris, Vrin 2004.
 Claude Lefort, *L'invention démocratique: Les limites de la domination totalitaire*, Fayard; 2e éd., 1994
 H. Arendt, *Les Origines du totalitarisme*, suivi de *Eichmann à Jérusalem*, Gallimard, 2002
 I. Copoeru, *Monde de la vie, quotidienneté et normativité*, in : *Divinatio*, Vol. 24, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société (Sofia), 2006, pp 55-66.
 Hannah Arendt, *Responsabilité et jugement*, Payot-Rivages, 2005.
 Alfred Schutz, *Éléments de sociologie phénoménologique* (traduction d'articles sélectionnés à partir des *Collected Papers*), Introduction et traduction par Thierry BLIN, préface de Michel MAFFESOLI, Paris, Éditions de L'Harmattan, 1998.
 Paul Ricoeur, *Le Juste 2*, Esprit, Paris, 2001.
 M. Maesschalck, *Normes et contextes*, OLMS, 2001.
 J. Habermas, *Droit et démocratie. Entre faits et normes*, traduit de l'allemand par Rainer Rochlitz et Christian Bouchindhomme, Paris, Gallimard, nrf essais, 1997.

¹ For example, organisational aspects, recommendations for students, specific aspects relating to the course/seminar, such as inviting experts in the field, etc.

R. Alexy, *A Theory of Legal Argumentation*, translated by R. Adler, N. MacCormick, Clarendon, Oxford 1989.

Blommaert, Jan. 2007. Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis: Orders of Indexicality and Polycentricity. *Journal of Multicultural Discourses* 2(2):115–130. <https://doi.org/10.2167/md089.0>

Chevrot, Jean-Pierre, Drager, Katie and Foulkes, Paul. 2018. Editors' Introduction and Review: Sociolinguistic Variation and Cognitive Science. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 10 : 679–695.

Eckert, Penelope. 2008. Variation and the indexical field. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 12/4: 453–476.

Eckert, Penelope. 2008. Three Waves of Variation Study: The Emergence of Meaning in the Study of Sociolinguistic Variation. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 41: 87–100. doi: 10.1146/annurev-anthro-092611-145828

Jørgensen, Jens Normann, and Somogy Varga. 2011. Norms and practices of polylingual behaviour: A sociolinguistic model. *ESUKA – JEFUL*, 2(2): 49–68.

Eva Erman and Niklas Möller, "The Problem of Political Normativity Understood as Functional Normativity," in *Journal of Philosophical Research* (volume 48, pages 149–168), 2023

Burelli, Carlo. 2020. "Political normativity and the functional autonomy of politics." *European Journal of Political Theory* (Online First).

Burelli, Carlo, and Chiara Destri. 2021. "The Sources of Political Normativity: the Case for Instrumental and Epistemic Normativity in Political Realism." *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice* (Online First).

Rodríguez-Alcázar, J., Corredor, C. (2024). Political Normativity and Ethics: A Roadmap. *Topoi* 44(4) DOI: 10.1007/s11245-024-10158-0

Bermejo-Luque, L. (2024) Williams for and Against. Politics as a Constitutively Normative Practice. *Topoi* 44(1):53-64 DOI: 10.1007/s11245-024-10073-4

Green, L (2011) *The Normativity of Law: What is the Problem?* Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Law: Volume 1, edited by Leslie Green and Brian Leiter (Oxford University Press)

8.2. Seminar/ laboratory	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks
Introduction: an overview of the domains and bibliography	Interactive and heuristic methods	
Husserl: text analysis	Group and collaborative working methods	
Case study: Philosophical discourse in Communist Romania	Case study	
Case study: Practical guide to legal ethics	Case study	
Case study: European constitutionalism and violence	Case study	
Conclusions: new methodologies for philosophical research	Group and collaborative working methods	

Bibliography

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N. Szabo, *Phenomenology of Command (Befehlen)*. *International Journal on Humanistic Ideology*, Issue Year: XII/2022, No: 2, pp. 115-132

I. Copoeru, *A Schutzian Perspective on the Phenomenology of Law in the Context of Positivistic Practices*, in: *Human Studies* (2008) 32: 269-277, DOI: 10.1007/s10746-008-9097-6, Published on-line: 30 July 2008. Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2008.

Chiorean, Andru. 2022. *Censors and censorial relations in communist Romania: customs, conventions, and practices*, Bucharest: New Europe College Yearbook.

Shafir, Michael. 1984. *Political Stagnation and Marxist Critique: 1968 and beyond in Comparative East European Perspective*. *British Journal of Political Science* 14 (4): 435-459. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/193900>

Hîncu, Adela, and Ștefan Baghiu. 2022. *Existentialism, existentialists, and Marxism: from critique to integration within the philosophical establishment in socialist Romania*. *Studies in East European Thought* 75(3): 455-477. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11212-022-09514-w>

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Ion Copoeru, Bert Maan, Iver Huitfeldt, Tron Gundersen, Ghid practic de etica profesionala pentru judecatori si procurori. Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii din Romania, 2016



Ion Copoeru. 2020. Event and Structure: A Phenomenological Approach of Irreducible Violence. Human Studies 43(8)
DOI: 10.1007/s10746-020-09550-7

Ion Copoeru, Is European Constitutionalism an Answer to the Problem of Violence? In: Europe at the Crossroads of Contemporary World : 100 Years after the Great War ; Europa an den Scheidewegen der gegenwärtigen Welt : 100 Jahre nach dem Großen Krieg / Mira Miladinović Zalaznik and, Dean Komel (Eds., Hrsg.). - Ljubljana : Inštitut Nove revije, 2020. - (Zbirka Forhum) ISBN 978-961-7014-23-5 2020

Lawlor, Leonard. "A New Possibility of Life: The Experience of Powerlessness as a Solution to the Problem of the Worst." Studia UBB. Philosophia 53, no. 1–2 (2008): 17–28.

---. From Violence to Speaking Out: Apocalypse and Expression in Foucault, Derrida and Deleuze. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2016.

9. Evaluation

Type of activity	9.1 Evaluation criteria ²	9.2 Evaluation methods ³	9.3 Percentage in the final grade
9.4. Course	1. Knowledge and deepening of various approaches regarding the concept of normativity	Ongoing assessment through active participation in debates	25%
	2. Interdisciplinary implementation of research theories and methods to describe the complex relationships between ethics, politics, and law regarding normativity	Ongoing assessment based on the drafting of a text	25%
9.5. Seminar/ laboratory	Ability to use new methodologies for philosophical research on normativity	Final assessment through the presentation of an original paper written by the PhD candidate	25%
			25%
9.6 Minimum standard for passing			
Completion of the planned stages for a presentation during the course/seminar			
Completion of the planned stages for a final paper			

Date of entry:
June 2025

Signature of course coordinator

Prof. dr. Copoeru Ion

Signature of seminar coordinator

Prof. dr. Copoeru Ion

Date of approval in the department:
July 2025

Signature of the head of department

Prof. dr. Frunză Mihaela-Cornelia

² The evaluation criteria must directly reflect the learning outcomes targeted at the level of the degree programme respectively at the level of the subject. More specifically, the learning outcomes set out in the expected learning outcomes are assessed.

³ Both final evaluation methods and ongoing evaluation strategies should be established.