SYLLABUS

1. Information regarding the programme

1.1 Higher education institution	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
1.3 Department	Sociology
1.4 Field of study	Sociology
1.5 Degree	Master's degree
1.6 Study programme/ Qualification	Labour and Social Transformations/Muncă și transformări sociale

2. Information regarding the course

2.1 Course title			Welfare states and inequality/ Stat social și inegalitate			
2.2 Lectures held by			Cristina Raț			
2.3 Seminars held by			Cristina Raț			
2.4. Year of study	**1**	2.5 Semester	**2**	2.6. Type of evaluation	**E**	2.7 Course type	**Compulsory**

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

3.1 Hours per week	3	Of which: 3.2 lectures	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4 Total hours in the curriculum	42	Of which: 3.5 lectures	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Distribution of time:					hours
Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes					50
Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					50
Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays					54
Tutorials					0
Evaluations					4
Other activities:					---

3.7 Total hours of individual study	158
3.8 Total hours per semester (number of credits x 25 hours)	200
3.9 Number of ECTS credits	8

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	---
4.2. competencies	---

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for the lectures	---
5.2. for the seminar/ lab activities	---

6. Specific competencies acquired:

Professional competencies	***Essential skills and competencies*** *C1. Interact professionally in research and professional environments* *C2. Gather data* *C3. Apply knowledge of human behaviour* *C4. Apply scientific methods* *C5. Apply research ethics and scientific integrity principles in research activities* *C6. Apply statistical analysis techniques* *C8. Communicate with a non-scientific audience* *C9. Conduct research across disciplines* *C12. Develop professional network with researchers and scientists* *C13. Operate open source software* *C14. Disseminate results to the scientific community* *C15. Demonstrate disciplinary expertise* *C16. Perform scientific research* *C18. Increase the impact of science on policy and society* *C19. Manage findable accessible interoperable and reusable data* *C20. Manage research data* *C24. Think abstractly* *C25. Integrate gender dimension in research* *C26. Interpret current data* *C29. Promote the participation of citizens in scientific and research activities* *C30. Promote open innovation in research* *C31. Promote the transfer of knowledge* *C32. Publish academic research* *C33. Draft scientific or academic papers and technical documentation* *C34. Write scientific publications* *C35. Synthesise information* *C37. Study human societies* *C40. Write research proposals*
Transversal competencies	*CT1. Demonstrates initiative* *CT2. Taking a proactive approach* *CT3. Shows respect for the diversity of cultural values and norms* *CT4. Applying civic skills and competencies* *CT5. Critical thinking* *CT6. Working with digital devices and applications* *CT7. Applying knowledge in the field of social sciences and humanites*

7. Course Objectives (outcome of the acquired competencies)

7.1 General objective of the course	To familiarize students with theoretical and methodological approaches that scrutinize the interplay between inequality and social policies in the context of welfare state transformations, with focus on European countries and Romania.
7.2 Specific objective of the course	To enable students to define and analyse inequality in contemporary societies; To provide a nuanced understanding of main concepts and theories on welfare states and social policies from a comparative and critical perspective;

	To enable students to competently use indicators of economic and social inequalities, redistribution, social policy inputs, outputs, and outcomes; To provide students conceptual and methodological tools for writing policy papers, briefs, and to engage in policy advocacy.

8. Content

8.1 Lectures	Teaching methods	Obs.
1. Inequality, social citizenship, and the welfare state	Presentation, Q&A	
2. The welfare state from a historical perspective	Presentation, Q&A	
3. Welfare state typologies, reforms, and contemporary evolutions in the European Union	Presentation, Q&A	
4. Labour market inequalities, precarious work, and the turn to active labour market policies	Presentation, Q&A	
5. Poverty: conceptualization and measurement. Indicators for poverty reduction assessment	Presentation, Q&A	
6. Severe poverty and social exclusion. Spatial, social, and political dimensions of marginalization	Presentation, Q&A	
7. Minimum income guarantee schemes and social assistance for low-income groups. Tackling child poverty	Presentation, Q&A	
8. Pension policies and inequalities at old age	Presentation, Q&A	
9. Gender and work-life balance	Presentation, Q&A	
10. Health care policies and inequalities in access to public health care services	Presentation, Q&A	
11. Housing policies, social housing, and homelessness	Presentation, Q&A	
12. Regional and national inequalities: multidimensional indicators of inequality	Presentation, Q&A	
13. Wrap-up session: the policy process and indicators for policy evaluation	Presentation, Q&A	
14. Students' presentations of final essay drafts and their policy advocacy one-pagers	Students' presentations	
8.2 Seminars		
The seminars will closely follow the topics of lectures and discuss the readings recommended for each topic. In addition, they will offer practical applications for accessing and using various data sources, building and interpreting social policy indicators (spending, coverage, adequacy, targeting, effectiveness, poverty reduction etc.), writing policy proposals and policy advocacy one-pagers.	Discussions based on the readings. Practical applications.	

8.2 Bibliography

Aidukaite, I. (2009). Old welfare state theories and new welfare regimes in Eastern Europe: Challenges and implications. *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, Vol. 42, pp. 23-39.

Arts, Will and Gelissen, John (2002). The three worlds of welfare capitalism or more? A state of art report. *Journal of European Social Policy,* 12 (2): 137–158.

Esping-Andersen (1990): *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism.* Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter 2, pp. 35-54.

Emmenegger, P., Hausermann, S., Palier, B. and Seeleib-Kaiser, M. (2012), "How We Grow Unequal", In Emmenegger, P., Hausermann, S., Palier, B. and Seeleib-Kaiser, M. (Eds.), *The Age of Dualization. The Changing Face of Inequality in a Dezindustrializing Society,* Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 3–27.

Fina, Stefan, B. Heider, C. Raț (2021). *Unequal Romania.* Bucharest: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

Forrest, Ray (2013). The contours of the housing question. In P. Kenneth (ed.) *A Handbook for Comparative Social Policy.* Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 329-353.

Fraser, N. (1996): *Social Justice in the Age of Identity Politics.* The Tanner Lectures on Human Values, Stanford University, pp. 1-23, 44-67 (only part I and part III, without part III)

Ginsburg, Norman (2013). Structured diversity: a framework for critically comparing welfare states? In P. Kenneth (ed.). *A Handbook for Comparative Social Policy.* Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 162-180.

Greer, Ian (2016). Welfare state, precarity and the re-commodification of labour. *Work, employment, society.* Vol.30(1): 162-173.

Hacker, Bjorn (2021). *Unequal Europe. Tackling regional inequalities within the EU.* Stockholm: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Nordic Countries.

Iversen, Torben and Soskice, David (2015). Politics *for* Markets. *Journal of European Social Policy,* 25(1): 76-93.

Leibfried, Stephan and Mau, Steffen (2008). *Welfare states. Construction, deconstruction, reconstruction. Analytical perspectives.* Cheltenham: Elgar.

Macdonald, Robert, Schildrick, T. and Furlong, A. (2013). In search of 'intergenerational cultures of worklessness': Hunting the Yeti and shooting zombies. *Critical Social Policy,* Vol 34(2): 199-220.

Morel, Nathalie, Bruno Palier, Joakim Palme. *What Future for Social Investment?*. [Research Report] Institute for Futures Studies. 2009, pp.193. hal-02188244

Parlier, Bruno (ed.) (2010). *A Long Goodbye to Bismarck? The Politics of Welfare State Reform in Continental Europe.* Amsterdam: Amsterdam Univ. Press. Introduction (B. Parlier), pp.19-44.

Pierson, Christopher (1991). *Beyond the Welfare State. The New Political Economy of Welfare.* Pennsylvania State University Press, pp. 99-135 and pp. 136-166.

Raț, Cristina, Popescu, L. and Ivan, V. (2019). The Romanian Welfare System: from the Shadow of Equality to the Dazzle of Dualization in K.Schubert, J.Kuhlmann and S.Blum (eds.) *Handbook of European Welfare systems.* Second edition, London: Routledge.

Standing, Guy (2007). Labour recommodification in the global transformation. In A. Bugra and K. Agatan (eds.) *Reading Karl Polanyi for the 21st Century.* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Vincze, Enikő, Ban, C., Gog, S., and Friberg, J.H. (eds.) (2025). *The Political Economy of Extreme Poverty in Eastern Europe. A Comparative Historical Perspective of Romanian Roma.* London: Routledge.

Recommended journals:
Critical Social Policy **-** https://journals.sagepub.com/home/CSP
Journal of European Social Policy - https://journals.sagepub.com/home/esp

Reports and data on social and economic inequalities provided by:
The European Commission – Eurostat & thematic reports
Eurofound – thematic reports
The European Trade Unions Institute (ETUI.) – thematic reports
European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - https://eige.europa.eu/
The OECD – Transmonee dataset & OECD indicators dataset
The International Labour Organization (ILO) – Thematic reports
The World Bank
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Human Development Index and Human Poverty Index
European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)
National Institutes of Statistics – for Romania, www.insse.ro

For Romania: The Ministry of Labour – www.mmuncii.ro

Resources for writing policy proposal papers & policy advocacy one-pagers:
Luciana Herman, Stanford University (2013). *Tips for Writing Policy Papers.*
https://law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/White-Papers-Guidelines.pdf
The Writing Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Writing policy briefs:
https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/policy-briefs/ (accessed: 01.09.2024).

International Society for Technology in Education (2013). *How to create a one-pager for policymakers. Tips and templates.* https://cdn.iste.org/www-root/Libraries/Documents%20%26%20Files/PDFs/ISTE%20Advocacy%20Toolkit%20-%20How%20to%20Create%20a%20One-Pager.pdf

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 is corroborated with expectations of public and non-governmental organizations engaged in public policy design, implementation, and evaluation, particularly in the fields of social protection policies, social insurance, health, and housing.

10. Evaluation

Activity:	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4 Lectures	Proven knowledge and competence to write and orally present a well-informed, coherent, focused, and sound social policy analysis & recommendations paper and its corresponding policy advocacy one-pager. Capacity to answer questions about the proposal, to defend and/or to adjust it.	**Written essay** that follows a pre-defined structure of a social policy analysis & recommendations paper, its corresponding **policy advocacy one-pager**, and **their oral presentation followed by Q&A** (scores from min 0p to max 10p)	70%
10.5 Seminars	Informed & active participation in seminar discussions & practical applications based on the readings from the course bibliography.	Ongoing evaluation of active participation at the seminars - **0.3p/ active participation**	30%
10.6 Minimum requirements: To get at least 5 points from a maxim of 10 points corresponding to the maximum score/ grade. Plagiarism will be promptly sanctioned according to university regulations.			

Date: Signature of course lecturer /seminar tutor: Cristina Raț

Date of approval: Signature of the head of department