

# SYLLABUS

ALR3414 Sociologie Publică

[Designing Sustainable Societies: Intersections of Policy and Practice (in English)/ Proiectarea societăților sustenabile: intersecții între politici și practică (în limba engleză)]

2025-2026 Academic Year

## 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	Bachelor
1.6 Study programme/ Qualification	Sociology/Anthropology/Human Resources

## 2. Information regarding the course

2.1 Course title	ALR3414 Sociologie Publică (Designing Sustainable Societies: Intersections of Policy and Practice)						
2.2 Lectures held by	Khadija Aftab						
2.3 Seminars held by							
2.4. Year of study	2/3	2.5 Semester	4/6	2.6. Type of evaluation	E	2.7 Course type	DS/O

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

3.1 Hours per week	2	Of which: 3.2 lectures	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	0
3.4 Total hours in the curriculum	28	Of which: 3.5 lectures	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	0
Distribution of time:					hours
Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes					20
Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					7
Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays					16
Tutorials					2
Evaluations					2
Other activities:					0
3.7 Total hours of individual study	47				
3.8 Total hours per semester (number of credits x 25 hours)	75				
3.9 Number of ECTS credits	3				

## 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:

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

## 7. Course Objectives (outcome of the acquired competencies)

7.1 General objective of the course	To develop students' understanding of how sustainability is shaped by the interaction among society, policies, and everyday practices.
7.2 Specific objective of the course	By the end of the course, students will be able to strengthen their ability to critically analyse and evaluate sustainability initiatives using interdisciplinary theories and real-life case studies; and to design and justify a sustainability policy or practice-based intervention for a selected societal issue, using evidence, implementation, and stakeholder analysis.

## 8. Content

8.1 Lectures	Teaching methods	Obs.
1. Introduction: Framing Sustainability from a social and policy perspective.	Presentation, Q&A	
2. Society and Sustainability: Theoretical Foundations	Presentation, Q&A	
3. Power, Politics and Inequality: Who benefits and who bears the cost?	Presentation, Q&A	
4. Policy Frameworks for Sustainability: Actors, Institutions and Policy Design	Presentation, Q&A	
5. From Global Frameworks to Local Adaptation: Translating global agendas into local practices.	Presentation, Q&A	
6. Environment, Society and Policies	Presentation, Q&A	
7. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Presentation, Q&A	

8. Circular Economy and Waste Governance	Presentation, Q&A	
9. AI, Technology, and Sustainability	Presentation, Q&A	
10. Participation, Partnerships, and Strong Institutions	Presentation, Q&A	
11. From Knowledge to Action: Designing Policy Interventions	Presentation, Q&A	
12. Future of Sustainable Societies	Presentation, Q&A	
13. Wrap Up: From Policy to Practice: Designing Sustainable Societies	Presentation, Q&A	
14. Final Examination: A policy paper and a presentation	Students' presentations	
<b>8.2 Seminars</b>		
A guided learning space where students question, reflect, and apply ideas. It uses case discussions, group tasks, and presentations to deepen understanding. Further, it bridges theory with practice through structured discussions and short activities.	Discussions based on the readings.	

## 8.2 Bibliography

- Raworth, K. (2012). *A safe and just space for humanity: Can we live within the doughnut?* (Oxfam Discussion Paper). Oxfam International. [https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file\\_attachments/dp-a-safe-and-just-space-for-humanity-130212-en\\_5.pdf](https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/dp-a-safe-and-just-space-for-humanity-130212-en_5.pdf)
- Barron, P., Cord, L., Cuesta, J., Espinoza, S. A., Larson, G., & Woolcock, M. (2025). Social sustainability and the development process: What is it, why does it matter, and how can it be enhanced? *Oxford Development Studies*, 53(3), 222–237. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2025.2502971>
- Boyce, J. K. (2021). The environmental cost of inequality. *Scientific American*. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c33dbd69d5abbfa584fc9d2/t/60d621b612efc560376c57f6/1624646071242/Boyce+Scientific+American+2021.pdf>
- Oregon State University. (n.d.). Chapter 4: Key actors and the policy process. In *State and local government and politics*. <https://open.oregonstate.education/government/chapter/chapter-4/>
- Cogger, T., Lonsdale, J., & Milman, A. (2022). Getting locally led adaptation right: Examples from around the world. World Resources Institute. <https://www.wri.org/insights/getting-locally-led-adaptation-right-examples-around-world>
- Aftab, K., Sadaf, F., Sharif, A., & Ahmed, A. A. (2024). Reclaiming public spaces: Experiences of social exclusion of female sanitary workers in public spaces in Lahore, Pakistan. *Gender & Development*, 32(1–2), 311–332. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552074.2024.2348399>
- UN-Habitat. (2020). *World cities report 2020: The value of sustainable urbanization (abridged version)*. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/11/world\\_cities\\_report\\_2020\\_abridged\\_version.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/11/world_cities_report_2020_abridged_version.pdf)
- Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency. (2024). *Circular economy and solid waste – Working paper*. United Nations Industrial Development Organization. [https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/unido-publications/2024-06/Working%20Paper\\_Circular%20Economy%20and%20Solid%20Waste.pdf](https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/unido-publications/2024-06/Working%20Paper_Circular%20Economy%20and%20Solid%20Waste.pdf)
- SustainAbility. (2019). *AI and the Sustainable Development Goals: The state of play*. <https://www.sustainability.com/globalassets/sustainability.com/thinking/pdfs/2030vision-stateofplay.pdf>
- Nelson, J. (2017). *Partnerships for sustainable development: Collective action by business, governments and civil society to achieve scale and transform markets (Executive summary)*. Harvard Kennedy School. [https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/centers/mrcbg/programs/crri/files/PforSD\(Exec\\_Summary\).pdf](https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/centers/mrcbg/programs/crri/files/PforSD(Exec_Summary).pdf)
- Kumar, A., & Singh, R. (2024). *Designing effective policy interventions for sustainable consumption and production: Insights from a life-course approach*. Stockholm Environment Institute. <https://www.sei.org/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/177856/designing-effective-policy-interventions-for-sustainable-consumption-and-production-insights-from-a-lifecourse-approach.pdf>

- SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050. (2012). *Emerging visions for future sustainable lifestyles (Policy brief)*. European Commission. [https://www.sustainable-lifestyles.eu/fileadmin/images/content/D3.2\\_PolicyBrief\\_SustainableLifestyles.pdf](https://www.sustainable-lifestyles.eu/fileadmin/images/content/D3.2_PolicyBrief_SustainableLifestyles.pdf)
- United Nations. (2022). *SDG good practices: A compilation of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation* (2nd ed.). <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/sites/default/files/downloads/best-practices/SDGs%20Good%20Practices%20-%20second%20edition%20-%20FINAL%20FEB092022.pdf>

#### Other Useful Recommended Resources:

- Carrosio, G. (2024). *Framing Sustainability*. In S. Fantoni et al. (Eds.), *Quantitative Sustainability* (pp. 139–150). Springer. Available at: [https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/978-3-031-39311-2\\_9.pdf](https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/978-3-031-39311-2_9.pdf)
- Ly, A. M., & Cope, M. R. (2023). *New conceptual model of social sustainability: Review from past concepts and ideas*. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(7), 5350. Available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/7/5350/pdf>
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2024). *Environmental Justice: Context, Challenges and National Approaches*. OECD Publishing, Paris. Available at: [https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2024/05/environmental-justice\\_466cb9e2/57616eb4-en.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2024/05/environmental-justice_466cb9e2/57616eb4-en.pdf)
- United Nations Development Programme. (2014). *Governance for Sustainable Development: Integrating Governance in the Post-2015 Development Framework*. UNDP Discussion Paper. Available at: <http://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/Discussion-Paper--Governance-for-Sustainable-Development.pdf>
- TWI2050 (The World in 2050 initiative). (2018). *Transformations to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. Laxenburg, Austria: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Available at: [https://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/15347/1/TWI2050\\_Report081118-web-new.pdf](https://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/15347/1/TWI2050_Report081118-web-new.pdf)
- World Bank. (2018). *What a waste 2.0: A global snapshot of solid waste management to 2050*. World Bank. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/697271544470229584/pdf/What-a-Waste-2-0-A-Global-Snapshot-of-Solid-Waste-Management-to-2050.pdf>

#### Resources for writing Policy Papers:

- <https://law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/White-Papers-Guidelines.pdf>
- [Young, E. & Quinn, L. \(2002\). \*Writing effective public policy papers: A guide to policy advisers in Central and Eastern Europe\*.](#)
- <https://odi.cdn.ngo/media/documents/7235.pdf>
- <https://www.nccmt.ca/registry/resource/pdf/94.pdf>

#### Useful Links for Policy Papers (Examples):

- [https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-many-faces-of-adult-learners\\_a5a1893a-en/full-report.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-many-faces-of-adult-learners_a5a1893a-en/full-report.html)
- <https://www.wbgu.de/en/publications/policy-papers>



### 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 aligns with the sustainability epistemic community by integrating interdisciplinary theory involving sociology, environmental studies and public policy with current debates. Furthermore, it builds competencies in policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and problem-solving. Conclusively, it prepares students to design and evaluate real-world interventions.

## 10. Evaluation

Activity:	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4 Lectures	Explains concepts in a logical flow, uses clear examples, and summarizes key takeaways. Encourages participation, answers questions effectively, and keeps the session interactive. Connects topics to real scenarios, tools, and problem-solving approaches.  An extended discussion related to the previous lecture, based on the relevant readings.	A one-pager outline of the topic and a final policy paper (50%), followed by a presentation (20%) and Q&A. <b>(scores from min 0p to max 10p)</b>  Active participation <b>(0.3p/ active participation)</b>	70%  30%
<p>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.</p>			

## 11. ODD Labels (Sustainable Development Goals)<sup>1</sup>

	<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>
	

Date: 06-02-26 Signature of course lecturer /seminar tutor: Khadija Aftab

Date of approval: Signature of the head of department

06-02-2026

<sup>1</sup> Keep only the ODD labels relevant for your course.