

SYLLABUS

Methods applied in the analysis of social structures and policies

University year 2026/2027...

1. Information regarding the programme

1.1. Higher education institution	Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca
1.2. Faculty	Sociology and Social Work
1.3. Department	Doctoral School of Sociology
1.4. Field of study	Sociology
1.5. Study cycle	Doctorate
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Doctorate in Sociology
1.7. Form of education	IF

2. Information regarding the discipline

2.1. Name of the discipline	Methods applied in the analysis of social structures and policies	Discipline code	
2.2. Course coordinator	Prof Dr. Horváth István, Prof. dr. VERES Valér,		
2.3. Seminar coordinator	Prof. dr. VERES Valér		
2.4. Year of study	2.5. Semester	2.6. Type of evaluation	E/C /V
		2.7. Discipline regime	

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

3.1. Hours per week	4	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	2
3.4. Total hours in the curriculum		of which: 3.5 course		3.6 seminar/laborator	
Time allotment for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes (SA)					80
Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					100
Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays (10
Tutorship					12
Evaluations					
Other activities:					
3.7. Total individual study hours					202
3.8. Total hours per semester					250
3.9. Number of ECTS credits					10

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	
4.2. competencies	

5. Conditions (if necessary)

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.

Professional/essential competencies	<p>C1 Apply scientific methods and techniques to investigate social phenomena, by acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating previous knowledge.</p> <p>C2 Interact professionally in research and professional environments</p> <p>C3 Development, implementation, and evaluation of projects, programs, and social policies for different social categories of the population.</p>
Transversal competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective and reasoned approach, both theoretical and practical, to social problems with a view to their effective analysis, while respecting the values and principles specific to social work • Professional communication and relationship building with subjects and social actors

6.2. Learning outcomes

Knowledge	<p>The doctoral student knows to apply scientific methods and techniques to investigate phenomena, by acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating previous knowledge</p> <p>The doctoral student knows to gain, correct or improve knowledge about phenomena by using scientific methods and techniques, based on empirical or measurable observations.</p> <p>The doctoral student knows how to Show consideration to others as well as collegiality. Listen, give and receive feedback and respond perceptively to others, also involving staff supervision and leadership in a professional setting.</p>
Skills	<p>The doctoral student is able to apply scientific methods and techniques to investigate social phenomena by acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating previous knowledge.</p> <p>The student is able to correct or improve knowledge about phenomena by using scientific methods and techniques based on empirical or measurable observations.</p> <p>The student is able to show consideration for others, as well as collegiality, is able to listen, give and receive feedback, and respond insightfully to others, including supervising staff.</p>
Responsibility and autonomy:	<p>The doctoral student has the ability to work independently by applying scientific methods and techniques to develop studies investigating social phenomena, by acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating previous knowledge</p> <p>The doctoral student has the ability to independently correct or improve knowledge about phenomena by using scientific methods and techniques, based on empirical or measurable observations.</p> <p>The doctoral student has developed skills such as collegiality, can work independently to listen, give and receive feedback, and respond insightfully to others, including supervising staff.</p>

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

7.1 General objective of the discipline	<p>is to prepare students for an academic career:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the ability to identify, formulate, analyze, and describe research problems; b) mastering advanced research methods and techniques; c) regarding research project management; 	este de •
7.2 Specific objective of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing written and oral communication skills in the field of social sciences 	•

8. Content

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Introduction. Towards a theory of welfare regimes	Discussions, presentations, debates.	2 hours
2. From the theory of social problems to their empirical contextualization. Presentation of main relevant data sources	exemplification, problematization, conversation, guided discovery	
3. Social problems and ideological and theoretical contexts for managing them: social democracy and neoliberalism	Discussions, presentations, debates	
4-5. Changes in the social organization of work: work between flexibility and precariousness	discussions, presentations, debates	4 hours
6. Thematic presentations: empirical contextualization of the doctoral thesis topic from relevant data sources I	exemplification, problematization, conversation, guided discovery	
7. Paradigmatic foundations of the study of social structure (neo-Weberianism, conflictualism, functionalism)	Lecture, problematization,	2 hours
8. Contemporary empirical models (Goldthorpe-Breen, Grusky, David – Galescu)	Interactive presentation	
9. Contemporary empirical models. Shavit, Yaish, and Eyal Persistent inequalities	interactive presentation	
10. Operationalization of social structure and social environment, based on data from Romania and Hungary	interactive presentation	
11. Building multidimensional indices for studying human/socio-economic development	interactive presentation	
12. Multivariate analysis: social environment and school performance (Dimaggio)	interactive presentation	
13. Study of social inequalities, specific indices,	interactive presentation	
Bibliography (same with seminar)		
8.2 Seminar/laboratory		
1. Introduction, discussion of requirements. Useful data sources for analyzing social structure	Problem-solving, presentation Periodic reports Case studies	2 hours
2. Using macro data for social structures	Problem-solving, interactive presentation	
3. Specific dimensions and indicators in social structure analysis (education, material situation, income,	Problem-solving, interactive presentation	
4. Operationalization of social structure and social environment based on data from Romania and Hungary	Problem-solving, interactive presentation	
5. Construction of synthetic indices for measuring social structure in statistical programs /SPSS/	Problem-solving, interactive presentation	
6. Adaptation of stratification schemes (Erikson-Goldthorpe) for Romania	Problem-solving, interactive presentation	
7-8. Building a multilinear regression model for measuring interdependencies in social structure	Problem-solving, interactive presentation	4 hours

Teachin

9-10. Techniques for developing social diagnoses, presentations	Periodic reports	4 hours
11-12. Investigating the impact of social context on life prospects; analysis of life strategies based on the topic researched by each student	Case studies	4 hours
13-14. Presentation of doctoral students' work	Periodic reports	4 hours

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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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10. Evaluation

Activity type	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Percentage of final grade
10.4 Course	- active participation in lectures and seminars	- Monitoring of class activity	10
	- preparation and presentation of a case study	- Continuous assessment	40
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	- submission of periodic reports		
	- final paper: an analysis of social structures or policies adapted to the research topic	- Oral presentation of the final report	50%
	- active participation in lectures and seminars	- Monitoring of class activity	10

	- preparation and presentation of a case study - submission of periodic reports	- Continuous assessment	40
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10.6 Minimum standard of performance

- 7 attendances at the course/seminar are required to pass this course.
- The student must submit a report/paper on the subject of the discipline
- Preparation and presentation of the final paper.
- Plagiarism or improper compilation from various sources will result in the essay/project being rejected.

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)²

	General label for Sustainable Development							

Date:
2101.2026.

Signature of course coordinator

prof. de Horváth István

prof dr. Veres Valér

Signature of seminar coordinator

Date of approval:

...

Signature of the head of department

.. Prof . univ dr. hab. Csaba László Dégi

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.”.