

SYLLABUS

1. Information regarding the programme

1.1 Higher education institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
1.3 Department	Sociology
1.4 Field of study	Sociology
1.5 Study cycle	Master
1.6 Study programme/ Qualification	Complex data analysis

2. Information regarding the course

2.1 Course title		The Political Economy of Big Data					
2.2 Lectures held by		Irina Culic					
2.3 Seminars held by		NA					
2.4. Year of study	2	2.5 Semester	1	2.6. Type of evaluation (Exam/ Colloquium)	E	2.7 Course type (Optional/ Compulsory)	C

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
Time allotment:					hours
Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes					40
Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					40
Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays					30
Tutorship					8
Evaluations					4
Other activities:					
3.7 Total individual study hours		122			
3.8 Total hours per semester		150			
3.9 Number of ECTS credits		6			

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	<p>Cognitive skills:</p> <p>Understanding complex concepts associated with Big Data, such as distributed systems, predictive analytics, risk.</p> <p>Familiarizing with a series of aspects and dimension of social life where big data are used, generate social relations, and structure the interaction and the institutions.</p> <p>Instrumental-applicative skills:</p> <p>Students will know how to identify the structure and meaning of social processes shaped by big data. They will understand how big data are collected, kept and used and will understand the consequences of their use for contemporary capitalism.</p> <p>Attitudinal skills:</p> <p>Students will be able to objectively and critically appraise social reality. They will understand the importance of various types of big data and how to use them productively.</p>
Transversal competencies	<p>Capacity to approach social phenomena in an objective and critical manner through the lens of big data.</p> <p>Capacity to work autonomously and to be accountable for given tasks.</p> <p>Capacity to produce a report or executive summary for a research or a particular topic, using various types of sources and data.</p> <p>Team-work under pressure.</p> <p>Complex use of data base processing to ground studies and policy recommendations.</p>

7. Course Objectives (outcome of the acquired competencies)

7.1 General objective of the course	At the end of the course students will have a complex understanding of the way big data structure and organize contemporary social processes.	
7.2 Specific objective of the course	Students will be able to identify modes of collection, storage, use of big data in various spaces of present social life such as education, state and security, citizenship, the economic realm – finances and banks, virtual space, self-generated cooperation networks.	

8. Content

8.1 Lectures	Teaching methods	Remarks
<p>The concept of Big Data and its/their social history. The prehistory of Big Data.</p> <p>Materiality of big data. Collection points: capture, storage, cleaning, access, investigation, distribution, sharing, security, transfer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive exposure • Explanation • Conversation • Didactical demonstration • Text interpretation • Data analysis 	

Data analytics and algorithms. From content and causal process to forms and configurations. Big data as predictive analytics. From the practice of knowledge to operational control, distributed system and market devices.

The historical relation personal risk-automatisation-commercial profit-distributed networks-technologisation. The uncertainty of life equated in economic cost and corporate capitalism.

Big data in economy and finance. The politics of consumer credit and other financial instruments relying on big data.

Big data and the state, governance, security. The concept of risk and the subversion of citizenship.

Science, knowledge, and big data. Examples from medicine, biology, genetics, geography.

Big data and the politics of the person > internet commerce and algorithmic shaping of prices, preferences, needs, information, context, content, desire. Recording and surveillance systems.

Quantification, evaluation, classification: the contemporary educational system and the effect of big data on it.

Auto-regulated distributed systems, algorithms, and diffuse control points. New business models: crowdsourcing; uber; airbnb, google everything.

The future of big data and of capitalism.

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8.2 Seminars / laboratories NA	Teaching methods	Remarks
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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

Students will be able to use productively and critically the understanding and cognitive, epistemological and practical content acquired in this course in various professional environments such as advanced research institutes, corporations and firms using modern technology and data collection and recording, local and central administration of the state, educational, medical, economic institutions.

10. Evaluation

The evaluation tests the solidity of acquisition of main concepts and debates concerning big data, and may used them to understand social processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two in class bibliographical tests, each worth 50% of the grade 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students pass the course if they obtain overall a grade of 5/10 minimum. 			

Date: 08.09.2017

Signature of course lecturer

Signature of seminar tutor

Indie

Date of approval: 15.09.2017

Signature of the head of department

Raf