DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION

1. Information about the program

1.1 Higher education institution	Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences
1.3 Department	Political Science
1.4 Field of study	Political Science
1.5 Level of study	Undergraduate
1.6 Study program / Qualification	Political Science

2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Discipline title		Civil society and political culture					
2.2 Course lecturer			Gabriel Bădescu				
2.3 Seminar assistant			Gabriel Bădescu				
2.4 Year of study	2-3	2.5 Semester	2	2.6. Evaluation type	E	2.7 Discipline type	Optional

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

3.1 Number of hours per week	3	Of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4 Total hours in the study plan	42	Of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Time distribution:					hours
Studying the manual, course reader, bibliography and notes:					3x14
Supplementary documentation in the library, on electronic platforms and in the field:					0.5x14
Preparing seminars/laboratories, homework, syntheses, portfolios and essays:					1.5x14
Tutorials					
Examinations					10
Other activities:					

3.7 Total hours of individual study	80
3.8 Total hours per semester	122
3.9 Number of credits	4

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 based on the curriculum	• ”Introduction to research methods”
4.2 based on competences	• Not required

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 for the course	The notion of plagiarism is defined in accordance with the Department of Political Science policies: (http://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/). Plagiarism and attempted fraud examination is punishable by 1 to this note and the case presented to the Dean to take appropriate administrative measures. Final exam fraud is punishable by removal from the exam.
5.2 for the seminar/laboratory	Attendance at seminars is required by university regulations to a level of 75%. Note: If the work done by the student does not meet the seminars requirements to promote this discipline is mandatory to re-take it in the next academic year.

6. Accumulated specific competencies

Professional competencies	Develop and manage project plans, programs and actions of social-political
	Applying patterns learned in composition components of projects, programs or action plans specific socio-political
	Building, supporting and promoting a project, plan, program or social-political action
	Develop and manage project plans, programs and actions of social-political
	Using similar methodology in assessing the viability of projects, plans, programs or specific socio-political contexts
	Using the basic rules for understanding and assessment of projects, plans, programs, and social and political action
	Using basic concepts in the interpretation of socio-political specific situations
	Using standard criteria and methods in assessing political programs
Transversal competencies	

7. Discipline objectives (from the accumulated competencies grid)

7.1 General objective	The general aim of this course is to analyse the role of cultural factors on democratization and development.
	In addition, the course will present several fundamental notions in social sciences and policy making: social capital, political culture, civic engagement, civil society.
	Finally, the course will introduce students to the means of scientific argumentation in current disputes and to several fundamental themes in social sciences: the issue of collective action, the rationality of the social actors, the link between micro and macro politics.
7.2 Specific objectives	The students will learn to develop research questions that focus on political culture, political participation, civil society and social capital, and to assess what are the main determinats of these factors in specific contexts. The students will be able to write policy recommendations that address low levels of social capital and civic engagement.

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Observations
Introducing the structure of the course. Course requirement	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Predecessors of the culturalistic approaches in social sciences. Culture and economic development (Weber). The role of associations on democracy (Tocqueville). Discussions on "The protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism" and "Democracy in America".	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Is there any type of political culture in whose absence the functioning of democracy is impossible? Discussions on "Civic Culture" by G. Almond and	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus

S. Verba.		
Political participation. Determinants and effects of participation. Types of participation. Cross-country and longitudinal comparisons.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Civil society. Definitions. Determinants and effects of civil society development.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Associations and democracy. Attributes that matter: volunteerism, decision making, face-to-face contacts, source of funding. Civil society in the ex-communist countries.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Social capital. Definitions. Dimensions. Measuring social capital.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Cross-country and longitudinal variations of social capital.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Social capital and democracy. Social capital and economic development.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Social trust, social networks and institutional trust. A theory of corruption and social trust (Bo Rothstein).	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Relevance of the social capital theories on the community development domain. Problems of collective action and efficiency of democratic governance. Associations, NGOs, and community based development in Romania.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Designing a research that evaluates the link between cultural factors and community development/democratization.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Collecting and analyzing data of the research on community development.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Presenting results of the research. Review of the main concepts, topics and results presented at this course.	Exposure of a set of concepts and theories on this course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
8.2 Seminar / laboratory	**Teaching methods**	**Observations**
Introducing the structure of the course. Course requirement	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Predecessors of the culturalistic approaches in social sciences. Culture	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course.	Students are required to read the literature

and economic development (Weber). The role of associations on democracy (Tocqueville). Discussions on "The protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism" and "Democracy in America".	Interactive discussion of examples.	indicated in the syllabus
Is there any type of political culture in whose absence the functioning of democracy is impossible? Discussions on "Civic Culture" by G. Almond and S. Verba.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Political participation. Determinants and effects of participation. Types of participation. Cross-country and longitudinal comparisons.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Civil society. Definitions. Determinants and effects of civil society development.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Associations and democracy. Attributes that matter: volunteerism, decision making, face-to-face contacts, source of funding. Civil society in the ex-communist countries.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Social capital. Definitions. Dimensions. Measuring social capital.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Cross-country and longitudinal variations of social capital.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Social capital and democracy. Social capital and economic development.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Social trust, social networks and institutional trust. A theory of corruption and social trust (Bo Rothstein).	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Relevance of the social capital theories on the community development domain. Problems of collective action and efficiency of democratic governance. Associations, NGOs, and community based development in Romania.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Designing a research that evaluates the link between cultural factors and community development/democratization.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Collecting and analyzing data of the research on community development.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus
Presenting results of the research. Review of the main concepts, topics and results presented at this course.	Detailing and illustrating the concepts and theories discussed on the course. Interactive discussion of examples.	Students are required to read the literature indicated in the syllabus

Bibliography:
G. Badescu. Social capital and public participation. Bucuresti: Tritonic Books. 2013
Rao and Walton. Culture and public action. http://www.cultureandpublicaction.org/pdf/Chapter1.pdf

Weber, M. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. Ch 1: Religious affiliation and social stratification. http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/weber/WeberCH1.html

Tocqueville, A. Democracy in America. Vol. 2, Ch. 5
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/ch2_05.htm

Almond, Gabriel and Sidney Verba. Civic Culture. Ch. 1 and Ch. 13. Princeton Univ. Press. 1963

Norris, P. Democratic Phoenix: Political Activism Worlwide. Ch. 2
http://ksghome.harvard.edu/~pnorris/acrobat/everyvoice/Chapter2.pdf

Foley, B. and Michael Foley. The Paradox of Civil Society. *Journal of Democracy* 7.3 (1996) 38-52, available at
http://www.globalpolicy.org/ngos/role/intro/def/1996/1996paradox.htm

G. Badescu. Democratic Effects of Civic Engagement: Lessons from Eastern Europe. in G. Badescu (ed.) Associations and Democracy in Romania. (ed.) Cluj: Accent Press. 2011

Putnam, R. The Strange Disappearance of Civic America. The American Prospect Online, Nov 30, 2002, available at
http://www.prospect.org/web/page.ww?section=root&name=ViewPrint&articleId=4972

Bo Rothstein. Social Capital and Quality of Government: The Causal Mechanism. in Janos Kornai, Susan Rose-Ackerman and Bo Rothstein (eds), *Creating Social Trust: Problems of Post-Socialist Transition*. Palgrave Macmillan. 2004, available at
http://www.kus.uu.se/Democracy3/Rothstein.pdf

9. The corroboration of discipline contents with the expectations of epistemic community representatives, professional associations and representative employers in the study program's corresponding field

At the end of the semester students should:
- Understand the basic concepts that are related to civil society and political culture
- Be familiar with the main approaches to investigate the main questions in the literature on political culture and civil society;
- To write research proposals, academic and policy reports about developing tools that aime community development, social capital, civic engagement.

The students will learn to use the following concepts: political culture, civic culture, political participation, civil society, social capital, generalized trust, institutional trust, civic morality, game theory, prisoners' dilemma, rational choice, community development, income inequality.

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Weight in final mark
10.4 Course	Evaluation of expert knowledge taught in class. Assessment of exposure and clarity of expression level of specialized knowledge taught in class	Oral exam, including the presentation of a research paper (2000 words) prepared by the student	60%
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	Work in the seminars	Quality of replies to questions about the topics discussed in seminars.	40%
10.6 Minimum performance standard			

Evaluation of students will combine an assessment of the work of the whole group of students (especially the seminar) to an individual assessment. The final grade of the seminar will be composed as follows:
- Active participation in seminar discussion topics = 80%
- Presence at the seminar: 20% (11 appearances for the semester).
Note: arrear exam seminar includes component (40%) (1) noting each group at each seminar, (2) individual work at the seminar). If the work done by the student does not meet the seminars requirements to promote this discipline is mandatory to repeat it in the next academic year.

Attendance at seminars is required by university regulations to a level 75%.
The notion of plagiarism is defined in accordance with the Department of Political Science regulations:

(http://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/resurse/formulare-regulamente/reguli-etice-si-deontologice/).

| Date | Course lecturer signature | Seminar assistant signature |

September 2013

Date of approval in the Department
Sept. 30, 2013

Head of department's signature