

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HISTORY OF COMMUNISM

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Programme-related data

1.1. Higher Education Institution	BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
1.2. Faculty	HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY
1.3. Department	INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY
1.4. Field	POLITICAL SCIENCE
1.5. Level of study	BACHELOR
1.6. Degree programme / Qualification	
1.7. Form of education	

2. Course-related data

2.1. Course title	HISTORY OF COMMUNISM			Course code	HLE3107
2.2. Course coordinator	PROF.DR. VIRGILIU ȚĂRĂU				
2.3. Seminar coordinator	DR. DĂLĂLĂU ANDREI				
2.4. Year of study	1	2.5. Semester	1	2.6. Type of assessment	Exam
2.7. Course status	Optional			2.8. Course type	Specialisation subject

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

3.1. Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2. course	2	3.3. seminar/ laboratory/ project	1
3.4. Total of hours in the curriculum	42	of which: 3.5. course	28	3.6. seminar/ laboratory	14
Time allocation for individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)					hours
Learning from textbooks, course materials, bibliography, and notes (IS)					42
Additional research in the library, on subject-specific electronic platforms, and on-site					43
Preparing seminars/ laboratories/ projects, assignments, reports, portfolios, and essays					30
Tutoring (professional guidance)					4
Examinations					4
Other activities					2
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)				83	
3.8. Total hours per semester				125	
3.9. Number of credits				5	

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1. curriculum-related	-
4.2 skills-related	-

5. Specific conditions (where applicable)

5.1. course-related	-
5.2. seminar/laboratory-related	-

6.1. Competencies resulting from the completion of the degree programme (as referred to in the curriculum)¹

Professional competencies	
Competency code	Competency
PC1	Analysis of the national and international security environment
PC4	Strategic analysis and intelligence reporting
PC5	Public policy and security policy analysis
Transversal competencies	
Competency code	Competency
TC2	Professional communication and analytical reporting
TC3	Teamwork and multidisciplinary collaboration

6.2. Learning outcomes relevant to the degree programme (as referred to in the curriculum)²

Learning outcomes targeted by the subject		
Competency code	Knowledge and comprehension	Specific academic skills
PC1	1.The student/graduate identifies, interprets and analyses political and economic factors as production and trade and their relations with the law and authorities	1. <i>The student/graduate applies scientific methods and techniques to investigate phenomena, acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating prior knowledge</i>
PC4	2. The student/graduate recognises, analyses and explains systems of governance, methodologies for analysing political activity and behaviour, and the theory and practice of influencing people and acquiring governance	2.The student/graduate prepare research documents or delivers presentations to report the results of a research and analysis project, indicating the analysis procedures and methods that led to those results, as well as possible interpretations.
PC5	3. The student/graduate recognises, analyses and explains political activities, plans and intentions of a government for a legislative session addressing specific causes	3. The student/graduate applies scientific methods and techniques to investigate phenomena, acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating prior knowledge
TC2	The student/graduate prepare research documents or delivers presentations to report the results of a research and analysis project, indicating analysis procedures and methods that led to those results as well as possible interpretations.	The student/graduate speaks in a structured manner, faced-to-face with a audience to inform or influence them
TC3	The student/graduate in multidisciplinary teams to produce analytical outputs.	The student/graduate works confidently within a group, with each member doing their part in service of the whole.

7. Subject-specific learning outcomes

Knowledge and comprehension

¹ The professional and/or transversal skills targeted by the subject for which the course description is prepared will be copied from the curriculum of the degree programme. For each competency, the complete entry, including the competency code, will be copied with the exact wording that appears in the curriculum, without any changes. If no competency is copied from either of the two categories, the row corresponding to that category is deleted from the table.

² The learning outcomes relevant for the degree programme and targeted by the subject for which the course description is prepared will be listed. The entries, copied without any changes from the Curriculum by subject type (Core Subject/Specialisation Subject/Complementary Subject), are listed under the corresponding competency.

1. The student/graduate uses the theoretical methodology of scientific research, including the conducting background research, building a hypothesis, testing it, analysing data and substantiating results
2. The student/graduate recognises, selects and uses methods and techniques to carry out a study
3. The student/graduate uses models (descriptive or inferential statistics) and techniques (data mining or machine learning) for statistical analysis, as well as ICT tools to analyse data, discover correlations and forecast trends.
4. The student/graduate identifies, interprets and analyses the origins of conflicts, actions within conflicts and their termination.
Specific academic skills
1. The student/graduate explains key concepts in strategic studies and international security (hybrid threats, deterrence, human security) relevant to security assessments.
2. The student/graduate describes risk management frameworks (identify-analyse-evaluate-treat-monitor) applicable to physical and organisational security
3. The student/graduate applies vulnerability assessment tools and proposes context-specific risk mitigation measures.

8. Contents

8.1. Course	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks ³
From ideas to an ideology. The ideological roots of Communism in the 19 th century. From plans to actions. Marx and his Heritage	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
Syndicalism, Socialism, Anarchism and other ...isms at the end of the 19 th century	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
World War I and the <i>First</i> Communist Revolution. Russia in 1917	Description, explanation, debate and text and film analysis	
Russia under Lenin and Stalin. Communism from below and from above (communism of war, NEP, stalinism as a revolution from above, collectivization, great terror etc)	Description, explanation, debate and documents analysis	
Communism as a Model from One Country to the World. Comintern and Antifascism in the Interwar Era	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
World War II and the Spread of Communism from one country to one region (1940-1947).	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
Building a Bloc in the Cold War. From War to Peaceful Co-existence (1948-1979).	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
Communism in China and in the Global South	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
Eastern Europe under Communism	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	

³ For example, organisational aspects, recommendations for students, specific aspects relating to the course/seminar, such as inviting experts in the field, etc.

Searching for Legitimacy: Internationalism, Nationalism and Communism in the Postwar World.	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
The End of Communism in Eastern Europe: a systemic crisis.	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
Communist Political Regimes after the Cold War. Why the Communism did not Dissapear?	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
Communism in Romania I – from revolution to institutionalization	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
Communism in Romania II – the Decay	Description, explanation, debate and text analysis	
8.2. Seminar		
1. From ideas to an ideology. The ideological roots of Communism Communism in the 19th century. From plans to actions. Marx and his Heritage <i>The evolution of Marxist political ideas and thoughts, working on primary sources: excerpts from “The Capital” and “Critique of the Gotha Program”.</i>	Concept mapping, text analysis, discussion, theory comparison.	
2. Syndicalism, Socialism, Anarchism and other ...isms at the end of the 19th century <i>Evolution of socialist ramifications, including the social-democrat and anarchist school of thought – excerpts from Mikhail Bakunin and analysis of the The Erfurt Program (1891)</i>	Debate, text analysis, theory comparison.	
3. World War I and the First Communist Revolution. Russia in 1917 <i>Conceptual and ideological analysis of Vladimir Lenin’s speech delivered at an International Meeting in Berne, February 8, 1916.</i>	Text interpretation, debate, discussion	
4. Russia under Lenin and Stalin. Communism from below and from above (communism of war, NEP, stalinism as a revolution from above, collectivization, great terror etc)	Text interpretation, debate, discussion	

<i>Theorizing the “vanguard party” and the “revolutionaries of profession” concepts in Lenin’s work “What Is to Be Done?”; analysis on Stalin’s speech delivered at the First All-Union Congress of Collective Farm Shock Brigadiers, 1933.</i>		
5. Communism as a Model from One Country to the World. Comintern and Antifascism in the Interwar Era. <i>Extracts from a Resolution of the Enlarged ECCI Presidium of the Economic Crisis and Unemployment, 1930; various excerpts from the Comintern archive.</i>	Comparative analysis, region analysis	
6. World War II and the Spread of Communism from one country to one region (1940-1947). <i>Historical analysis of Joseph Stalin’s speech delivered at a meeting of voters of the Stalin Electoral District, Moscow, 1946, which offers the Soviet perspective on the postwar partition of Europe.</i>	Comparative analysis, region analysis	
7. Building a Bloc in the Cold War. From War to Peaceful Co-existence (1948-1979). <i>Analysis of CIA documentation regarding the Sino-Soviet Relations (1954) during the Korean War; documents and speeches regarding the Cold War crises.</i>	Comparative analysis, region analysis	
8. Communism in China and in the Global South <i>Mao Zedong speeches from 1949 to 1973.</i>	Text interpretation, debate, discussion	
9. Eastern Europe under Communism <i>Documents regarding the Hungarian anti-communist revolution from 1956, the Prague Spring from 1968, the conceptual definition of the “socialism with a human face” and other resources concerning the standards of living in the Eastern bloc.</i>	Comparative analysis, region analysis	

10. Searching for Legitimacy: Internationalism, Nationalism and Communism in the Postwar World <i>Documents regarding the competition within the communist parties from Eastern Europe between the Stalinist core and reformist and nationalist factions: study cases – Poland, Hungary, Romania etc.</i>	Debate, case study, discussion	
11. The End of Communism in Eastern Europe: a systemic crisis <i>Various political transitions in 1989; CIA's documents concerning Gorbachev's Economic Program and USSR policy towards Eastern Europe.</i>	Comparative analysis, region analysis	
12. Communist Political Regimes after the Cold War. Why did the Communism not Disappear? <i>Analysis on the North Korean totalitarian regime, China's state capitalism and neomarxist ideologies.</i>	Case study, historical comparison	
13. Communism in Romania I – from revolution to institutionalization. <i>Gheorghiu-Dej nationalization of industry and political repression. Legislation from 1948 – transition to communism.</i>	Debate, case study, discussion	
14. Communism in Romania II – the Decay <i>Nicolae Ceausescu's rise to power, diplomacy with the West and international isolation in the 80s.</i>	Debate, case study, discussion	
8.3. Bibliography		
Erik van Ree, <i>Boundaries of Utopia : Imagining Communism from Plato to Stalin</i> , Routledge contemporary Russia and Eastern Europe series, 2015.		
Archie Brown, <i>The Rise and the Fall of Communism</i> , Harper and Collins e-books		
Robert Service, <i>Comrades! A History of World Communism</i> , Macmillan, 2007		

9. Evaluation

Type of activity	9.1 Evaluation criteria ⁴	9.2 Evaluation methods ⁵	9.3 Percentage in the final grade
9.4. Course	Knowing the history of the communist systems evolution using scientific data and methodology	Written exam	70%
9.5. Seminar/ laboratory	Case study on the evolution of communism in a country in the postwar world	Argumentative essay	20%
9.6 Minimum standard for passing			
Basic knowledge of the data relating the evolution of communism in XIXth and XXth century			

10. SDG labels (Sustainable Development Goals)⁶

		Sustainable Development Generic Label						
								
								No label applies
								

Date of entry:
1.10.2025

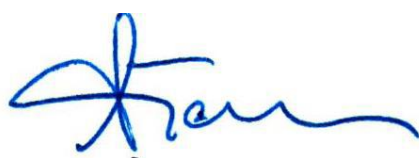
Signature of course coordinator

Signature seminar coordinator

⁴ The evaluation criteria must directly reflect the learning outcomes targeted at the level of the degree programme respectively at the level of the subject. More specifically, the learning outcomes set out in the expected learning outcomes are assessed.

⁵ Both final evaluation methods and ongoing evaluation strategies should be established.

⁶ Select a single label which, according to the [Implementation of SDG labels in the academic process](#), best matches the subject. If the subject addresses sustainable development in a generic manner (i.e. by presenting/introducing the general framework of sustainable development, etc.), then the Sustainable Development generic label may be applied. If none of the labels describe the subject, select the last option: "No label applies."



Date of approval in the department:

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Signature of the head of department

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