Strada Transilvaniei, nr. 6, sector 1, București, ROMÂNIA
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DISCIPLINE SHEET
Academic year 2025-2026

1. About the program

1.1 Higher education institution	University of Bucharest
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies
1.3 Department	Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies – ISDS-UB
1.4 Field of study	-
1.5 Study cycle	Doctorate
1.6 Study program / Qualification	***Broad Ingterdisciplinarity***

2. About the discipline

2.1 Name of the discipline				***Institutions and institutionalism***			
2.2 Holder of the course				**Prof. Dragoș Paul ALIGICĂ**			
2.3 Holder of the seminar				**Prof. Dragoș Paul ALIGICĂ**			
2.4 Study year	I	2.5 Semester	I	2.6 Evaluation type	E	2.7 Discipline regime	

3. Total estimated time

3.1 Number of weekly hours		3.2 out of which course:		3.3 seminar	
3.4 Total hours in the curriculum	24	3.5 out of which course:	12	3.6 seminar	12
Distribution of time:					**hours**
Study according to the textbook, course material, bibliography and notes					28
Additional documentation in the library, on specialized electronic platforms and in the field					35
Preparation of seminars, assignments, papers, portfolios and essays					25
Tutoring					10
Examinations					3
Others……					-

3.7. Total hours of individual study	101
3.8. Total hours per semester	125
3.9. Number of credits	**5**

4. Preconditions (where applicable)

4.1 curriculum	-
4.2 skills	-

5. Conditions (where applicable)

5.1 course delievery	Room with multimedia equipment (video projector, smart board)
5.2 conducting the seminar	Room with multimedia equipment (video projector, smart board)

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6. Learning outcomes

Knowledge	LO1. Demonstrate broad knowledge and deep understading of the research field in general and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a narrow area of this field LO2. Demonstrate broad relevant knowledge in related areas of reseach that are connected to the main chosen research field
Skills	LO1. Demonstrate the ability to complete the independent research process within given time frames: a) Review and place the research issue (question/problem/performance practice) in relation to the existing literature; b) Select appropriate research methodology and methods from the wide variety of approaches c) Identify, locate, and collect sufficient body of evidence/data d) Analyse and interpret findings/evidence e) Draw appropriate conclusions; write about research in the field using clear and effective written expression of evidence-based analytical reasoning and successfully defend the research in front of a panel of experts. LO2. Demonstrate the capacity for analysis of gaps in existing scholarship in the field and identify an original question/problem for study worthy of peer-review/examination. LO3. Be able to clearly articulate complex ideas and research results both orally and in writing, create well-structured scientific documents, and present their work at conferences or in public forums. Demonstrate proficiency in using digital media and visual representations to enhance the impact of their communication
Responsibility and autonomy	LO1. Demonstrate ability to learn, adapt and work in varied intredisciplinary and multi-national environments so as to analyse findings and perspectives found in other disciplines that contribute to greater understanding in their field. LO2. Identify independently seek opportunities to communicate their research, adapt their communication style to different contexts, and continuously improve their skills based on feedback.

7. Contents

8.1 Course	Methods	Observations
Institutions and Institutional Theory: An Overview 1. Varieties of institutional theory. 2. Institutional theories in the evolution of social theorizing. 3. Institutionalism(s) in the context of contemporary social theories.	Lecture Class discussion based on Readings Individual student reports	12 ore
Economic Institutionalism	Lecture	

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1. The analytical apparatus of the rational choice and public choice perspective: collective action, transaction costs, public goods, externalities, asymmetric information, social choice and aggregation. 2. Varieties of rational choice institutionalism. 3. Institutional diversity: analytical and applied level implications.	Class discussion based on Readings Individual student reports	
Sociological Institutionalism 1. Structure and function based institutional analysis 2. Culture-based institutional analysis 3. Conflict and completion-based analysis 4. Discursive institutionalism.	Lecture Class discussion based on Readings Individual student reports	
Historical Institutionalism 1. Structure and change in institutional evolution. 2. Varieties of historical institutionalism. 3. Analytic narratives, path dependency, critical junctures.	Lecture Class discussion based on Readings Individual student reports	
Political Institutions 1. The public choice perspective. 2. The political economy of polycentricism. 3. Hierarchies and governance dilemmas.	Lecture Class discussion based on Readings Individual student reports	
Economic Institutions 1. Institutions, incentives and the knowledge process. 2. Comparative economic systems. **3.** Institutions and economic performance.	Lecture Class discussion based on Readings Individual student reports	
The Applied Level: Institutions, Entrepreneurship and Public Policy. 1. The role of theory and history in public policy. 2. Institutional analysis and public policy. 3. Institutions and entrepreneurship. 4. Entrepreneurship public policy: combining theory and method to build applied level relevant research. Designs.	Lecture Class discussion based on Readings Individual student reports	

References:

1. Boniface, Dexter, and J. C. Sharman. "An Analytic Revolution in Comparative Politics?" Comparative Politics 33, no. 4 (2001).

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2. Brinton, Mary C., and Victor Nee, eds. The new institutionalism in sociology. Russell Sage Foundation, 1998.
3. Buchanan, James M. "The constitution of economic policy." The American economic review 77, no. 3 (1987): 243-250.
4. Capoccia, Giovanni, and R. Daniel Kelemen. "The study of critical junctures: Theory, narrative, and counterfactuals in historical institutionalism." World politics 59, no. 3 (2007): 341-369.
5. Coase, R. H. "The Nature of the Firm." Economica, New Series, 4, no. 16 (1937): 386-405. doi:10.2307/2626876.
6. David, Paul A. "Clio and the Economics of QWERTY." The American Economic Review 75, no. 2 (1985): 332-37.
7. Diermeier, Daniel, and Keith Krehbiel. "Institutionalism as a Methodology." Journal of theoretical politics 15, no. 2 (2003): 123-144.
8. Hall, Peter A. "Historical institutionalism in rationalist and sociological perspective." Explaining institutional change: ambiguity, agency, and power (2010): 204-224.
9. Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary CR Taylor. "Political science and the three new institutionalisms." Political studies 44, no. 5 (1996): 936-957.
10. Hay, Colin, and Daniel Wincott. "Structure, agency and historical institutionalism." Political studies 46, no. 5 (1998): 951-957.
11. Hayek, Friedrich August. "The use of knowledge in society." The American economic review 35, no. 4 (1945): 519-530.
12. Immergut, Ellen M. "The theoretical core of the new institutionalism." Politics & society 26, no. 1 (1998): 5-34.
13. March, James G., and Johan P. Olsen. "Elaborating the "new institutionalism"." The Oxford handbook of political institutions5 (2006): 3-20.
14. March, James G., and Johan P. Olsen. "The new institutionalism: Organizational factors in political life." American political science review 78, no. 3 (1983): 734-749.
15. Nee, Victor. "Sources of the new institutionalism." The new institutionalism in sociology (1998): 1-16.
16. North, Douglass C. "Institutions and Economic Theory." The American Economist 36, no. 1 (1992): 3-6.
17. Olson, Mancur. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." The American Political Science Review 87, no. 3 (1993): 567-76.
18. Ostrom, Elinor. "A behavioral approach to the rational choice theory of collective action: Presidential address, American Political Science Association, 1997." American political science review 92, no. 1 (1998): 1-22.
19. Ostrom, Vincent, and Elinor Ostrom. "Public choice: A different approach to the study of public administration." Public Administration Review 31, no. 2 (1971): 203-216.Ostrom, Vincent, and Elinor Ostrom. "Public goods and public choices." 1977 (1977): 7-49.
20. Pierson, Paul, and Theda Skocpol. "Historical institutionalism in contemporary political science." Political science: The state of the discipline 3 (2002): 693-721.
21. Schmidt, Vivien A. "Discursive institutionalism: The explanatory power of ideas and discourse." Annual review of political science 11 (2008).
22. Schmidt, Vivien A. "Taking ideas and discourse seriously: explaining change through discursive institutionalism as the fourth 'new institutionalism'." European political science review2, no. 1 (2010): 1-25.

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23. Thelen, Kathleen. "Historical institutionalism in comparative politics." Annual review of political science 2, no. 1 (1999): 369-404.
24. Williamson, Oliver E. "The Theory of the Firm as Governance Structure: From Choice to Contract." The Journal of Economic Perspectives 16, no. 3 (2002): 171-95.

8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Methods	Observations
A. The Foundational Theory Level: Mastering the core approaches and themes of the Institutionalist research program	Seminar discussion based on Readings Individual student reports Student-group reports	12 ore
1. Economic Institutionalism		
2. Sociological Institutionalism		
3. Historical Institutionalism		
4. Political Institutions		
5. Economic Institutions		
B. The Applied Level: Institutions, Entrepreneurship and Public Policy	Workshop Discussion Working tutorial (individual and group)	
1. Policy Research Design and Policy Research Proposals. Frameworks for Analysis, Design and Evaluation		
2. Theoretically framing entrepreneurship		
3. Theoretically framing institutions and entrepreneurship		
4. Integrating theory and method in putting together a (policy) design and evaluation proposal.		

References:

A. For "The Foundational Theory Level: Mastering the core approaches and themes of the Institutionalist research program": see Course bibliography above.
B. For "The Applied Level: Institutions, Entrepreneurship and Public Policy":
1. K. F. Punch, Developing Effective Research Proposals, Sage Publications Ltd, 2000
2. Majchrazak, A. "The nature of policy research", in Methods for Policy Research, Sage, 1994
3. Israel M. Kirzner, 'The Entrepreneurial Process' in Entrepreneurship: The Social Science View. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
4. Joseph A. Schumpeter, Entrepreneurship as Innovation, in Entrepreneurship: The Social Science View. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
5. Baumol William, Entrepreneurship, Productive, Unproductive and Destructive, Journal of Political Economy, 1990
6. Albert Link, "Public policy and entrepreneurship" in Handbook of Research on Entrepreneurship Policy, eds. Audretsch D. et al, Edward Elgar, 2007.
7. Anders Hoffmann, "A Rough Guide to Entrepreneurship Policy" in Handbook of Research on Entrepreneurship Policy, eds. Audretsch D. et al, Edward Elgar, 2007.
8. David Audretsch and D. Erdem "Factors Affecting Entrepreneurial Activity", in Handbook of Entrepreneurship Research, S. Alvarez et al, editors, Springer, 2005

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9. David Audretsch "Entrepreneurship: A Survey of the Literature". Prepared for the European Commission, Enterprise Directorate General, 2002
10. Thomas, Anisya S.; Mueller, Stephen L. A Case for Comparative Entrepreneurship: Assessing the Relevance of Culture, Journal of International Business Studies, 2000
11. Peter J. Boettke and Christopher J. Coyne (2009) "Context Matters: Institutions and Entrepreneurship", Foundations and Trends® in Entrepreneurship: Vol. 5: No 3, pp 135-209.

8. Correlating the content of the discipline with the expectations of representatives of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers in the field related to the program

The course will prepare the students both for the field of academic and scholarly work and at the same time will increase their competence in being able to apply the knowledge and insights gained from the course to non-academic, practical and policy-oriented work.

9. Assessment

Type of activity	Assessment criteria	Evaluation methods	Weight in the final grade
Course	Discussion participation and contribution Individual reports based on reading	Answer/Discussions	30% 30%
Seminar	Individual/Group Project	Presentation /Discussions	40 %
Minimum performance standard	At least one relevant intervention in the class discussions		

Fill in date:
16.10.2025

Holder of the course,
Prof. Dr. Dragăș Paul ALIGICĂ

Director ISDS-UB,
Conf. Dr. Habil. Mihaela MATACHE