



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



**Facultatea de Științe Politice,
Administrative și ale Comunicării**

Str. Traian Moșoiu nr. 71
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Syllabus

Regional policies

Fall 2020

Instructor: Associate professor, PhD, Bogdana Neamtu. **Contact information:** email: neamtu@fspac.ro; office hours: Monday, 10.00-12.00 or by appointment (preferably); mobile: 0040-728-88.35.73

Course description

The overall objective of the course is to familiarize students with the various ways in which the center-periphery relationship can be structured in an administrative system, focusing on factors determining this choice: administrative tradition in a country, external factors such as EU integration, and the broader administrative reform process. In the first part of the course we focus on decentralization and fundamental issues concerning the organization and functioning of local government and its relationship with central government. In the second part of the course, the emphasis is placed on developing the regional level (decentralized or not) and the European Union's regional/cohesion policy. In the context of Romania, we are mainly interested in the impact structural funds have upon local and regional development.

Learning objectives: At the end of the class the students should:

- Be able to discuss the phenomenon of state rescaling at the international level, with emphasis on current trends;
- Be able to describe and analyze administrative restructuring (with emphasis on regional level) in Romania and other CE states;
- Have a clear understanding of the evolution of regional development policy (cohesion policy) in Europe and how structural funds contribute to local and regional economic development';
- Be able to analyze the trends in EU cohesion policy in the medium and long run and their influence upon member states, especially Romania.



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Textbooks/Readings

The main textbooks and readings used for this class are listed below. Other materials will be assigned by the instructor for various classes/topics. These materials will be available for students at least 1 week in advance and will be posted on the Moodle platform.

Democratic Decentralization Programming Handbook, 2009, prepared for the Office of Democracy and Governance (DG) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Democracy at the Local Level. The International Idea Handbook on Participation, Representation, Conflict Management, and Governance, 2001

EU Cohesion Policy 1988-2008: Investing in Europe's future, 2008, inforegio panorama

Becker, S.A., Peter H. Egger and Maximilian von Ehrlich, Effects of EU Regional Policy: 1989-2013, 2016, https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/research/workingpapers/2016/twerp_1118_becker.pdf

Krieger-Boden, C., EU Cohesion Policy, Past and Present: Sustaining a Prospering and Fair European Union, <https://www.ifw-members.ifw-kiel.de/publications/eu-cohesion-policy-past-and-present-sustaining-a-prospering-and-fair-european-union>

Leonardi, R., Cohesion policy in the European Union : the building of Europe, Palgrave 2005, <http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/doifinder/view/10.1057/9780230503861>

Topics and course schedule

Module 1: Decentralization

Week 1: Introductory class. Introduce the content of the course to the students; discuss about evaluation, academic honesty, and attendance

Week 2: The concept of governance and good governance in relation to decentralization and regionalization. Multi-level governance in the context of the European Union

Week 3: Various definitions and approaches to decentralization; a comparative perspective; why decentralization doesn't work. Emphasis on public participation at local level

Week 4: Fragmentation of local government and its connection to administrative capacity

Week 5: Who manages local development? Role of city manager



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Week 6: Emergence/development of intermediary administrative levels – metropolitan areas, regions, etc. Collaborative government

Module 2: EU cohesion policy

Week 7: Regions in the context of the European Union

Week 8: The cohesion policy of the European Union – Historical background, evolution (1)

Week 9: The cohesion policy of the European Union – Historical background, evolution (2)

Week 10: Role of structural funds in local and regional development. Absorption capacity

Week 11: Regional development in Romania. Legislative framework and brief history

Week 12: Cohesion policy in Romania – main features of the 2016-2020 programming cycle (1)

Week 13: Cohesion policy in Romania – What's next post 2020. Changes in the context of the Covid pandemic

Week 14: Future prospects for regional development in Romania. Wrap up of the class. Concluding remarks and brief discussion regarding the final exam

Course methodology and requirements

The class implies a combination of lectures and interactive seminars. The lectures involve a relatively high number of concepts and ideas that are new to most of you so it is important to go over the assigned readings for each class. The interactive seminars are based on these readings so it is highly difficult to do cool things during the seminars if you do not read.

Attendance and active participation are important requirements. Students need to attend at least 8 sessions/seminars in order for the instructor to grade their assignments and final exam.

Plagiarism as well as other forms of academic dishonesty will be sanctioned in accordance with the Ethical Code for Students available online at <https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/ro/resurse/administrative/regulamente>



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Assignments need to be turned in on time. If students encounter major obstacles regarding the on-time completion of an assignment, please communicate with the instructor. Late submission can be arranged as well due to serious personal reasons but you need to obtain the instructor's permission in advance.

Grading policy and structure

Your grade for this class will be made up of 4 different components:

a. **In-class group project (1)** – This semester, the topic for group projects is closely related to the SARS-COVID 19 pandemic. One major issue worldwide faced by governments has to do with the safe reopening of schools. In Romania, the national government/Ministry of Education invoked decentralization and placed the decision for the reopening of schools at the local level. Groups of two students will have to prepare a 30 minutes in-class presentation (on Zoom) in which they will argue if they agree or not with this decision, and which are the possible consequences of it. You are strongly encouraged to use the cities/counties you are coming from as examples of what happened in the context of the pandemic with school reopening as decided by the local level. You will be judged on both the content and the quality of presentation. This assignment is due in the first half of the semester; exact date will be set with the students. **20% of your grade**

b. **Reflection piece (1)** – Each student has to write one reflection paper. These are two page essays reflecting your opinion about a specific reading. Imagine that you are a columnist for a magazine or journal and you need to state your opinion about a reading. Students are required to select a scientific paper (journal article) which deals with negative implications of decentralizations or with cases of failed decentralization experiments/reforms. The accent should be placed on critical thinking and analysis rather than restating the main ideas from the readings. You may address the entire text or an idea/concept from the text. This assignment is due on the 6th week of the course. **20% of your grade**

c. **Active participation and attendance – 10%.**

d. **Final exam – 50%**

ATTENTION: The entire class is designed to facilitate interaction and active learning. Provided that the students come to class unprepared, the instructor reserves the right to change the grading system by adding more weight to the final exam. Students will be notified about this no later than December 1st, 2020.