



## SYLLABUS

### Anthropology of socialism and postsocialism

University year .....

#### 1. Information regarding the programme

1.1. Higher education institution	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3. Department	Hungarian Ethnography and Anthropology
1.4. Field of study	Cultural studies
1.5. Study cycle	Master's Degree
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Culture and society – tradition and modernity
1.7. Form of education	

#### 2. Information regarding the discipline

2.1. Name of the discipline		Anthropology of socialism and postsocialism				Discipline code		LME2274			
2.2. Course coordinator					Conf. Dr. Szabó Á. Tőhötöm						
2.3. Seminar coordinator					Conf. Dr. Szabó Á. Tőhötöm						
2.4. Year of study		2	2.5. Semester		2	2.6. Type of evaluation		E	2.7. Discipline regime		Obl.

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

3.1. Hours per week	<b>4</b>	of which: 3.2 course	<b>2</b>	3.3 seminar/laboratory	<b>2</b>
3.4. Total hours in the curriculum	48	of which: 3.5 course	24	3.6 seminar/laborator	<b>24</b>
<b>Time allotment for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)</b>					<b>hours</b>
Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes (SA)					50
Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					50
Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays					52
Tutorship					2
Evaluations					2
Other activities:					
<b>3.7. Total individual study hours</b>		<b>156</b>			
<b>3.8. Total hours per semester</b>		<b>204</b>			
<b>3.9. Number of ECTS credits</b>		<b>8</b>			

#### 4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	
4.2. competencies	

Date of approval  
Name and signature of Dean



## 5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for the course	Laptop, video-projector During the course the students are required to respond to the teacher's request to engage in discussions and to answer the questions about the topic of the course.
5.2. for the seminar /lab activities	Laptop, video-projector The students take part actively in the seminar

## 6. Specific competencies acquired <sup>1</sup>

Professional/essential Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• efectuează cercetare științifică</li> <li>• gestionează date în domeniul cercetării</li> <li>• scrie publicații științifice</li> <li>• promovează inovarea deschisă în cercetare</li> <li>• asigură managementul de proiect</li> <li>• Diseminează rezultatele în rândul comunității științifice</li> <li>• gestionează cunoștințele în vederea unui impact strategic</li> <li>• aplică principiile eticii și integrității științifice în activitățile de cercetare</li> <li>• aplică metode științifice</li> <li>• Promovează implicarea publicului în cercetare</li> <li>• desfășoară activități de cercetare la nivel interdisciplinar</li> </ul>
Transversal competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• da dovada de initiative • respecta angajamente • își asuma responsabilitatea • gândește rapid • da dovada de auto-reflecție • da dovada de curiozitate • abordează provocările în mod pozitiv • gândește analitic • respecta diversitatea valorilor și a normelor culturale • face față incertitudinii • se adresează unui public • lucrează în echipe • arată încredere • demonstrează loialitate • arată empatie • face față stresului • lucrează eficient • gândește critic • apreciază diversitatea expresiilor culturale și artistice • da dovada de dorință de învățare • identifică probleme • efectuează căutări pe internet • da dovada de competență interculturală • lucrează independent • gândește în mod creativ •</li> </ul>

## 7. Objectives of the discipline (outcome of the acquired competencies)

7.1 General objective of the discipline	The main objective of the course is to offer a general view regarding the functioning of socialism and post-socialism as cultural system. Beside this the course proposes to problematize the links between politics and everyday life in totalitarian systems. But on a general level the impact of the state on the life of the everyday people. The impacts of the political ideologies on the everyday cultural, social and economic practices are also analyzed in the framework of this course.
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<sup>1</sup> One can choose either competences or learning outcomes, or both. If only one option is chosen, the row related to the other option will be deleted, and the kept one will be numbered 6.



## 7.2 Specific objective of the discipline

The specific objective of the course is to offer an analysis of socialism and the process of postsocialism in the framework of the socialist social systems in Eastern Europe. The course presents the role of the state, the totalitarianism, the dictatorship and the transition as political, but also as cultural forms. It starts from the beginnings and consolidation of socialist system in Romania, presents the different sides of this process (political, economic, cultural), but also the features of the state in the prism of the everyday life. It offers a cultural and social analysis of the transition. In this context a very important objective is to offer a framework of analysis and problematisation regarding the individual, communal and the state, the private and the public, compromise, collaboration and resistance, the connections between the spheres of politics, economy and society. Through these approaches students will be able to analyze scientifically the political systems from a cultural point of view.

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## 8. Content

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
The power and its origins. The totalitarian society, the dictatorship. The banality of the evil and the everyday absurd.	enhanced lecture, debate	
What is socialism, what is post-socialisms. The periodization of Romanian socialism.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
The bases of the socialist state I. Nationalization, collectivization: transformations through economic means.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
The bases of the socialist state II. Secret services, the culture of fear, mistrust and atomization.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
Collapse and reorganization, reprivatisation. Re-emergence and survival of socialist manners.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
The principles of (capitalist) free market and the relations between socialism and post-socialism.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
The individual and the community in socialism. Solidarity, familism and amoral familism.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
Consumption in socialism and postsocialism.	enhanced lecture, debate	
Nationalism and internationalism: ethnic minorities in socialist Romania, The Hungarians from Romania. The management of otherness in socialism and right after: Roma people in socialism and postsocialism.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
The power and the body on individuals: the control over the bodies and reproduction. Gender relation in socialism.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	



The principle of ideal society and the creation of new man: social engineering and the control over society.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	
Memories of a golden era: what are the lessons of socialism.	enhanced lecture, debate problem solving	

#### Bibliography

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LAMPLAND, Martha: Pigs, Party Secretaries, and Private Lives in Hungary. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 18, No. 3, Representations of Europe: Transforming State, Society, and Identity. (Aug., 1991), pp. 459–479.

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CHELCEA, Liviu: A hiány kultúrája az államszocializmus idején. Áruk, fogyasztók és stratégiák egy román faluban a nyolcvanas években. *Replika* 39. 2000, 135–157.

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8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Remarks
Alyssa Grossman, 'Memory Objects, Memory Dialogues'	Film screening, discussion about socialist memories of different generations. Heating-up for the seminar and practical tasks.	
Spontaneous, organized and stolen revolutions: the Romanian transition and its everyday interpretations	Presentation of the arguments and the main issues of the texts, discussions, debates along the text. Potential critical thoughts	
Feast, festivals, rituals, public spaces and nationalism during socialism.	Presentation of the arguments and the main issues of the texts, discussions, debates along the text. Potential critical thoughts	



The unmaking of an artificially created class: the working class and the transition. The marches of the miners (Mineriade).	Presentation of the arguments and the main issues of the texts, discussions, debates along the text. Potential critical thoughts	
The detours of the transition and the non-conventional ways of accumulation: the pyramid schemes (Caritas)	Presentation of the arguments and the main issues of the texts, discussions, debates along the text. Potential critical thoughts	
Closing remarks: where came from and whither goes. The cultural background and the long term effects of the socialism	Presentation of the arguments and the main issues of the texts, discussions, debates along the text. Potential critical thoughts	
Practical tasks: Intergenerational conversations. Film screening and discussions: Șerban Oliver Tătaru: Anatomy of a Departure Student's tasks> conducting and analyzing three interviews with persons with different backgrounds (workers, intellectuals, administrative staff), elaborating a PPT presentation and elaborating a book review.		
<p>Bibliography</p> <p>TISMĂNEANU, Vladimir et al: Revoluția din 1989. In: Tismăneanu, Vladimir et al.: Raport final. Comisia prezidențială pentru analiza dictaturii comuniste din România, București, 2006. 620–627.</p> <p>BOTTONI, Stefano: Elárult remények? Románia 1989–1990. In: <i>A várva várt Nyugat. Kelet-Európa története 1944-től napjainkig</i>. MTA BTK TTI, Budapest, 2014. 235–241.</p> <p>NOVÁK Csaba Zoltán: Forradalom és rendszerváltás Marosvásárhelyen.</p> <p>SZABÓ Á. Töhötöm: <i>Az elveszett terrort kereső pásztor. A falu, a forradalom és a terroristák</i>. Korunk, 2005. augusztus, 49–54.</p> <p>MIHĂILESCU, Vintilă: A New Festival for the New Man: The Socialist Market of Folk Experts during the 'Singing Romania' National Festival. In: Mihăilescu, Vintilă, Ilia Iliev and Slobodan Naumović (eds.): <i>Studying Peoples in the People's Democracies II: Socialist Era Anthropology in South-East Europe</i>. Lit Verlag, Berlin, 2008. 55–80.</p> <p>LÁZOK Klára: Ideológiával a mindennapokon túl. In: Bárdi Nándor (szerk.): <i>Autonóm magyarok? Székelyföld változása az „ötvenes” években</i>. Pro-Print Könyvkiadó, Csíkszereda, 2005. 479–508.</p> <p>BODÓ Julianna: Átjárési technikák a szocializmusban a társadalom privát és hivatalos szférája között. In: Bodó Julianna (szerk.) <i>Fényes tegnapunk. Tanulmányok a szocializmus korszakáról</i>. Pro-Print Könyvkiadó, Csíkszereda, 1998. 31–80.</p> <p>Különösen: Átjárási gyakorlat az ünnepi esemény kontextusában. 63–70.</p> <p>KIDECKEL, David: The Unmaking of An East-Central European Working Class: Knowledge and Sub-Alternity in Post-Socialist/Neo-Capitalist Societies. In Chris Hann (ed.): <i>Postsocialism: Ideals, Ideologies and Practices in Eurasia</i>. London: Routledge, 2001. 114-32.</p>		





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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

The discipline was designed in accordance with the curricula of the ethnology-anthropology departments of the universities of Debrecen, Szeged, Pécs, Budapest, and with the consultation of the main employers (museums, institutions and cultural organizations). to help them throughout their careers in different institutions and jobs

#### 10. Evaluation

Activity type	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Percentage of final grade
10.4 Course	Knowledge of the basic notions, capacity of critical presentation	Oral exam	50%
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	Knowledge of the basic notions	Activities during the seminars	25%
		Presentation of the individual projects	25%
10.6 Minimum standard of performance			
Knowledge of the basic notions			
Ability of individual presentation and critical evaluation of major processes			
Ability of analysing and interpreting the social phenomena			



## 11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)<sup>2</sup>

	General label for Sustainable Development						

Date:  
24. 01. 2025

Signature of course coordinator

Szabó Á. Töhötöm

Signature of seminar coordinator

Szabó Á. Töhötöm

Date of approval:  
10.02.2025

Signature of the head of department

Szabó Á. Töhötöm

<sup>2</sup> Keep only the labels that, according to the [Procedure for applying ODD labels in the academic process](#), suit the discipline and delete the others, including the general one for *Sustainable Development* – if not applicable. If no label describes the discipline, delete them all and write „Not applicable.”.





UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI  
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Date of approval  
Name and signature of Dean