

COURSE DESCRIPTION

General methods of research in Geography, the methodology and ethics of writing scientific texts

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Programme-related data

1.1. Higher Education Institution	“Babeş-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca
1.2. Faculty	Faculty of Geography
1.3. Doctoral School	Doctoral School of Geography
1.4. Field of study	Geography
1.5. Level of study	Doctoral

2. Course-related data

2.1. Course title	General methods of research in Geography, the methodology and ethics of writing scientific texts			Course code	DG1101
2.2. Course coordinator	Dr. Cheval Sorin				
2.3. Seminar coordinator	Dr. Cheval Sorin				
2.4. Year of study		2.5. Semester		2.6. Type of assessment	Exam
2.7. Course status	Compulsory		2.8. Course type	Core 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	36	of which: 3.5. course	24	3.6. seminar/ laboratory	12
Time allocation for individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)					hours
Learning from textbooks, course materials, bibliography, and notes (IS)					50
Additional research in the library, on subject-specific electronic platforms, and on-site					30
Preparing seminars/ laboratories/ projects, assignments, reports, portfolios, and essays					35
Tutoring (professional guidance)					10
Examinations					4
Other activities: two-way communication with the course coordinator					10
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)				139	
3.8. Total hours per semester				175	
3.9. Number of credits				7	

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1. curriculum-related	Not applicable
4.2 skills-related	Assimilation of the fundamental concepts of geography; ability to operate with general research methods; abstract thinking; communication skills.

5. Specific conditions (where applicable)

5.1. course-related	Laptop, multimedia projector, Internet access
5.2. seminar/laboratory-related	Laptop, multimedia projector, Internet access

6. Subject-specific learning outcomes

Knowledge
Fundamental concepts and theories of geography
Methodology of geographical research
Academic writing standards and academic ethics
Skills
Analysis and interpretation of geographical data
Writing a scientific study
Responsibility and autonomy
Compliance with academic ethics standards
Responsible work and continuous professional development

7. Contents

7.1. Course	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks ¹
UBB Code of Ethics and principles of academic ethics	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
General research methods in geography	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
Methodology for developing a scientific paper	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
Use of data and data sources	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
Bibliographic tools	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
Principles of writing the doctoral thesis	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
UBB Code of Ethics and principles of academic ethics	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
General research methods in geography	Lecture, problem-based learning, heuristic conversation	
Bibliography		
<p>Aslam, C., Moraru C.F., Raluca Paraschiv (2018), Curs de deontologie și integritate academică, Universitatea Națională de Arte, București.</p> <p>Beveridge, W.I.B., (1957), The Art of Scientific Investigation, W.W. Norton&Company-Inc. New-York.</p> <p>Chelcea, S., (2003), Metodologia elaborării unei lucrări științifice, Ed. Comunicare.ro, București.</p> <p>Day, R. A., (1989), How to write and publish a scientific paper, Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Donisă, I., (1977), Bazele teoretice și metodologice ale Geografiei, Editura Didactică și Pedagogică, București.</p> <p>Eco, U., (2000), Cum se face o teză de licență. Disciplinele umaniste, Editura Pontica 2000, 205 p.</p> <p>Hart, C. (1998). Doing a Literature Review. Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination. Londra: Sage.</p> <p>Mehedinți, S., (1930), Terra. Introducere în Geografie ca știință, Editura Fundația Națională „S. Ciornei”, București.</p> <p>Mihăilescu, V., (1968), Geografie Teoretică, Editura Academiei Române, București.</p>		

¹ For example, organisational aspects, recommendations for students, specific aspects relating to the course/seminar, such as inviting experts in the field, etc.

Papadima L., coordonator, (2018), Deontologie academică. Curriculum cadru, Editura Universității din București.		
Popper, R., K., (1981), Logica cercetării, Editura. Științ. și Encicl., București.		
Stoica, D., (2002), Curs de metode bibliografice de cercetare, Editura Universității A. I. Cuza Iași, 114 p.		
Șercan, Emilia (2017), Deontologie academica. Ghid practic, Editura Universității din București.		
7.2. Seminar/ laboratory	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks
Use of data and data sources	Lecture, explanation, exemplification	
Preparation of a scientific paper	Lecture, explanation, exemplification	
Scientific documentation and resources used	Lecture, explanation, exemplification	
Bibliography		
1. Day R. A. (1989), How to write and publish a scientific paper, Cambridge University Press 2. Umberto Eco (2000) Cum se face o teză de licență. Disciplinele umaniste, Editura Pontica 2000, 205 p. 3. Radulescu Șt. Mihaela (2011) Metodologia Cercetării științifice, Elaborarea lucrărilor de licență, masterat, doctorat, Editura Didactică și Pedagogică, 224 p. 4. Stoica Dan (2002) Curs de metode bibliografice de cercetare, Editura Universității A. I. Cuza Iași, 114 p. 5. Codul Etic și Deontologic privind Cercetarea și Publicațiile Științifice al Cercetătorilor și Cadrelor Didactice din Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, http://cbs.ot.ubbcluj.ro/files/UBB_Codul%20Etic%20si%20Deontologic.pdf 6. Publicatiile Comitetului pentru Etica in Publicatii (COPE) https://publicationethics.org 7. Albert Tim, Wager Elizabeth, 2003, How to handle authorship disputes: a guide for new researchers. https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines-new/how-handle-authorship-disputesa-guide-new-researchers 8. Wager Elizabeth, Kleinert Sabine (2010) Responsible research publication: international standards for authors. A position statement developed at the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore, July 22-24, 2010. https://publicationethics.org/files/International%20standards_authors_for%20website_11_Nov_2011.pdf		

8. Evaluation

Type of activity	8.1 Evaluation criteria ²	8.2 Evaluation methods ³	8.3 Percentage in the final grade
8.4. Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Verification of the degree of systematization and use of acquired concepts	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing assessment during the semester	30%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Logical coherence	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing assessment during the semester	10%
8.5. Seminar/ laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing a scientific article	<input type="checkbox"/> Article evaluation	60%
8.6 Minimum standard for passing			
Awarding of at least the grade "Good."			

² 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.

³ Both final evaluation methods and ongoing evaluation strategies should be established.

9. SDG labels (Sustainable Development Goals)⁴

	<input type="radio"/>	Sustainable Development Generic Label						
								
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					
								No label applies
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>					

Date of entry:
5.10.2025

Signature of course coordinator
Dr. Cheval Sorin

Signature of seminar coordinator
Dr. Cheval Sorin

Date of approval in the department:

Signature of the head of department
Prof. dr. Holobâcă Iulian-Horia

⁴ 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."