

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Information about the programme

1.1 Higher Education Institution	West University of Timisoara
1.2 Faculty	Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
1.3 Department of	Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration
1.4 Area of study	Economic Sciences and Business Administration
1.5 Level of studies	Doctoral Studies
1.6 Study Programme	Doctoral Studies

2. Discipline data

2.1 Course name	Current Economic Issues						
2.2 Course coordinator	Prof. Univ. Dr. Mutașcu Mihai-Ioan						
2.3 Seminar coordinator							
2.4 Year of study	I	2.5 Semester	I	2.6 Type of assessment	E ¹	2.7 Type of discipline	O

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

3.1 Number of hours per week	2	From which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar	
3.4 Total hours in the curriculum	2 4	From which: 3.5 course	24	3.6 seminar	
Distribution of time:					hours
Study based on instructions, course materials, bibliography and notes					50
Additional documentation library, specialized electronic platforms/field					116
Training for seminars/laboratories, homework, essays, portfolios and essays					
Tutoring					
Examinations					10
Other activities					
3.7 Total hours of private study	166				
3.8 Total hours per semester	200				
3.9. Number of credits	8				

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 of curriculum	- Acquiring fundamental knowledge, following the compulsory discipline of Pubic Finance - The PhD students will enroll in the guidance of the PhD coordinator in accordance with the individual "Scientific research program"
4.2 of competencies	Collecting, analyzing and interpreting of adanced economic models by mixing elements of economic policy with current socio-economic aspects

5. Conditions (where applicable)

¹ According to article 37, paragraph (1) of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and additions, "the academic success of a student during a study program is determined by verifying the acquisition of the expected learning outcomes through exam-type evaluations and evaluation throughout the semester".

5.1 of the course	- a percentage of minimum 80% attendance for the course activity; - Teaching online (first 4 weeks), - Teaching onsite (next 8 weeks), via: >> e-learning platform, Moodle type, at the address: https://elearning.e-uvt.ro - on the specific page of the discipline - meet.google.com/pwc-wwnj-nqt, the course support is uploaded, as well as other bibliographic materials in electronic format, in special sections created within the course page >> video conferencing application: Google Meet, at: meet.google.com/phb-ysvm-wgw - access through the exclusive use of institutional e-mail to attend lectures (courses and seminars) ; - Material base/technical conditions (computer/laptop/ notebook with functional webcam, stable Internet connection).
5.2 to lead the seminar	Not the case

6. Discipline objectives - expected learning outcomes which contribute to the completion and passing the discipline

Knowledge	Completely acquiring concepts and defining elements specific to new current economic issues, with accent on the economic modelling process
Abilities	- Initiation of PhD students in the field of current economic issues - Development of the capacities of knowledge, appreciation and valorisation of the main perspectives and dimensions of academic excellence; - Development of skills to identify the relevance of current economic models - Integration of the knowledge acquired in other disciplines in the doctoral training system in the elaboration of the individual progress reports and the use of scientific results
Responsibility and autonomy	- Execution of complex professional tasks, under conditions of professional autonomy and independence - Identifying the opportunities and ways of continuous training and the efficient use of learning resources and techniques for their own development

7. Contents

7.1 Course	Teaching methods	Observations
1. Paths of Political Development	Interactive lectures / Debate / Exposition: description, explanations, practical examples, demonstrations, case studies	Presentation of the topics, objectives, and methods of economic modeling 4 hours - onsite teaching
2. Arguments and Stylized Facts	Interactive lectures / Debate / Exposition: description, explanations, practical examples,	Presentation of the topics, objectives, and methods of economic modeling 4 hours - onsite teaching

	demonstrations, case studies	
3. Democratic Politics	Interactive lectures / Debate / Exposition: description, explanations, practical examples, demonstrations, case studies	Presentation of the topics, objectives, and methods of economic modeling 4 hours - online teaching
4. Nondemocratic Politics	Interactive lectures / Debate / Exposition: description, explanations, practical examples, demonstrations, case studies	Presentation of the topics, objectives, and methods of economic modeling 4 hours - online teaching
5. Democratization	Interactive lectures / Debate / Exposition: description, explanations, practical examples, demonstrations, case studies	Presentation of the topics, objectives, and methods of economic modeling 6 hours - online teaching
6. Economic structure, globalization and democracy	Interactive lectures / Debate / Exposition: description, explanations, practical examples, demonstrations, case studies	Presentation of the topics, objectives, and methods of economic modeling 2 hours - online teaching
Bibliography: • Acemoglu, D., Robinson, J. (2012), Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, New York: Crown Publisher, chapters 1-6 and 9-11. • Michie, J. (2017), Advanced Introduction to Globalization, Edward Elgar Publishing. • Romer, D. (2012), Advanced Macroeconomics, 4th. ed., McGraw-Hill, chapters 1-4. - Piketty, T. (2014), Capital in the 21st Century, Belknap, Cambridge.		
7.2 Seminar	Teaching methods	Observations
Bibliography:		

8. Corroboration of the course contents with the epistemic expectations of the community representative, professional associations and representative employers of the programme itself

- The content of the discipline responds to the deontological requirements of the doctoral researches in economics defined / addressed at national and international level, constituting premises for the development of the professional and academic competences of the PhD students.
- The content of the discipline is corroborated with the content of similar disciplines taught in other university centres, with the structure and content of the disciplines taught at Romanian universities, but also at other European universities.

9. Evaluation

Type of activity	9.1 Evaluation criteria	9.2 Evaluation methods	9.3 Percentage of the final mark
9.4 Course	Assessment both during the semester and the end of the semester on the correct acquisition and understanding of the issues covered during the course	Frequency of interaction during classes: active participation	100%
9.5 Seminar			
9.6 Minimum performance standards:			
• Active contribution of doctoral students in identifying the most relevant opportunities to report the results of the research activity - proving the understanding of the phenomena taught and debated in the course activities in a proportion of at least 80%			

Date of completion:

22.09.2025

Titular of the discipline:

Prof. Mihai Ioan Mutașcu, Ph.D.

Date of approval in the department:

23.09.2025.

Head of the Doctoral School:

Prof. Petru Ștefea. Ph.D.