

Seminar on State Government (F710349)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
 Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

| Offering | Language | Teaching Method | Hours |
|----------------|----------|--------------------|--------|
| A (semester 2) | Dutch | lecture | 22.5 h |
| | | lecture: plenary | 12.5 h |
| | | exercises | |
| | | guided self-study | 5.0 h |
| | | self-reliant study | 5.0 h |
| | | activities | |

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Wauters, Bram PS03 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

| Programme | crdts | offering |
|--|-------|----------|
| Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management | 5 | A |
| Linking Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management | 5 | A |

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Federal state, Communities, Regions, policy and decision-making-processes, ministerial cabinets, civil service, political parties, interest groups, Constitutional Court, Council of State

Position of the course

This seminar is set up as a seminar for specialization to familiarize students with the characteristic organization, actors & processes of and between the central governments in Belgium (the federal government and the regions and communities). Main goal of the seminar is to enhance the knowledge and insights of the organization and functioning of the central governments and of the policy- and decision-making processes within these governments. The seminar is built along an interdisciplinary approach in which (the policy processes within) the central governments will be studied from legal, management, policy and political perspectives. Students will have to assess which theoretical concepts, insights and models are applicable to the Belgian central governments. Thirdly, Students will have to do some research activities by reconstructing a policy process, implying that they will come in contact with formal documents (government agreement, parliamentary questions, policy notes, laws, decrees, ...).

Contents

This seminar builds on the insights presented in the courses ' 'Inleiding tot de bestuurskunde, 'Politologie', 'Grondwettelijk recht', 'Beleidskunde' en 'Publiek management'. Where these courses analyzed parts of the organization and/or sketched some practices at the central governmental level, this seminar is completely dedicated to a thorough and integral analysis of the central governments (Flemish and federal). Such an integral analysis is possible as we highlight policy-making processes and as we analyze the role, the organization of each of the actors involved in policy-making, as well as the relations between all the actors and organizations. All this implies that we will study the actors and processes playing in central governments from a political and administrative point of view. At first, this implies that we will have to sketch how every actor is organized and is functioning. This actual description of the outline of the politico-administrative system is necessary in

order to understand the other parts of the seminar. To fill in the actual frame, several key figures with practical experience in the federal and/or Flemish government will be invited to give guest courses about 'real' roles, relations and processes. In order to develop insights of an academic level, students will have to analyze several practices and processes and will have to confront these practical insights with academic insights and theses. These insights should be written in a paper.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of Belgian constitutional law, political science, public management and policy science. A large interest in politics and policy-making is required. Some interest in legislation and a research attitude are necessary.

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge of the the policy- and decision-making processes within the central Belgian governments .
- 2 To be able to process autonomously official documents (included legislation) of central governments in Belgium.
- 3 To be able to come to a personal opinion in current discussions about the institutional architecture and its functioning at the Flemish and Belgian level (based on theoretical and practical information)
- 4 Knowledge of the organisation of the central governments in Belgium.
- 5 Academic insights on the policy- and decision-making processes within central governments in Belgium
- 6 Academic insights on the organisation of the central governments in Belgium
- 7 Detecting similarities and dissimilarities between the central governments in Belgium and other central governments
- 8 To be able to process autonomously academic literature about the governmental organization of Belgium and about the policy- and decision-making processes that take place within these governments.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture, self-reliant study activities, lecture: plenary exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

For this course, it is necessary to be present during the lessons.

The seminar will alternate formal lectures with more interactive ways of teaching. Next, guest lecturers will give practice-based examples and will reflect critically upon the roles, relations and processes in the 'real' world. The lecturer will use the electronic learning platform for the delivery of texts and documents. During the seminar, students will have to write two papers.

In an individual comment paper, students have to apply the knowledge from the formal and guest lectures and from the academic literature to a recent discussion about the Belgian practice

In a policy paper, students have to reconstruct parts of a policy-process with particular attention for the development of the process and the role of several actors in it. A list of possible policy processes and possible actors will be provided by the lecturer. This policy paper is a group work. A presentation and a round of questions will allow the lecturer to test knowledge about the topic of the course, enabling him to diversify the marks within each group

Learning materials and price

The required literature or references to this literature will be put at the disposal of the students

References

Course content-related study coaching

The asking of questions in the course will be stimulated. After the exam, feedback can be given about specific assignments.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

This seminar will be evaluated on the 2 papers and a presentation.

The individual comment paper is evaluated on the next criteria: redaction and lay-out, an accurate sketch of the discussed and/or presented concepts and insights/roles/relations, use of lectures and guest lectures, quality of the personal judgements.

The policy paper is evaluated on: accuracy of the process analysis and quality of the analysis of the external advices.

The presentation is evaluated by assessing the insights and the completeness of the answers

The exam in the second examination period will consist of a correction of the paper(s) (depending on the deficiencies). The marks of the part for which the student passed, will be transposed to the second exam period.

Calculation of the examination mark

individual paper: 4 points

group paper: 10 points

presentation: 6 points

Students who do not participate to the evaluation of one or more parts cannot pass the course. If the total score is a mark of 10 or more out of 20, the total score will be reduced to the highest failing mark (9/20)