

Society and Politics: Practice (F710352)

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

A (semester 2)	Dutch	group work	30.0 h
		PDE tutorial	15.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Wauters, Bram	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Politics, political science

Position of the course

The seminar's aim is to train students in summarising and analysing of political science texts about a topical issue in political science, formulating research questions on that topics, and gathering and analyzing empirical data in order to answer these questions. Besides building the skills necessary for processing, summarizing and analysing of political science texts, the seminar also focuses on concepts, knowledge and research methods.

Contents

The seminar focuses on a topical political problem and its sub themes by studying political research as documented in scientific publications. The issue studied changes on a yearly basis but always addresses a problem marking today's Belgian politics and the Belgian political science community.

Initial competences

Basic Knowledge 'Politicologie' and 'Inleiding onderzoeksmethoden'

Final competences

- 1 Ability to analyse, summarise, understand and use political-scientific texts
- 2 Ability to set up a supervised and limited research project in relation to a current topic (in group).
- 3 The ability to communicate in a scientific fashion about a societal and political problem (basis level).
- 4 • processing the information of scientific texts: the ability to write a scientific paper based on political science texts
- 5 • Ability to select relevant research questions
- 6 • Ability to figure out how existing data can be used to answer research questions, and effectively doing so.
- 7 • Ability to gather extra information by using interviews

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

Group work, PDE tutorial

Extra information on the teaching methods

It is necessary to be present during the course sessions.

1. Paper: group work processing the reader Limited number of ex cathedra sessions.

The

reader includes a limited number of scientific texts dealing with the selected topic; a number of potential

research questions are provided by the lecturers. Each group will afterwards collect more information on the topic by conducting an interview, and by running analyses on an existing dataset. All this will result in scientifically based answer to the research questions.

The content of the paper will be:

- theoretical framework
- research questions
- simple statistical analyses based on existing datasets
- analysis of interview
- conclusions with feed-back to the research questions

2. Presentation:

Each group will present the conclusions of their paper. This allows to evaluate to what extent students are familiar with the concepts and findings of their paper. In addition, it allows to differentiate marks between students of the same group.

Learning materials and price

Reader (on the electronic learning environment)

References

Course content-related study coaching

Plenary sessions, group feedback and individual guidance at simple request of the student.

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

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

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

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

Students are evaluated as followed:

A) Final version of the paper (85 %); Criteria for evaluation::

- 1 correct use of concepts;
- 2 appropriate use of scientific literature
- 3 quality and structure of the theoretical framework
- 4 link between theoretical framework and research questions
- 5 quality of the data gathering (interview)
- 6 quakity of the data analysis
- 7 quality of the conclusions
- 8 structure of the paper;
- 9 references;
- 10 language and style.

B) presentation (15 %): evaluation based on knowledge and comprehension of the analysis, as comes forward from the presentation and from answers to specific questions.

In the second exam period an individual task is given (dependent of the parts of the seminar for which the student did not pass).

Calculation of the examination mark

Paper: 85 %

Bibliographic note: 15 %