Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Seminar on Local Government (F710354)

Course

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
De Rynck, Filip
EB25 lecturer-in-charge

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019
A (semester 2) Dutch
lecture 31.25 h
decision 7.5 h
guided self-study 2.5 h
self-reliant study activities 1.25 h
group work 2.5 h

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019
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
Local government and local governance; policy making in local government; interaction between formal institutions and rules in use.

Position of the course
This course is a specialized one, focussing on the regime of local government and local governance. We offer an in-depth analysis of the functioning of local government which is the result of a mix of interactions between politicians and public officials and of interactions between public authorities and the public. The use of the concept regime is no coincidence: local governance is influenced by a specific set of variables. Local government is part of the organisation of public administration and is embedded in those institutions, while local government is also embedded in a specific local environment with own contingent institutions.

Contents
The course starts with a panoramic overview of local government from an international perspective.
The second part is a thorough analysis of the Belgian constitution and the way local government is institutionalised in the complex process of state reform.
The third part is an analysis of competencies of local government, the way local government is organised and the internal functioning of local government.
The fourth part is more management oriented: the finances of local government and the trends concerning management of personnel.
The last part focuses on the interaction between politicians and public officials.

Initial competences
Introduction to Public Administration and Policy Studies, Administrative Law.

Final competences
Knowledge of the capacity for analysing local policy processes.
Academic attitude: research capacities, problem analysing and problem solving.

Conditions for credit contract

(Approved)
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, excursion, group work, lecture, self-reliant study activities.

Extra information on the teaching methods
Courses, guest speakers and study visits.
Group work: analysing ten cases of integrated problems.

Learning materials and price
reader

References

Course content-related study coaching
Questions can be asked about the lectures and the group work.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
The cases of each group are discussed in a final hearing.

Calculation of the examination mark