Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Social Work and Social Policy (H002069)

Course

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
De Corte, Joris

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019
A (semester 1)
Dutch
seminar: coached exercises
3.75 h
group work
3.75 h
lecture
37.5 h

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

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<th>Programme</th>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Social Work and Social Welfare Studies</td>
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<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Sociology</td>
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Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Political role of social work, actors in social policy, logics of social policy

Position of the course

This course aims to enhance insights of students in the Master of Social Work about the administrative, institutional, economic, legal, ... context in which social policy is shaped and the strategies upon which social workers might rely to influence the development, implementation and/ or evaluation of social policy.

Contents

This course highlights how rather abstract issues about the redistribution of societal resources come to the foreground in the daily practice of social work. We focus on the political role of social workers and their quest for linking the individual and more structural dimension of their profession. During this course, we rely on the following approach for enhancing knowledge about processes, instruments, actors and logics through which social policy is enacted in today’s society:

• About the origins, meaning and challenging of logics in policy
• Challenges for governments as the key actor with regard to social policy
• Social Policy and the law: the judiciary as a touchstone
• The (lack of) power of civil society organizations: balancing between service delivery and advocacy
• In search for citizens’ voices in the policy process: about (in)direct democracy and the meaning of populism
• The Market and social policy: a true or false contradiction?
• Social Policy in times of globalization and international trade: who is paying the bills?

Initial competences

Final competences

1. Acquiring insight about processes, instruments, actors and logics for developing and implementing social policies
2. The ability to perform a thorough analysis of social policy in its broadest sense
3. Learning to understand the background of current social problems by relying on a multidisciplinary perspective and combining insights from the field of social work with those developed in public administration, economics, sociology, political philosophy,
4 Being able to position himself/herself as a social worker vis-à-vis current societal problems and future challenges for social policy

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, lecture, seminar: coached exercises

Learning materials and price

• Reader.
• Notes of lessons are available on MINERVA.
• Cost: 25 EUR

References

• Beck, U. (2015), De wereldrisicomaatschappij: op zoek naar de verloren zekerheid, Amstderam: Wereldbibliotheek
• Frissen, P.H.A. (2013), De Fatale Staat: over de politiek noodzakelijke verzoening met tragie, Amsterdam: Van Gennep
• Hoogerwerf, A. (2008), Overheidsbeleid: Een inleiding in de Beleidswetenschap
• Raes, K & Vandendriessche, Van Rechtswege(n): politieke en rechtsfilosofische stromingen door de eeuwen heen.
• Terpstra, M. (2012), Onenigheid en gemeenschap: basisboek politieke filosofie
Handboek Bestuurskunde: Organisatie en Werking van het Openbaar Bestuur.
• Vos, H. (2008), De Impact van de Europese Unie: Beleidsterreinen, strijdpunten en uitdagingen

Course content-related study coaching
• Interactive support using MINERVA.
• Seminars
• Individual feedback on examination (during feedback day) and on exercise (during the semester).

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written 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
Non-periodical evaluation: working paper

Calculation of the examination mark
A combination of periodic (90%) and permanent (10%) evaluation. Students who eschew one or more parts of the evaluation can no longer pass the course. Final scores will be reduced to the highest non-deliberative quotation (7/20) in case the final score is higher.