

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2014-2015

## Seminar Conflict and Development in a Global World (K001006)

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 1)	English	lecture	10.0 h
		PDE tutorial	20.0 h
		seminar	15.0 h

### Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Parker, Christopher	PS05	lecturer-in-charge
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### Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Global Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Sociology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme Global Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences</a>	5	A

### Teaching languages

English

### Keywords

Qualitative research methods and design; fieldwork; ethnography; political geography; sociology of associations; genealogy; conflict and development; area studies

### Position of the course

This course is required for students enrolled in the Major Conflict and Development in a Global World (Master Sociology). It is available to students with a degree in a relevant discipline of the social sciences or humanities. The course is designed to prepare students for a research-related career, enrollment in the Advanced-Master Program "Conflict and Development," or - in exceptional cases - a fieldwork-based PhD dissertation project (M.1.4; M.6.1; M.6.2). The course is designed to consolidate and advance a tradition of critical, ethnographic fieldwork within the faculty of political and social sciences at Ghent University.

### Contents

Fieldwork - the practical application of qualitative research methods - is fundamental to revealing and understanding the forces and assumptions that shape the political world. Indeed, even the most explicitly quantitative research design rests on (frequently undisclosed) qualitative assumptions (M.1.3). This course provides an advanced exploration into the theory, technique and practice of fieldwork, and demonstrates the relevance of fieldwork to salient themes of contemporary social and political science. Special attention will be given to the latest trends in ethnographic research (e.g. global/multi-sited ethnography, genealogical method, biopolitics, concern with spatial production, anthropology of the state, and the influence of network and actor-network theories) (M.1.1). The course will also explore the notion of "research in the wild:" i.e., the possibility of doing research without reference to assumptions and categories that perhaps say more about the assumptions that underpin social science than about the particularities of lived political experience at any given moment in place and time (M.5.1-M.5.4). These points will be made in relation to concrete examples of how these methods and insights inform (and in some cases critically interrogate) the actual practice of fieldwork. Students will also be expected to deploy these insights and methods in practice via the design and execution of group research projects (M.2.1 - M.2.5; M.4.2). Students will be evaluated both on the basis of the preparation and presentation of an original research project (60%) and a written final exam (40%).

## Initial competences

Ba in a relevant Social Science (e.g. History, Area Studies, Political Science or Sociology)

## Final competences

- \* Master the basic concepts of ethnographic and qualitative method
- \* Balance the strengths and weaknesses of these methods in the field
- \* Engage critically with the social science literature on method and methodology
- \* Engage critically with theories and practices associated with the production of knowledge about the political world

## 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

Lecture, PDE tutorial, seminar

## Extra information on the teaching methods

+introductory lectures

## Learning materials and price

Articles and book chapters

## References

- Sharma, A. and Gupta, A. (2006), *The anthropology of the state: a reader*, Malden : Blackwell.
- Das, V. and Poole, D (2004). *Anthropology in the margins of the state*, Santa Fee (N. M.) : School of American research press.
- Greenhouse, J. et al. eds (2005), *Ethnography in Unstable Places: Everyday Lives in Contexts of Dramatic Political Change*, Durham, NC, Duke University Press.
- Steinmetz, George ed. (2005). *The Politics of Methods in the Social Sciences: Positivism and its Epistemological Others*, Durham, Duke University Press.
- Chatterjee, P. (2004), *The politics of the governed : reflections on popular politics in the modern world*. New York, Chichester, West Sussex, Columbia University Press.

## Course content-related study coaching

- \* Interactive support through Minerva (forum, e-mail)
- \* During regular office hours
- \* Department-related tutoring: library, research by the Conflict Research Group and MENARG

## 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

Oral examination, assignment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

## Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment :Research proposal (15%); research presentation (15%); paper (30%);  
Periodic assessment : written exam (40%)

## Calculation of the examination mark

A combination of continuous (60%) and periodic assessment (40%)