

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits	12.0	Study time	360 h	Contact hrs	140.0 h
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Course offerings in academic year 2018-2019

A (year)	Dutch
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Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

De Ceuninck, Koenraad	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
Bouteca, Nicolas	PS03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

Bachelor of Science in Political Science	crdts	offering
	12	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

professional training, practical experience, BA paper, research, federal, regional and local politics

Position of the course

The objective of the professional training is to offer students an organized and guided view behind the screens of the daily functioning of federal, regional and local politics. Through the training students are acquainted with the social reality to which the theories, models and studies they get to know in other educational components refer to. In other words, what is at issue here is getting experience in the empirical situation of daily politics and discovering the relevance and use value of politicological insights. Students have to confront empirical reality and theoretical views with each other and find out to which extent the empirically discovered processes may be approached or explained with the appropriate theories from political sciences. This happens by way of solving a specific research problem fitted to the training. Relation to educational competences: B.1.1 ; B.1.2 ; B.1.4 ; B.1.6 ; B.1.7 ; B.2.1 ; B.2.2 ; B.2.3 ; B.2.4 ; B.2.5 ; B.3.1 ; B.3.2 ; B.3.3 ; B.4.1 ; B.4.2 ; B.4.3 ; B.5.1 ; B.5.2 ; B.6.1

Contents

By way of a temporary, active and goal-oriented participation students are able to get relevant knowledge and experience in the practical functioning of the political occupation. Students personally draw up a political sciences research question, which they will answer on the basis of their training in a research paper. In this BA paper students need to critically demonstrate in which way this experience contributed to their education as Bachelor of Arts in the Political Sciences. In this, the training serves as a case study of a general political sciences research question. For the practical implementation of the internship, we refer to the internship brochure that is made available to the students every academic year. It contains all the guidelines and agreements that exist with regard to the the internship.

Initial competences

necessary:
Only students 3BA in the Political Sciences, Main Subject – Belgian Politics can enroll for this training.

Final competences

- 1 To have further developed general social skills (such as flexibility, punctuality, etc.).
- 2 To have learned to work in a team.
- 3 To have learned how to formulate and operationalize a scientific research question.
- 4 To be able to construct a case study.

- 5 To be able to test and evaluate politicological theories.
- 6 To confront theory and empirical findings.
- 7 To have developed research skills.
- 8 To be able to write a scientific researchpaper and defend it orally.
- 9 To have enhanced their independency and sense of responsibility.
- 10 To be able to deepen and critically test theoretical insights about the functioning of Belgian politics by way of a case study.
- 11 To have learned how to apply and assess national and international scientific literature.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Fieldwork, self-reliant study activities

Learning materials and price

None

References

None

Course content-related study coaching

During the professional training, students will be intensively monitored by a person in charge of the training at the Department of Political Sciences (academic staff members, academic assisting personnel, scientific staff members in the fields of study of Belgian and local politics) and by a training mentor at the location of the training. The rights and duties of all parties involved will be drawn up in a training contract, distributed to and signed by all those involved. All parties will have an extensive training brochure at their disposal.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Job performance assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The final evaluation is done on the basis of a combination of the BA paper, linked to the training, the oral defence of this paper, the log book students are required to keep, the different evaluation forms that are kept both by the student and by the training mentor, the evaluation by the person in charge of the training and the submitted project proposal in which students are required to clearly describe the objective of the training and the research questions that need to be answered. Combination of non-periodic and periodic assessment. In keeping with article 72 of the exam regulations, and due to the specific nature of this educational component, there is no opportunity for a second exam for the component consisting in the training. The training is organized within the limits of the year system. The training will take place in the first semester, from Monday to Thursday.

Written (paper) and oral (defence).

The training is followed by an oral defence of the BA paper before an examination jury. This jury will be composed of the course titulars, the person in charge of the training stage, and if necessary also the training mentor.

For the written paper and oral defence, criteria obtain concerning the way in which students have involved the training in their answering of the scientific research question.

Central to this evaluation is, in other words, the way in which students are able to build in an exchange between theoretical knowledge and practical experiences and how they are able to operationalize a scientific research question.

There is no second opportunity at examination for the training. There is, however, one for the BA paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

Training 40%, research paper 60%.