Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course
Political Sociology (K001026)

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Hustinx, Lesley

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Sociology)
Master of Science in Sociology

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Citizenship studies, social theory, social change, classical and contemporary citizenship conceptions, civil society and voluntary associations, political and social participation, sociology of the nonprofit sector and volunteering

Position of the course
This course is part of the module Political Sociology in the master Sociology. Its main aim is to gain advanced insight in classical and contemporary social theory on the theme of citizenship. In addition, students acquire insight in how citizenship conceptions and practices change as a consequence of recent processes of social change. Key current issues are explored by means of recent empirical research and actual examples. By means of activating teaching techniques, students are encouraged to critically reflect upon and discuss these issues.

Contents
The course aims at an advanced insight in theories and empirical research within the emerging and interdisciplinary field of citizenship studies. In a first part, students are introduced to key political-philosophical approaches to citizenship (liberal, republican, communitarian, radical-democratic), and they gain insight in the fundamental characteristics of the modern citizenship ideal (the territorial boundaries of the nation-state, citizenship as a legal, political, and social status). In the second part, contemporary developments in the conception and nature of citizenship are examined. The central point of departure is the sociological observation that modern citizenship is eroding/transforming as a result of recent social transformations (globalization, individualization, migration, ICT ...). Present-day citizenship can no longer be considered merely as a formal-legal status, but becomes manifest in a diversity of citizenship practices, identities, meanings, and new claims for inclusion. Furthermore, the national boundaries of citizenship are being challenged, and a complex interplay between classical, nationally bound citizenship rights on the one hand, and universal human rights on the other. Fundamental contemporary challenges are also related to the (alleged) withdrawal of citizens from public life, the trend of reducing social citizenship, as well as new technologies to govern the thoughts, feelings and behavior of citizens. Current theory and empirical research on these evolutions will be dealt with, complemented with actual examples.

(Approved)
Initial competences
Bachelor sociology or equivalent

Final competences
1 Insight in classical and contemporary social theory related to the theme of citizenship
2 Insight in recent developments in citizenship conceptions and practices
3 Be able to situate and interpret empirical research findings on current citizenship issues
4 Be able to situate and critically analyse contemporary citizenship issues using the theoretical perspectives discussed in the course
5 To analyse and discuss the societal consequences of developments in the field
6 To be able to approach the societal discourse and policy with regard to citizenship in a critical manner

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, microteaching, seminar: coached exercises

Learning materials and price
- Reader with articles and book chapters (estimated price: 10-15 euros)
- Handouts of presentations on Minerva
- Students’ own notes

References

Course content-related study coaching
- Interactive through Minerva
- By appointment

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Oral examination, participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
Periodical evaluation: oral examination with written preparation
Permanent evaluation:
- Oral examination: microteaching (prepare and teach a class based on texts from the reader)
- Participation: during the microteaching, during applied classes

Calculation of the examination mark
Periodical examination: 70%
Permanent evaluation: 30%