

Physical Environment and Development (C001623)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 50.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture: response lecture self-reliant study activities lecture	7.5 h 8.75 h 33.75 h
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Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Lanckriet, Sil WE12 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (main subject Geography)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology (main subject Geography and Geomatics)	5	A
Master of Science in Geography and Geomatics	5	A
Master of Science in Geography	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Political ecology, Global Change, Human impact on the environment

Position of the course

This course aims to provide students insights into recent scientific perspectives on the complex interactions between human development/society/economy on the one hand and the bio-physical environment on the other hand. In doing so, the course aims to spell out some of the analytical connections between the major sub-disciplines within contemporary scientific geography.

Contents

The first part of the course (1) presents an overview of the changes in the metatheoretical frameworks geographers have used to define and study human/environment interactions, in which (2) special attention will be paid to the main new theoretical interfaces used in studies of these interactions ('political ecology' and 'social nature'). In the second part, these new interfaces will be illustrated by means of a critical evaluation of a number of concrete cases, including climate change, water problems, the so-called 'green economy', climate policy, perspectives on nature reserves, land use and environmental management in Flanders, and environmental degradation in Ethiopia and Bolivia.

Initial competences

The student has knowledge at the Bachelor level in the field of Earth Sciences

Final competences

- 1 The ability to use the major metatheoretical frameworks to understand, recognise and interpret human/environment-interactions.
- 2 Differentiate between natural and anthropogenic causes of environmental changes and to understand the interactions between these causes.
- 3 Critically evaluate the abundant information about these topics in the media and on the Internet.

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, self-reliant study activities, lecture: response lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

In the first part of this course, students will be introduced to the main analytical frameworks by means of formal lectures drawing on the reference works of Robbins (2004) and Castree & Braun (2001). In the second part, these frameworks will be illustrated by drawing on concrete cases. These lectures will consist of a combination of formal lectures, group discussions, and guided self-study where students need to analyse a number of texts and/or videos.

Learning materials and price

For the first part (available as pdf):

- Castree, N., B. Braun (eds.) 2001. Social nature: theory, practice and politics. Oxford and Malden: Blackwell.
- Robbins, P. (2004) Political ecology: A critical introduction. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

For the second part, pdf-based course material will be made available via Ufora.

Estimated total cost: 20 EUR

References

Castree, N., B. Braun (eds.) 2001. Social nature: theory, practice and politics. Oxford and Malden: Blackwell.

Robbins, P. (2004) Political ecology: A critical introduction. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive coaching during lectures, via Ufora, and office consultation hours. Guidance during individual coursework will be done by teaching assistants.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical evaluation: oral examination with written preparation.

Non-periodical evaluation: evaluation of a paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

Students must pass for the periodical (4/5) and the non-periodical (1/5) evaluation moments to be able to pass for this course: if a student would in principle receive an overall satisfactory grade according to the standard calculation of the final score but does not pass for one both evaluation moments (i.e. <10), then she/he receives a final score of 9. Partial exemptions for the second exam period will be granted.