

Belgian Federalism (K000080)

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	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
Credits 5.0	Study time 150 h	Contact hrs	45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	group work	32.5 h
			excursion	1.25 h
			lecture	8.75 h
			microteaching	2.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Bouteca, Nicolas	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Political Science)	5	A
Master of Science in Political Science (main subject National Politics)	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Federalism, regionalism, state reform, federation, Belgian politics, Communities and Regions, community relations, nationalism.

Position of the course

This course is an introduction to the study of federalism, in particular of Belgian federalism. The course aims to familiarize students with the basic concepts of federalism, and specifically with the ways in which these took shape in Belgian federalism. Attention is paid to the way in which Belgian federalism was given shape through consecutive state reforms and to the basic mechanisms of Belgian federalism. After a general introduction on federalism the course studies the typical characteristics of Belgian federalism by analyzing the subsequent reforms of the state. Students gather basic insight on the functioning of the Belgian federation.

This is also attained by a presentation (in group) to the other students in which the students explain how another (than the Belgian) federation works. The purpose of this exercise in comparative federalism is twofold. First of all, students learn about other federations. Next to that it helps to get a more profound understanding of the functioning and specificities of the Belgian federation.

Relation to the educational competences: M.1.1, M.1.3, M.1.5, M.1.6, M.1.7, M.2.1, M.2.2, M.3.1, M.3.2, M.3.3, M.4.3, M.5.1, M.5.2, M.6.1

Contents

In this course we will take a closer look at the meaning of, and variations in, federalism, in particular at the causal conditions and characteristics of Belgian federalism. Guest speakers will go into detail on specific and contemporary discussions on the Belgian federation. Finally, through a series of courses by the students, the Belgian federation is put in a comparative perspective.

Initial competences

suggested:

To have successfully completed the educational components 'Political Science' and 'Belgian Public Law' or to have acquired the competences targeted in these

components in another way.

Final competences

- 1 To know and understand the concept of federalism.
- 2 To have acquired basic knowledge of the different variations in the manifestations of federalism.
- 3 To be able to reproduce, assess and evaluate the course of the Belgian federalization process.
- 4 To be aware of the complexity of Belgian federalism, of its specific causal conditions, of the reasons for its persistence.
- 5 To be able to compare, assess and analyze Belgian federalism, in particular as a method of conflict management.
- 6 To be able to present to fellow students how Belgian federalism relates to other federations and to be able to discuss about it

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

Excursion, group work, lecture, microteaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

including guest speakers (with interactive input from students)

Learning materials and price

Cost: 25.0 EUR

Annually updated handbook on federalism and on the subsequent phases of state reform in Belgium.

References

See reader and online bibliography.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through MINERVA and by way of email, with prof. Devos and a member of his staff

Personally, during office hours, by appointment.

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 in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Students cannot elude non-periodic assessment.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic assessment (70%)

Non-periodic assessment (30%, presentation)

In order to pass the student must participate in periodic (PE) as well as the nonperiodical evaluation (NPE). Students who withdraw from the NPE cannot pass the course. However, they retain the right to participate in the periodical examinations. The examination for these students will be capped in the first and second session on 9/20.