

## Introduction to Political Sciences (K000095)

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.

<b>Course size</b>	<i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i>		
<b>Credits</b> 6.0	<b>Study time</b> 180 h	<b>Contact hrs</b>	45.0 h

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	online discussion group	2.5 h
			guided self-study	2.5 h
			self-reliant study activities	10.0 h
			lecture	30.0 h

### Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Devos, Carl	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
Bouteca, Nicolas	PS03	co-lecturer

### Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	6	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Communication Science	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Sociology	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject International Politics)	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject National Politics)	6	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in EU-Studies	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject International Politics)	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject National Politics)	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in EU-Studies	6	A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Introduction, political sciences, politicology

### Position of the course

This introductory course is intended for the first year and requires no prior knowledge. The objective is to provide an introductory overview of the research questions, the perspectives, and the central topics in politicology; to elucidate the proper and

distinctive features of politicalology; to point out the most important basic works and to enable students to gain insight into the current state of Belgian politics.

## Contents

The course consists of fourteen chapters, about the following topics: politics, ideologies, power, elites, political participation, political parties, parliament and state, government and implementation or administration of policy, administration and public administration, democracy and elections, international and European politics. In addition, current topics of Belgian domestic politics are explained during lectures. In doing so, students' knowledge of, and insight into, the concrete functioning of a political system, to wit, the Belgian system, is enhanced, while general politicalological discussions are made concrete. Later, students are required to personally follow up on these issues by way of the media. In this way, they are forced to go and look for the relevance of theoretical insights to the understanding of political practice, in order to provide a dialogue between theory and experience.

## Initial competences

None

## Final competences

- 1 To show insight into the language, perspectives, theories, research questions and central topics in general politicalology and to be able to handle this knowledge creatively.
- 2 To have insight into current events of Belgian politics.
- 3 to be able to critically analyze current national and international situations and interpret these from a politicalological perspective.
- 4 to be able to translate social problems into politicalological issues.
- 5 To be able to critically analyze politicalological problems.
- 6 To be able to link up politicalology with other sciences.
- 7 To be able to approach fashionable views, policy and social events in a critical manner.
- 8 To be able to discuss the ethical and normative aspects of the effects and presuppositions of scientific thought and action.
- 9 To have insight into the social role and relevance of politicalology and those who practice it and of the current political issues.

## Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

## Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

## Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture, online discussion group, self-reliant study activities

## Extra information on the teaching methods

- hoorcollege: 30
- begeleide zelfstudie: 2,5
- online discussiegroep: 2,5
- zelfstandig werk: 10

## Learning materials and price

"Een plattgrond van de macht. Inleiding tot de politiek en de politieke wetenschappen" (C. Devos (red.), Academia Press, Gent (updated yearly) Written in Dutch. Estimated price: 40 EUR

Slides (powerpoint presentations) presented during lectures (available on Ufora)

Personal lecture notes

For this course, students are requested to follow up on a number of current events files in the media. This is, if necessary, possible without charge by way of Gopress.

## References

See references textbook and slides (see Ufora).

**Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive support through Ufora and Monitoraat  
During regular office hours – By appointment  
Faculty Tutoring Service

**Evaluation methods**

end-of-term evaluation

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

Written examination with open questions, written examination with multiple choice questions

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

Written examination with open questions, written examination with multiple choice questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation****Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**

examination during the second examination period is not possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam with open questions and multiple choice questions.

In case of open questions there is a limitation of the space for answers. These open questions contain overview-focused questions (reproduction), comparison-focused questions and/or application questions.

The multiple choice questions contain questions on central terms and concepts and on the current affairs of Belgian domestic politics.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodic (100%)