

## Contemporary Issues in Belgian Politics (K001137)

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 45.0 h

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

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture	30.0 h
			microteaching	7.5 h
			guided self-study	7.5 h

### Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Kern, Anna	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
Bouteca, Nicolas	PS03	co-lecturer

### 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

Current developments, Belgian politics, collective bargaining, labour unions, neocorporatism, elections, political marketing, political communication

### Position of the course

This course aims to provide students with a deeper insight into political processes of Belgian politics (e.g. collective bargaining, elections, political marketing ...) and to further familiarize them with current developments on this matter.

This course is in keeping with the following competences of the degree program for Masters of Arts in political science: M. 1.2., M. 1.3., M. 1.4, M. 2.1., M. 3.2., M. 3.3., M. 4. 3. en M. 5.2

### Contents

the content of this educational component is co-determined by current events. The topics that dominate the current debate in Belgian politics will be discussed and situated in a larger context. Both classic and current issues will be addressed, such as neocorporatism, collective bargaining, elections, (permanent) campaigning, political marketing. By making use of guest lecturers and scientific literature specific actual discussions are more profoundly addressed.

### Initial competences

To have successfully completed the educational component: 'Political Science' or to have acquired the competences targeted in these components in another way.

### Final competences

- 1 To have knowledge of, and insight into, the functioning of important processes of Belgian politics.
- 2 Gaining insight in political theory-building and scientific research concerning the topics treated.
- 3 Having a critical attitude about towards the political process in Belgium, politics in general and oneself as a political scientist.
- 4 To be able to think independently about political sciences research, and to be able to formulate and defend a personal opinion
- 5 To be able to make a critical assessment of recent political evolutions and to be able

to situate these in their context.

- 6 To be able to present a critical analysis of current developments to fellow students and to be able to enter in debate on these issues.

#### 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

Guided self-study, lecture, microteaching

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

Based on the introductory courses and the specialized literature the students must autonomously conduct a SWOT analysis of a political organisation (trade union, employer's association, political party, government agency, etc.). Therefore the students must autonomously process the specialized scientific literature and conduct at least one interview with someone from this organization. The result of the analysis will afterwards be presented in group to the other students and discussed with them. By applying the theory on a concrete and self chosen case the students will be challenged to read the supplied literature, but also to analyze and reflect critically on it.

*As a result of COVID19 alternative didactic methods can be used*

#### Learning materials and price

Student s' personal lecture notes

Reader (texts on UFORA)

Slides are made available through Minerva

#### References

Cf. reader

#### Course content-related study coaching

During office hours by appointment

UFORA

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination, assignment

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

Written examination, assignment

#### 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

Continuous:

Based on the introductory courses and the specialized literature the students must autonomously conduct a SWOT analysis of a political organisation (trade union, employer's association, political party, government agency, etc.). Therefore the students must autonomously process the specialized scientific literature and conduct at least one interview with someone from this organization. The result of the analysis will afterwards be presented in group to the other students and discussed with them. The SWOT analysis as well as the participation during the courses in which the analyses are presented, are part of the NPE.

Periodic:

The final piece will be established at the written exam, where the students will be asked to write a scientific essay based on one of two provided propositions that are related to the topics discussed in the lectures and discussions. During the year they will get a brief exposition on how to structure and substantiate a scientific essay. The goal is to take part in social debate based on scientific arguments.

In order to pass the student must participate in periodic (PE) as well as the non-

periodical evaluation (NPE). Students who withdraw from one or more parts of the NPE are not passed NPE and therefore 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.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous (40%) and periodic (60%)  
Students cannot elude continuous assessment.