

Democracy and Participation (K001138)

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	25.0 h
			self-reliant study activities	20.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Kern, Anna	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
Wauters, Bram	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 Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Sociology)	5	A
Master of Science in Political Science (main subject National Politics)	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

political and administrative sciences, sociology, public-law
Citizen, government, participation, trust, civil society, organisations

Position of the course

The relationship between citizens and government is multifaceted and has recently been put under pressure. Due to amongst others a low level of trust, the representative democracy is in crisis. Both governments and ordinary citizens have therefore taken initiatives to involve citizens more and more directly in the policy making process. The goal of this course is to elucidate the relationship between citizen and government and to understand, to interpret and to see through negative and positive consequences of the instruments and mechanisms developed to improve this relationship. On the basis of the participation ladder, these processes are subsequently treated, both the rather classic instruments initiated by the government and more new forms of involvement often originated from citizens themselves. Apart from this, the course also pays attention to the relationship between members and elite in organizations and political parties

Contents

1. Introduction: definition and analytic framework citizen & government
2. From government to citizen:
 - Transparency policy
 - Public communication
 - Ombudsmen
 - Referenda Etc.
3. From citizen to government:
 - Action (manifestations, ...)
 - Interactive policy-making

•Etc.

4. Organisations: Relationship members-elite

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of political science and public management

Final competences

- 1 Understanding the bottlenecks in the relationship between citizen and government, and the proposed solutions
- 2 Being familiar with the relevant core concepts and theories about this topic

- 3 Understanding techniques used to facilitate the interaction between citizens and government and being able to evaluate possible implications

- 4 Understanding topical issues on the relationship between citizen and government, and being able to formulate a position in these discussion by providing arguments.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Partly formal lectures with active involvement of the students, partly guest speakers confronting theoretical knowledge with practice. There also is a paper assignment for which students study one particular participation instrument in depth, and an essay assignment in which students take a position in a topical discussion.

Learning materials and price

Reader with scientific texts and slides made accessible on the electronic platform.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Asking questions during the colleges is encouraged. Asking extra explanation on an individual basis afterwards is possible.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination

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

Written 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

Paper (40 %)

Written exam (40 %): open questions about theory and applications

Essay (20 %)

Second exam period: those students who did not pass for (one of) the paper assignments or for the exam, have to write a new paper and/or a new essay, or to redo

their exam

Calculation of the examination mark

Paper (40 %)

Written exam (40 %)

Essay (20 %)