

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

Seminar in Political Science (K001220)

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 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

A (year)	Dutch	Gent		
			lecture	10.0 h
			seminar: coached	1.25 h
			exercises	
			guided self-study	3.75 h
			self-reliant study	28.75 h
			activities	
			seminar: practical PC	1.25 h
			room classes	

Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

Verhelst, Tom	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
De Cordier, Bruno	PS05	co-lecturer
Delputte, Sarah	PS03	co-lecturer
Haesebrouck, Tim	PS03	co-lecturer
Kern, Anna	PS03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject National Politics)	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Political Science (main subject National Politics)	6	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

political sciences, literature study

Position of the course

The first intention of this course is to familiarize the student with the most important literature in political science. In other words, it is an important preparation for making all sorts of papers further in the course where the student is often confronted with the question: where can I find which information? To this end, it is necessary to go into the theoretical and applied way of using literature in political-scientific research (looking up, processing and referring to literature).

Furthermore, this course deals with the essence of academic writing. Several elements are discussed:

- How do you design a good status questionis?
- How do you place your own research in the wider research field?
- In which way are good research questions built up?
- How are these research questions developed?
- How do you design your own research design?

The material acquired in lectures and other educational forms is used in practical exercises, the most important of which consists of writing a scientific qualitative paper on a theme in political science chosen by the student.

Relationship with the training competences:

- Competences in political science: B.1.1; B.1.6 and B.1.7
- Scientific competences: B.2.1; B.2.2 and B.2.5
- Intellectual competence: B.3.1 and B.3.3
- Competent in collaboration and communication: B.4.1. and B.4.3.
- Social competence: B.5.2.
- Profession-specific competence: B.6.1.

Contents

This course consists of a theoretical part and a section with exercises.

In the theoretical part, attention is paid to the use of literature in political sciences. What is the place of literature research in the light of scientific knowledge development? Why is it necessary to use and refer to literature when conducting a political scientific research? Which factors should be taken into account when trying to arrive at a critical assessment of political-scientific literature? Etc.

In this context, the main types of literature (books, magazines, newspapers, databases and catalogs, sources of government institutions, etc.) from the political sciences and their possible repositories (libraries, archives and electronic information carriers) are examined in more detail. We also offer the students an overview of the most important literature in political science, both from the perspective of general politics and from a more field-specific approach.

The application section consists of a number of practical exercises:

- formulating a research question
- conceptualising political concepts
- analysing academic research

Next to this, students write a paper that, in addition to the use of and reference to relevant literature, also assesses the way in which students compose research questions and a research design around a topic in political science. The literature used and the selected research design will be explained by each discipline within the department of Political Sciences, so that the students can make a clear choice about the research theme to be discussed. The latter paper will also be assessed and periodically be evaluated within each discipline of the department.

Initial competences

'Political Science' (1BA)

Final competences

- 1 To have solid practical knowledge of the main literature that is of importance to political sciences and knowing where to search for it
- 2 To be able to critically gather and process research literature about political sciences problems and to be able to report on findings
- 3 To have knowledge of the methodology of political sciences research
- 4 The goals and final competences of this course contribute to the realization of a crucial objective of the degree program: an active mastery of the main research methods employed within the political sciences
- 5 To be able to formulate clear research questions and related research designs on the basis of relevant scientific literature

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, self-reliant study activities, seminar: coached exercises, seminar: practical PC room classes

Extra information on the teaching methods

- General classes + thematic sessions
- Interactive session of electronic database search
- 3 assignments and 1 paper (independent work)
- Due to COVID19 changes in the work forms can be made if necessary

Learning materials and price

Handbook available at the scientific bookshop. Cost: 15 EUR

References

Course content-related study coaching

- Interactive support through Ufora
- By appointment
- Department-related support

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Assignment

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

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

- Due to COVID19 changes in the assessment forms can be made if necessary
- If a student does not participate in one or more of the evaluation moments (3 assignments and 1 paper), she/he cannot pass this course and will his/her final score, should it be above 7/20 will be reduced to 7/20.

Calculation of the examination mark

Combination of continuous (50%) and periodic (50%) assessment.