

Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



POLS1224 The Political and Administrative System in Belgium

[30h] 3 credits

Teacher(s): Christian de Visscher, Lieven De Winter, André-Paul Frogner
Language: French
Level: First cycle

Aims

By the end of this course, students should have acquired a good knowledge of the socio-political and administrative workings of the Belgian political system and acquired a capacity to analyse the events which govern the country's political landscape. This will be the particular focus of the Current Affairs Seminar.

Main themes

During the course, students will:

- Study the basic structures of Belgian political society (divisions, pillars, consociationalism, etc.) and analyse the political balance of power, including at election time;
- Take a closer look at the electoral and Party systems, the parties as such, Parliament, the government and the political elites;
- Study the structures and operation of the public sector.

Content and teaching methods

Part 1: AP Frogner (10.)

1. Belgium's national foundations
2. Belgium's socio-political foundations
3. Divisions and Parties
4. The balance of power between the political actors

Part 2: L. De Winter(10.)

1. Electoral system and Party system during the post-war period
2. The Belgian political Parties: ideology, organisation and operation
3. Structure and operation of Parliament
4. Formation, structures and decision-making mechanisms of the federal governments
5. Partocracy, clientelism, corruption and political revivals

Part 3: Visscher C. of (10.)

1. Analysis of the public sector in Belgium: forms of administrations and public services: methods of organisation, manpower, relations with the political power
2. Resource management within the public administration (budget; public service)
3. The politico-administrative system in action: study of the public policy cycle, from introduction to implementation (using concrete examples)

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Course entry requirements: Students must have taken the Public Law course. Foreign students taking this course during an exchange programme will need to plan for an alternative way of covering this material.

Evaluation: written examination

Course materials: Students will receive a reading portfolio

Other credits in programs

CRIM1PM	Année d'études préparatoires au master en criminologie	(3 credits)	Mandatory
FSA12BA	Deuxième année de bachelier en sciences de l'ingénieur, orientation ingénieur civil	(3 credits)	
HUSO13BA	Troisième année de bachelier en sciences humaines et sociales	(3 credits)	
POL21/AP	Première licence en sciences politiques (Affaires publiques)		Mandatory
POL21/RI	Première licence en sciences politiques (Relations internationales)		Mandatory
POLS2M1/AP	Master en sciences politiques, orientation générale (option affaires publiques)	(3 credits)	Mandatory
SOCA13BA	Troisième année de bachelier en sociologie et anthropologie	(3 credits)	
SPOL12BA	Deuxième année de bachelier en sciences politiques	(3 credits)	Mandatory
SPOL1PM	Année d'études préparatoires au master en sciences politiques (60 et 120) (toutes orientations) et au master en administration publique	(3 credits)	Mandatory