

Methodical approaches of political issues

Lecturer

Martin DELEIXHE (Coordinator)

Course mnemonic

POLI-D108

ECTS credits

5 credits

Language(s) of instruction

English

Course period

Second term

Campus

Solbosch

Course content

This course introduces students to the fundamental methodological tools needed to complete an academic program in the social sciences, and more specifically in political science. During our sessions, we will address

- the active practice of reading necessary for a good understanding of texts of a high level of complexity or technicality, notably through their contextualization,
- the best methods for synthesizing and summarizing academic works or political texts,
- the rules to follow in structuring and writing a coherent and plagiarism-free academic work,
- the production of a relevant bibliography on a given subject and its referencing according to the discipline's canon
- the general principles that establish the scientific nature of a research in social science

Objectives (and/or specific learning outcomes)

Social studies have shown that Belgian secondary education is deeply egalitarian. Regardless of their personal efforts, students joining university have very distinct skills and background knowledge. The ambition of this course is to fill this gap partially by providing students with a basic set of skills essential to their cursus in political science.

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Required knowledge and skills

There are no prerequisite skills or knowledge for this course.

Teaching method and learning activities

This teaching seminar is divided into two distinct parts.

The professor will give a series of theoretical **lectures** to all students. These lectures will present the basic methodological tools of political science, as well as their functioning.

For the practical work, students will be divided into small **seminar groups**, supervised by a teaching assistant.

Attendance and participation in these seminars will be mandatory. Within the framework of these seminars, the students must submit 4 distinct assignments, each of which will be the subject of an evaluation.

Contribution to the teaching profile

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain orally, in his/her own words, a social science text after an initial reading
- Summarize a scientific text in a short written format using appropriate social science terms
- Reference a bibliographic source according to the discipline's standards
- Distinguish between plagiarism and acknowledged borrowing of an idea from an author
- Identify and obtain access to bibliographic resources relevant to a social science research project
- situate a social science text in its broader socio-historical context
- Write in a rigorous and accurate style consistent with academic expectations
- Provide a reasoned interpretation of a social science text

References, bibliography and recommended reading

The slides presented during the lectures and of the texts discussed during the seminar sessions are available on the course's webpage on the UV [<https://uv.ulb.ac.be/course/view.php?id=113895>].

Course notes

Université virtuelle

Other information

Place(s) of teaching

Solbosch

Contact(s)

Professor

Martin DELEIXHE - martin.deleixhe@ulb.be

Teaching assistants

Simone BENAZZO (4 groups) – simone.benazzo@ulb.be
Emilia SALMINEN (2 groups) – to be determined
Martin DELEIXHE (1 group) – martin.deleixhe@ulb.be

Evaluation method(s)

Personal work and Written report

Evaluation method(s) (additional information)

The final grade (out of 20) will aggregate the results of 5 partial grades :

- ¹ Participation grade (10%)
- ² A summary of a political speech or argument (20%)
- ³ A relevant bibliography to study the issue addressed in the political speech or argument (10%)
- ⁴ A contextualization of the same political speech or argument, with bibliographical references (30%)
- ⁵ A critical analysis of the content of the political speech or argument, with bibliographical references (30%)

No written assignment will be accepted after the scheduled deadline.

To pass this class, students must have submitted all their assignments **and** have a final grade of 10/20 or above.

The students who failed the class in June can submit an updated version of their **failed** assignment(s) in August for a new evaluation. The participation grade from June is final.

Any case of plagiarism in one of the written assignments will be sanctioned with a 0/20 for the whole class.

Since this class is meant to teach students how to perform fundamental intellectual tasks, the **use of any content generated by a content-producing artificial intelligence** (such as ChatGPT, Bard, etc.) **is strictly prohibited**. The assignments **must** be written by the students themselves. Any **attested copy/paste of content produced by an artificial intelligence** would be regarded as a **fraud** and sanctioned by a **0/20 for the whole class**.

Determination of the mark (including the weighting of partial marks)

Submission of the assignments : 20% + 10% + 30% + 30% = 90%

Participation to the seminars : 10%

Each absence from a seminar will be penalized by the withdrawal of 1/2 point out of 20, up to a maximum of 2 points (i.e., the entire participation grade).

Main language(s) of evaluation

English

Other language(s) of evaluation, if applicable

French

Programmes

Programmes proposing this course at the faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences

BA-POLI | Bachelor in Political Sciences : General | unit 1