

Rural Sociology (K001295)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Adam, Jeroen

PS05

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	5	A
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 Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Agrarian transformation, small-scale and large-scale agriculture, landgrabbing, rural to urban migration, contract farming, transnational peasant movements, food sovereignty

Position of the course

This course tackles a range of processes of agrarian transformation in the recent past. This will be done using a historical-sociological framework and with a specific focus on dynamics of class formation/differentiation, capitalization of the rural sector... Lastly, considerable attention will be paid to the manner transformations in the rural economy also have particular political consequences.

Contents

Despite a growing urbanization, by and large 50% of the global world population still lives in the countryside. Next, there is a conclusive body of evidence indicating how poverty still has a higher prevalence in rural regions when compared to urban centers. Lastly, it is clear how different urban dynamics cannot be understood without taking into account an analysis of a range of transformations in the rural sector the past decades. The course will hereby provide a couple of introductory classes wherein a general theoretical framework will be presented about agrarian transformation and rural sociology and capitalization of the rural economy. After this introductory part, a selection of current debates within the field of rural sociology will be further elaborated.

Initial competences

Basic academic skills, evidenced through a BA degree in political sciences or conclusion of preparatory/linking program, wherein the student has developed a preliminary theoretical framework which allows him/her for a scientific analysis of processes of globalization, (de)colonization, social transformation...

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge of the most prominent debates concerning rural sociology and agrarian transformation
- 2 Knowledge and capacity to apply the most prominent concepts concerning rural sociology, in particular in relation to discussion about conflict and development.
- 3 Critical comparison and assessment of different theoretical frameworks about rural sociology, agrarian transformation and class formation/differentiation.

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

Group work, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture and peer teaching: general introduction

Group work: thematical elaboration

Independent work: a critical and personal assessment of contemporary debates in the field of rural sociology

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

References will be communicated through the Ufora site

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through Minerva. Office hour: through appointment

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

-PGE: throughout the oral exam, students will be tested on their knowledge and critical insights about theories and arguments within the field of rural sociology. This will be done through questions targeting mere knowledge and insights

-NPG: through an individual paper, the student demonstrates his/her capacity to critically work with theories and concepts

Calculation of the examination mark

10/20: individual assignment
10/20: oral assessment

Facilities for Working Students

- the ability to change the date of the exam
- the ability for feedback at another time