

Socio-Economic Policy (F710361)

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 2025-2026

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent		
			lecture	
			peer teaching	
			independent work	
			group work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Van Ootegem, Luc	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
Verhofstadt, Elsy	EB21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Economic and social policy, macro-economic policy, social economics, welfare state, welfare economics, sustainable development, measurement and evaluation of well-being.

Position of the course

This course provides the students with an introduction to the mechanisms, theoretical principles and choices that are important for economic and social policy. Issues concerning sustainable development (such as poverty, well-being, inclusive growth, innovation,...) are touched upon. The theoretical insights are made concrete making use of an assignment about socio-economic indicators concerning different policy domains at the national and European and OECD level.

Contents

The course contains three theoretical parts, made concrete by an assignment with intensive feedback.

- Macro-economics and economic policy (objectives, measurement and indicators, challenges, fiscal versus monetary policy, labor market, short run and long run,...).
- Welfare state issues en social policy (welfare state, history, evolution, economic motivation: efficiency versus social justice) and challenges
- Micro-economics and individual well-being (empirical measurement, normative judgement). Policy issues (equivalent income, principles of reward and compensation and responsibility).

Initial competences

This course uses certain final competences acquired in courses of introductory

micro- and macro-economics

Final competences

- 1 Explaining the mechanisms and theoretical principles of economic and social policy.
- 2 Be aware of the tradeoff between efficiency and social justice, the role of a government in a market economy, the principles of a welfare state.
- 3 Make independent and critical judgments about current socio-economic policy and challenges.
- 4 Evaluate / analyze the social and economic position and policy of Belgium in a broader context (for example in a European context).
- 5 Differentiate between positive and normative economics and research and principles and positions.
- 6 Explain and evaluate alternative approaches to well-being.
- 7 Analyse and solve socio-economic questions.

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

Theory and assignment (PDE): interpretation and evaluation of socio-economic indicators concerning different policy domains at the national and European level.
Work on a project in (small) groups (PDE) with intensive feedback. Students (in groups) address a policy issue. Some of these issues refer to one of the SDGs (for example poverty, health, well-being,...). Presentation of the findings for fellow-students (micro teaching). It is possible that we organize a guest lecture, somebody with specific experience in the domain, or an international peer, possibly online or using streaming.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: PPP van de lessen

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: paper used as background teaching material

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

Course content-related study coaching

Individual guidance possible after making an appointment. Also possibility of guidance using Ufora.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam: theory and analysis concerning economic and social policy, welfare state issues and measurement and evaluation of well-being. Permanent evaluation continuous assessment: assignments (PDE) and presentation (microteaching).

Second examination period: depending on results, a written exam and/or an alternative assignment.

If the candidate has been successful for the written examination or the permanent evaluation during the first period, these results are transferred to the second examination period.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical (50%) and continuous (50%) assessment.