

## Seminar on Health Sociology and Social Demography (K001425)

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

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

### Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Ceuterick, Melissa PS04 lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Sociology)	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Community service learning, health sociology, diversity, health, wellbeing, social demography, demographic transition, social inequality, family and households

### Position of the course

This educational component is part of the module Social Demography & Health in the Master program in Sociology. This seminar is dedicated to developing, elaborating and implementing a policy-based sociological study in collaboration with civil society organizations.

### Contents

This course aims to teach students about society by inciting cooperation with organizations in the field. Sharing knowledge and reciprocity are central. Collaboration with these societal partners creates an experimental form of education in which students confront theoretical learning with a hands-on experience, characterized by social engagement. In addition, through reflection on this learning experience and social engagement, students' academic learning is enriched with personal and societal learning. Three components are highlighted: (1) an academic component, with a reference frame within social demography and health sociology, (2) a practical component, with the social commitment that students engage in a particular social organization, (3) a reflexive component, which connects the academic and practical component and encourages personal and social skills, values and attitudes. In an introductory lecture the students are prepared for fieldwork in an organization. They are elaborately informed about the objectives and procedures. Students receive practical training to prepare the themselves for the challenges ahead. The fieldwork takes place in a civil society organization, where students will focus on specific goals and problems. The needs of the organization form the basis of the fieldwork. Based on the specific needs and/or questions of the organization, a sociological, challenging problem is highlighted. Students need to delve into this issue on the basis of both the available academic literature, applied research and policy reports; as well as on their (uptake of) practical experience. The latter will be gained from partaking in the daily operation of a function designated by the organization. The structure of the seminar incites and demands active involvement of students in the operation of the organization. Therefore they are challenged to use their sociological imagination in real life contexts. This way, critical thinking and problem-solving

abilities are stimulated, as well as the development of personal, professional and socially relevant skills. During and after the fieldwork, critical reflection will be stimulated in discussion sessions, supervised by a tutor and master students who follow the EDUMA SLO [Specific Teaching Course] training. These sessions address the functioning and performance of the students within the organization, the theoretical insights gained, the insights regarding the specific problem, the needs of the organization in question, and the place of sociologists in the field.

#### **Initial competences**

To have succeeded the courses 'Sociology' and 'Methods of social-scientific research'. To attend or have successfully completed the educational components 'Migration and Integration' and 'Sociology of Health and Illness' (Master of Arts in Sociology) We expect a strong motivation of each participating student with regard to his/her willingness to take on a concrete social commitment, adopt an open, tolerant and professional attitude and readiness for critical self-reflection. The students must express their motivation to partake through a video pitch or personal interview with (one of) the lecturer(s) (format may vary per academic year).

#### **Final competences**

- 1 Being able to formulate and substantiate a scientific research question
- 2 to be able to apply sociological theories to the practical experiences of an organisation
- 3 Being able to use a variety of sources on which to base scientific research, in a creative and original way
- 4 Being able to use a variety of sources on which to base scientific research, in a creative and original way
- 5 Performing data collection correctly
- 6 Being able to design and correctly implement (statistical and/or qualitative) analyses of social scientific data
- 7 To be able to interpret and report on the scientific research that has been carried out, both written and oral
- 8 Being able to communicate and analyse in a critical and policy-oriented manner

#### **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**

Excursion, Lecture

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

- Individual (group) + classical contact with tutor/lecturer every month.
- Classical feedback on draft version of presentation.

#### **Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

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

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

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Professional practice, Participation, Presentation, 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**

- Continuous assessment: active participation in meetings with tutor and class discussion

- A portfolio, which includes (1) a policy supporting or preliminary report (presented) as a final report for the organization and (2) a digital format in which the student reflects on his/her own role as a sociologist, and his/her contribution to the organization
- Assessment of performance at the workplace: analytical and problem solving skills, professional attitudes, discussion techniques and / or knowledge of procedures which are relevant for professional activities.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

100% continuous assessment