

## Political Philosophy (A003401)

**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 2026-2027**

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Loobuyck, Patrick

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences\(main subject Sociology\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Sociology](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Political Sciences](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Introduction in political philosophy and citizenship theory

Citizenship as status, activity and membership

Political Liberalism

Deliberative democracy

Theories of justice

Rawls, Habermas, Mouffe, Pettit, Lefort, Sandel, Kymlicka.

**Position of the course**

The course is mainly an introduction in the Anglo-Saxon analytical political philosophy since John Rawls. It aims to impart to students insight into the main themes, problems, basic principles, concepts, method and argumentation of contemporary political philosophy. The course invite students to apply the political philosophical method, reasoning and argumentation on actual societal questions.

**Contents**

The following topics are discussed:

1. Republican, liberal and communitarian approach of citizenship
2. Libérale democracy and deliberative democracy
3. Rule of law
4. Theories of justice : egalitarian liberalism, luck egalitarianism, libertarianism
5. Rawlsian political liberalism
6. Communitarism, liberal nationalism, interculturalism
7. Multiculturalism

**Initial competences**

None

**Final competences**

- 1 to situate, discuss, interrelate and apply the discussed philosophers and their philosophical thoughts/theories.
- 2 to explain and apply the basic principles and concepts of the different theories in

contemporary philosophy.

3 to develop a philosophical discourse about a political issue.

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

### Teaching methods

Lecture

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures are not recorded. During the lectures, students can ask questions and discuss with the lecturer.

### Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Burgerschap. Politiek-filosofische perspectieven. Boom. 2022

Indicative price: € 26

Optional: no

Author : Patrick Loobuyck

ISBN : 978-9-02444-977-4

Number of Pages : 256

Type: Other

Name: Teksten via UFORA

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

### References

J. Rawls (1993) *Political Liberalism*. Columbia University Press.

J. Habermas (1996) *Between Facts and Norms*. Polity Press.

A. Shachar et al. (2017) *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship*. Oxford University Press.

W. Kymlicka (2002) *Contemporary political philosophy. An introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

A. Shorten (2016) *Contemporary Political Theory*. Macmillan.

M. Sandel (2010) *Rechtvaardigheid. Wat is de juiste keuze?* Ten Have.

A. Swift (2006) *Political Philosophy. A Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians*. Polity.

J. Wolff (2016) *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.

D. Miller (2003) *Political Philosophy. A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.

R. Bellamy (2008) *Citizenship. A very short Introduction*. Oxford University Press.

C. Farrelly (2004) *An Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory*. Sage.

### Course content-related study coaching

Through Ufora and by appointment

### Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

### Extra information on the examination methods

The assessment tests to what extent the student has mastered the final competencies. The student can achieve a good final score if the questions are

answered pertinently, correctly and completely and if they demonstrate insight into the subject matter. The theoretical concepts must also be able to be applied correctly to concrete cases. The student is also expected to present the answer in a structured, clear and correct language.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodic assessment (100%)

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

You can make a special agreement with the professor.