

# Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2024-2025

# Galois Geometry (C003009)

Course size	(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)				
Credits 6.0	Study time 165 h				
Course offerings and t	eaching methods in academic	year 2024-2025			
A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture seminar		
Lecturers in academic	year 2024-2025				
Storme, Leo			WE16	lecturer-in-charge	
D'haeseleer, Joze	efien		WE16	co-lecturer	
Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025				crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology(main subject Mathematics)				6	Α
Master of Science in Mathematics				6	А

#### **Teaching languages**

Dutch

# Keywords

Incidence geometry, projective spaces, polar spaces, quadrics, Hermitian varieties, symplectic polar spaces, Grassmann coordinates, generalized quadrangles, ovoids, spreads

# Position of the course

Basic course on classical polar spaces with emphasis on quadrics and Hermitian varieties, and with an introduction to (mainly finite) generalized quadrangles. The course is an advanced sequel to the course "Projective geometry", emphasizing classical varieties. Students acquire a high level of knowledge, and are introduced to geometry as a current and living scientific activity.

#### Contents

- 1 Quadrics: canonical forms, invariants, tangent spaces and polarity, generators and subgenerators, orthogonal groups.
- 2 Hermitian varieties: canonical form, tangent spaces and polarity, generators and subgenerators, unitary groups.
- 3 Symplectic polar spaces: canonical form, tangent spaces and polarity, generators and subgenerators, symplectic groups.
- 4 Grassmann coordinates and Grassmann varieties.
- 5 Ovoids and spreads of classical polar spaces.

# Initial competences

The necessary background is contained in the courses Linear Algebra and Geometry I and II, Algebra I and Projective Geometry, taught in the bachelor mathematics.

# **Final competences**

- 1 The students are familiar with the theory of classical polar spaces, and have a good knowledge of quadrics, Hermitian varieties and symplectic polar spaces.
- 2 They are also introduced to incidence geometry, and see the importance of classical varieties in this context.
- 3 When studying finite geometry, incidence geometry or coding theory, they can regularly use the contents of this course.

#### Conditions for credit contract

#### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

# Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

The theory is presented at the blackboard during the theory lectures. Techniques to solve problems on classical polar spaces are presented during the exercise lectures, but the students also have to make exercises, under supervision.

#### Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Galois geometry Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty Optional: no

#### References

J.W.P. Hirschfeld & J.A. Thas: General Galois Geometries, Oxford University Press (1991).

S.E. Payne & J.A. Thas: Finite Generalized Quadrangles, Pitman, Boston (1984).

#### Course content-related study coaching

During the lectures, the theory is presented in great detail at the blackboard. More information can always be obtained during or after the lecture. During the exercise sessions, exercises related to the theory are solved, aimed at giving the students more insight in the matter. Assistant and professor are always prepared to help the students with any problem.

#### Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral assessment open-book, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Oral assessment open-book, Written assessment with open-ended questions

# Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

#### Extra information on the examination methods

During the theory exam, the lecturer determines whether the students master the theory and have obtained sufficient insight. The objective of the exercise exam is to determine whether the students are able to solve independently problems on classical polar spaces.

The theory is examined during an oral exam with written preparation. The exercise exam is a written exam.

# Calculation of the examination mark

Theory and exercises both count for 50% of the total number of points.