

## Social and Economic Geography (C003858)

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

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 140 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

N., N.

lecturer-in-charge

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

**crdts**

**offering**

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

5

A

Bachelor of Science in Geography and Geomatics

5

A

Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management

5

A

Bachelor of Science in Sociology

5

A

Linking Course Master of Science in Geography and Geomatics

5

A

Preparatory Course Master of Science in Geography and Geomatics

5

A

Elective Set Geography for Archaeologists

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Social and economic geography, geographical frameworks

**Position of the course**

- Introduction to the most important concepts and theoretical frameworks used in social and economic geography
- Overview of the social and economic-geographical development of the world, with particular attention for regional differences and the relevance of scale
- Facilitating critical, scientific thinking

**Contents**

Social and economic geography studies (i) how man has populated the earth's surface, and has thereby (ii) made use of the physical environment and (iii) developed different forms of territorial organization. The way in which this is being examined, (iv) depends on a number of (often implicit) geographical frameworks. In parallel with this working definition of social and economic geography, this course consists of four major chapters:

- Distribution of man over the earth surface: relation with the physical environment, development of the oecumene, millenary evolution of the world population, major migrations, demographic transitions
- Utilization of the physical environment by man: typology of societies based on their use of the physical environment, mining and energy supply, agriculture, manufacturing, service, trade and foreign investment, transport and technology, energy supply, measurement of geographical patterns of 'inequality', environmental problems due to the intensification of the use of the physical environment
- Territorial organization: political communities, cultural communities, urban and rural communities
- Geographical thought patterns: vertical versus horizontal thinking, the different perspectives on the interaction man/environment, nesting of scales,

metageographies, the region concept  
The exercises are aimed at (1) familiarizing students with world regional structures that are the result of socio-economic differentiation, as well as (2) enlivening the course material through concrete examples.

### **Initial competences**

Final objectives of secondary education

### **Final competences**

- 1 Knowledge of, and insight in the elementary facts of the distribution of man over the earth's surface, the exploitation of physical environment by man, and the different modes of territorial organization
- 2 The ability to locate these elementary facts.
- 3 Insight in the way in which geographers examine these elementary facts.

### **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**

Seminar, Lecture

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Classes in which the main concepts and ideas are explained. These ideas are developed through exercises looking at practical examples.

### **Study material**

Type: Syllabus

Name: Concise syllabus in support of the lectures  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Number of Pages : 31  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Slides

Name: Slides to support the lectures  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader (collection of articles, book chapters...) of which one part is compulsory literature and the other part is optional literature.  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

### **References**

Daniels, P., Bradshaw, M., Shaw, D. & Sidaway, J. (2012) An introduction to human geography. Issues for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (4th edition). Pearson Education: Harlow.  
De Pater, B., Groote, P. & Terlouw, K. (2005) Denken over regio's: geografische perspectieven (2<sup>de</sup> editie). Coutinho: Bussum.  
Dicken, P. (2011) Global Shift: transforming the world Economy (6th edition).

Chapman: London.

Jonhston, R.J., Taylor, P.J & Watts, M. (2002) Geographies of global change.

Remapping the world (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Blackwell: Oxford.

Knox, P., Agnew, J. & McCarthy, L. (2014) The geography of the world economy (6th edition). Arnold: London.

Saey, P. (1993) Staat en Volk. De Aardrijkskunde, 1993(3), pp. 265-291.

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

Study coaching by teaching assistants (Ufora and scheduled appointment)

#### **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**

Assignment

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

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Questions aimed at testing a student's insight and overall knowledge of the distribution of man over the earth surface, the exploitation of physical environment and territorial organization, and geographical thought patterns. Localisation on an outline map.

Students must pass both the periodical and the non-periodical evaluation in order to be able to pass for the course at large: if a student receives an overall satisfactory grade according to the standard calculation of the final score but did not pass for both evaluation moments (i.e. 10), then she/he receives a final score of 9.

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

Permanent (25%) and periodical (75%) evaluation, but students must pass both parts of the evaluation to pass for the course at large: if a student receives an overall satisfactory grade according to this standard calculation of the final score but did not pass for both evaluation moments (i.e. 10), then she/he receives a final score of 9.