

History of the State in Belgium (F710346)

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

Credits 4.0

Study time 120 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

peer teaching

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Caestecker, Frank

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management](#)

crdts

4

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

History of contemporary society, history of Belgium, history of the state.

Position of the course

This basic course teaches students that contemporary society is the historical outcome of economic, social, cultural and political developments. How institutions (in its broadest sense) originate, function and evolve is the result of policy choices and political decision making processes rooted in specific historical settings. Through a historical frame of reference the action of the state as a public actor who serves the public interest in Belgium will be explained. The students will be able to understand and critically judge the present constellation in Belgium on the basis of a historical insight.

Contents

Central is the history of the state. The concept state will be scrutinized and related to concepts which further qualify the state such as liberal state, democratic state, nation-state and the rule of law. The history of the state will be analyzed by looking into the shifting grounds of the public and the private, or in more restricted sense the state and the market. Also how the state gives meaning to citizenship will be scrutinized. In this history we will look into how the state defines the nation and what the position was of the state on the cleavage between labor and capital. Throughout the course the history of the state in Belgium will be tackled chronologically. The development of the actions of the state and the manner by which the state operates will be inbedded in the broad social, cultural and economic evolution of Belgium. A chronological overview of the history of Belgium will be presented. The focus is on the interactions between the different themes and (dis)continuity, with specific attention for the actors (decision makers) in political processes and structure.

Initial competences

No specific initial competences required.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to situate in time and space the political, social, economic and institutional processes that have influenced the history of Belgium since the late 18th century until the early 21st century.
- 2 To have insight in the structural characteristics and connections of different themes and topics within Belgian history.

- 3 To judge critically contemporary political problems and developments using the historical frame of reference.
- 4 The students analyze critically contemporary developments from a historical perspective.
- 5 The students position information within the appropriate historical context.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: History of the state, in Belgium

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Pages : 420

Available on Ufora : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

References

Vanthemse Guy.(1998). De paradoxen van de staat. Staat en vrije markt in historisch perspectief. Brussel: VUBPress.
 Rosanvallon Pierre. (1990). L'Etat en France de 1789 à nos jours. Paris: Seuil.

Course content-related study coaching

Possibility to ask questions during the lectures and on 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

Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Calculation of the examination mark

10% for paper

90% for written exam