

Methods in Political Science (K000926)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

independent work

seminar

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

De Ville, Ferdi	PS03	lecturer-in-charge
Adam, Jeroen	PS05	co-lecturer
Cuvelier, Jeroen	PS05	co-lecturer
De Ceuninck, Koenraad	PS03	co-lecturer
Haesebrouck, Tim	PS03	co-lecturer
Janssen, Lisa	PS03	co-lecturer
Kern, Anna	PS03	co-lecturer
Luypaert, Jasmien	PS03	co-lecturer
Orbie, Jan	PS03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science(main subject International Politics)	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Political Science(main subject National Politics)	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in EU-Studies	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Political Science(main subject International Politics)	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Political Science(main subject National Politics)	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in EU-Studies	6	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Political Science research, research methods, research design, methodology

Position of the course

Through this course, students learn how to adequately choose a political science method that fits their own research question or topic of interest. They learn how to develop an adequate research design. Subsequently, they learn how to apply one method step-by-step.

This course relates to other courses in the research trajectory in the bachelor, like methodology of the social sciences, statistics, introduction to qualitative research and workshop political sciences.

Contents

- 1 In the first semester, students attend lectures on how to develop an adequate research design.
- 2 In the first semester, students attend an introductory lecture into political science research methods. This enables them to make a motivated choice for one specific method, on which they will follow, during the second semester, a

module dedicated to practical exercises.

- 3 The modules consist almost solely of practical exercises. It involves the acquisition of practical skills so that students must be able to independently apply this method. Theoretical or abstract elements are kept to the minimum.
- 4 Students must choose one of the modules offered.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of methodology of the social sciences, statistics and qualitative social science research is recommended.

Final competences

- 1 Be acquainted with scientific Political research
- 2 Understanding the key components of a research design and begin able to develop an adequate research design.
- 3 Know, understand and judge the most important social scientific methods and schools
- 4 Have a good knowledge of research methodology in political science
- 5 Having a thorough command of data collection methods and data analysis
- 6 Having a thorough knowledge of using software for qualitative and quantitative data analysis if necessary
- 7 Knowing how to use the most important research methods in different contexts; formulating research questions, conducting research, and writing research projects. The purpose is to conduct scientific research.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

In the first semester, students attend introductory plenary lectures.
In the second semester, students take a module in a small group. Within these modules the focus is on the collective and individual practicing of the chosen method. In some groups, this implies learning to work with appropriate software.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides for each class
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: Texts per module
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

References

Course content-related study coaching

Individual supervision by module teachers, on appointment.

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

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

(Approved)

Extra information on the examination methods

Five out of the twenty points can be gained through a motivated choice for a method (especially in the context of Research Paper) that must be submitted during the first semester. The other fifteen points are based on assignments in the second semester modules.

If a student does not participate in one or more of the evaluation moments (during the first semester and the second semester modules), she/he cannot pass this course and will his/her final score, should it be above 7/20 will be reduced to 7/20.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% continuous evaluation

Facilities for Working Students

1. Attendance of the interactive workshop in second semester is mandatory.
2. However, after consultation with the coordinator of this course and the teacher of the chosen module, it can be decided that a student can obtain the required competences through replacement tasks.
3. Working students should contact the coordinator of this course immediately at the start of the academic year.

Addendum

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