

Public Policy (F700002)

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 2023-2024

B (semester 1) English Gent lecture
independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Zaki, Bishoy EB25 lecturer-in-charge
Wayenberg, Ellen EB25 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in History	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	6	B
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	6	B
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	6	B
Bachelor of Science in Business Economics	6	B
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	6	B
Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management	6	B
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China)	6	B
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	6	B
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	6	B
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Middle East Studies)	6	B
Micro-credential Public Policy	6	B
Linking Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management	6	B
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management	6	B

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Public policy, Policy Sciences, Policy content, Policy process, Policy trends and developments

Position of the course

This course aims to give students an introduction to the field of policy sciences and its main

branches with a particular focus on policy process theories. It helps them better approach (understand, explain, and basically assess) public policy from a scientific perspective. In this course, we explore how the world of public policy works and provide an overview of how policies are formulated, implemented, and evaluated.

Contents

This course uses real life cases and examples from everyday life to achieve its objectives. The course comprises three main sections.

The first section provides learners with a basic scientific understanding of key concepts. This includes what government is, what policy is, the core components, principles and objectives of policy research and practice, and some central dynamics of policymaking.

The second section provides learners with a nuanced understanding of the different stages of the policy process (i.e., agenda-setting, policy formulation, decision-making, policy implementation, policy evaluation). It also helps learners understand how these stages are observed in real life situations. In this section, learners also get a glimpse of how different theories of the policy process study policymaking in contemporary settings.

The last section of this course provides learners with an overview of emerging trends in policy sciences over recent years such as evidence-based policymaking, design thinking, and policy labs among others.

Throughout this course, we will be using a series of examples and case studies to ensure that learners get an in-depth and practical understanding of concepts discussed. For example, this includes discussions and reflections on how policy concepts and theories can be observed in pressing issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and sustainability transitions. This is in addition to understanding how such central issues are connected to other policy domains such as transport policy, health policy, and international relations. In doing so, this course aims to give learners a basic yet nuanced understanding of the interconnectedness and of real-life public policy issues and how are they approached from a policy theory perspective.

Initial competences

- A general interest in government functioning and public policy.
- A general awareness of recent policy issues locally and internationally.

Final competences

- 1 Understand and delimit the main elements and processes of public policy.
- 2 Be able to gather policy-relevant information in order to assess public policy and gain insight into policymaking.
- 3 Apply their understandings of policy processes in real-life public policy cases.
- 4 Be able to use their acquired skills to independently read and understand basic texts on public policy (both scientific and practical).
- 5 Students have developed an attitude of life-long learning vis-à-vis public policy.

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

Lecture, independent work

Learning materials and price

Handouts and handbook

The prize for the handbook 'Bouwen aan beleid': 42 euro (student copy, isbn 9789463931830).

References

Wayenberg, E. (2020). *Bouwen aan beleid. Het proces van de overheid*. Owl Press.

Course content-related study coaching

Questioning is possible during the sessions as well as on an individual basis after having made an appointment with the lecturer

Evaluation methods

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examen that consists out of knowledge questions and exercises

Calculation of the examination mark

Written examen: 100% of end score

Facilities for Working Students

There are no facilities for working students.