UCLouvain

bhdpo1317

2025

Political parties and lobby groups

The version you're consulting is not final. This course description may change. The final version will be published on 1st June.

Teacher(s)	Paye Olivier ;				
Language :	French				
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Louis				
Prerequisites	The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Unit are specified at the end of this sheet.				
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to: The course introduces the students to the analysis of two major types of political collective actors, the political parties and the lobby groups, mainly in the context of the Western democratic political systems, with a special focus on Belgium. By the end of the lectures, the students will have studied a comprehensive framework based on the main concepts, classifications, empirical trends and explanatory theories produced by political science about political parties and lobby groups. They will thus be able to better understand the role played by these intermediate groups in the Western democratic political systems in general and in the Belgian political system in particular.				
Evaluation methods	The "examination" will deal with the elements developed in the "course material" (i.e. in the parts of handbook Fondements de science politique, in the slide show and during the lectures), as well as the elements developed in the "homework activities material" (i.e. in the texts that make up the reading portfolio).				
	The examination will be "open book": the student are free to consult any own paper document, including handwritten annotations, during the examination. The examination will last three hours and will consist of three questions, each marked out of 20 points (the total will then divided by 3), requiring answers in a format (to be specified in the examination paper) of between 15 and 30 lines (see examination papers from previous years which can be consulted on the course website).				
	The same assessment procedures will apply in the first and second sessions, as if the course and examination sessions were to be held online due to circumstances related to the Covid-19 crisis.				
Teaching methods	The course includes lectures on the one hand and personal homework on the other hand. The literary version of the class' content is to be found in N. Schiffino, O. Paye et al., <i>Fondements de science politique</i> , 2e éd., Bruxelles, De Boeck Supérieur, 2022. The relevant excerpts from the handbook are listed in a document available on the class' webpage, on the Moodle interactive platform. Lectures are based on a portfolio of PowerPoint slides also available on the class' webpage. Students questions				
	and reflections are welcomed. For the personal homework, students have to read a portfolio which contents a selection of texts in relation to the lectures.				
Content	First, the course provides a brief overview of the political parties and lobby groups, including their mutual links as well as their relationship with the State. Then, the course is divided in two parts. The first part is dedicated to the political parties mainly approached by their functions, organization, electorate. The second part is dedicated to the lobby groups, including conceptual explanations (for instance, about the distinction between interest group, social movement, social organization); usual classifications (i.e non-profit group vs. for-profit group)				
Inline resources	The class has a Moodle webpage on which the students will find, amongst other things, the following documents: the up-to-date version of the Power Point slides' portfolio, a list of the exact excerpts of the handbook (Fondements de la science politique) constitutive of the class' content, copies of previous years' exams and their correct answers. An online forum is also available for the students to ask any question, provide some answers to their co-students, and communicate with the professor.				
Bibliography	Le cours s'appuie sur des extraits de l'ouvrage suivant : N. Schiffino, O. Paye et al., Fondements de science politique, 2e éd., Bruxelles, De Boeck Supérieur, 2022. Ce manuel contient des orientations bibliographiques spécifiques pour les étudiant•e•s qui souhaiteraient aller plus loin. Il s'appuie aussi sur un portefeuille de textes dont la lecture est obligatoire (voir ci-dessus)				
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPB				

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)						
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes		
Bachelor in Information and Communication	COMB1BA	5	BESPO1162	٩		
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French- English)	COAB1BA	5	BESPO1165	•		
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French-Dutch- English)	COTB1BA	5	BESPO1165	Q		
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology	SOCB1BA	5	BESPO1162	٩		
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-English)	SOAB1BA	5	BESPO1165	•		
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-Dutch- English)	SOTB1BA	5	BESPO1165	•		
Bachelor in Political Sciences	SPOB1BA	5	BESPO1162	٩		
Bachelor in Political Sciences (French-English)	SPAB1BA	5	BESPO1165	٩		
Bachelor in Political Sciences (French-Dutch-English)	SPTB1BA	5	BESPO1165	٩		
Bachelor in Political Sciences (shift schedule)	SPDB1BA	5	BHDPO1110	٩		