



Political Science (MSc)

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen - M Political Science - 2017-2018

The international, selective and research-oriented Master's programme in Political Science focuses on how processes of transnationalisation and globalisation affect politics, political institutions and public policy-making within, between, and across national states, as well as within the European Union and the global domain. As a consequence of these processes, the distinctions between the national and the international, the public and the private, and the state and the market become blurred. In the Master, these developments are studied from various theoretical perspectives, and with due attention to methodological training, within the programme's three specialisation tracks: *International relations & transnational governance*, *Comparative European politics* and *Global environmental governance*.

[Objective and attainment levels](#)

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[TER 2017-2018](#)

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Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Comparative European Politics

Opleidingsdelen:

- [Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Comparative European Politics keuzevakken](#)
- [Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Comparative European Politics verplichte vakken](#)

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Comparative European Politics keuzevakken

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Selected Issues: Global Environmental Governance	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIGEG
Selected Issues: International Security	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIIS
Selected Issues: Transnational Political Economy	Periode 2	6.0	S_SITPE

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Comparative European Politics verplichte vakken

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Master's Thesis in Political Science	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	S_MTPs
Political and Policy Research: Philosophy and Design	Periode 3	6.0	S_PPRPD
Selected Issues: European Politics and Policymaking	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIEPP
Theories and Approaches in Comparative European Politics	Periode 1	6.0	S_TACEP
Theories and Approaches in International Relations	Periode 1	6.0	S_TAIR
Workshop in Comparative Policy and Politics	Periode 4	12.0	S_WCPP

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Global Environmental Governance

Opleidingsdelen:

- [Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Global Environmental Governance keuzevakken](#)
- [Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Global Environmental Governance verplichte vakken](#)

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Global Environmental Governance keuzevakken

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Selected Issues: European Politics and Policymaking	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIEPP
Selected Issues: International Security	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIIS
Selected Issues: Transnational Political Economy	Periode 2	6.0	S_SITPE

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting Global Environmental Governance verplichte vakken

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Master's Thesis in Political Science	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	S_MTPs
Political and Policy Research: Philosophy and Design	Periode 3	6.0	S_PPRPD
Selected Issues: Global Environmental Governance	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIGEG
Theories and Approaches in Comparative European Politics	Periode 1	6.0	S_TACEP
Theories and Approaches in International Relations	Periode 1	6.0	S_TAIR
Workshop in Global Environmental Governance	Periode 4	12.0	S_WGEG

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting International Relations and Transnational Governance

Opleidingsdelen:

- Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting International Relations and Transnational Governance keuzevakken
- Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting International Relations and Transnational Governance verplichte vakken

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting International Relations and Transnational Governance keuzevakken

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Selected Issues: European Politics and Policymaking	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIEPP
Selected Issues: Global Environmental Governance	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIGEG
Selected Issues: International Security	Periode 2	6.0	S_SIIS

Master Political Science, afstudeerrichting International Relations and Transnational Governance verplichte vakken

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Master's Thesis in Political Science	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	S_MTPs
Political and Policy Research: Philosophy and Design	Periode 3	6.0	S_PPRPD
Selected Issues: Transnational Political Economy	Periode 2	6.0	S_SITPE
Theories and Approaches in Comparative European Politics	Periode 1	6.0	S_TACEP
Theories and Approaches in International Relations	Periode 1	6.0	S_TAIR
Workshop in International Relations	Periode 4	12.0	S_WIR

Master's Thesis in Political Science

Vakcode	S_MTPs ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	18.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn

Examinator	dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep, Practicum
Niveau	600

Doel vak

In the Master's Thesis the student can demonstrate his/her ability to undertake independent academic research.

Inhoud vak

The Master Thesis is an original individual piece of political science research with which the student concludes the Master program. The Thesis is to address a political science topic of the student's choice and is developed with supervision on an individual or small group tutorial basis. Normally, the thesis includes (at least) a thorough review of relevant literature, an explicit theoretical framework, a well-justified research design, an analysis of the findings, and a conclusion. Maximum length of the thesis is 15,000 words.

Onderwijsvorm

Tutorial and individual supervision

Toetsvorm

Master's Thesis

Doelgroep

Students in the MSc Political Science

Overige informatie

- Students who have not passed the courses of period 1 and 2 will be allowed conditionally to receive supervision if they have fully participated in those courses but have not yet received passing grades.
- All theses that are passed will be made publicly available through the VU University Library. In cases where there are grounds to keep the thesis confidential, a request to that effect has to be made procedure to the Examination Board at the start of the thesis (See the relevant provisions in the FSW Master's Thesis Regulations).

Political and Policy Research: Philosophy and Design

Vakcode	S_PPRPD ()
Periode	Periode 3
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. B.J.J. Crum
Examinator	prof. dr. B.J.J. Crum
Docent(en)	prof. dr. B.J.J. Crum
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	500

Doel vak

After completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically reflect upon the methodological choices involved in social science research;

2. Justify their own methodological choices in setting up a research design, linking the levels of epistemology, methodology and techniques;
3. Apply suitable research techniques to the analysis of political phenomena and formulate a research design;
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various research traditions in the social and political sciences and the ideas about the relation of theory and observations that they involve.

Inhoud vak

This course aims to provide a common frame of reference for students to develop the design of their thesis.

Specifically, it aims to get students thinking about the set-up of their Master thesis in terms of the formulation of its research question, hypotheses, design and the philosophy of political science that it implies.

The course has the form of a seminar, requiring active participation of the students.

This means that you are expected to do the required readings in advance, and be prepared to discuss these in class and with your fellow students.

Ahead of each class, you have to submit a mini-assignment in which you apply the readings to the topic of your Master thesis.

These mini-assignments are to constitute the building blocks of the final paper: a research design (in outline).

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar. Two three-hour sessions for four weeks.

Toetsvorm

Class participation and small assignments (together 33%) and final paper (67%).

Literatuur

Central text to be purchased ahead of class:

- Halperin, S. and O. Heath (2017). Political Research. Methods and Practical Skills. 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-870274-0

Additional reading material will be announced in due course and made available through Canvas.

Doelgroep

Students in the MSc Political Science

Selected Issues: European Politics and Policymaking

Vakcode	S_SIEPP ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	H.L.M. Muehlenhoff
Examinator	H.L.M. Muehlenhoff
Docent(en)	H.L.M. Muehlenhoff, H. Mercenier
Lesmethode(n)	Studiegroep
Niveau	500

Doel vak

- familiarise students with topical debates on Politics and Policymaking in Europe
- provide insight in the interactions between politics and policymaking
- practice the critical evaluation of competing theories and approaches to questions of politics and policymaking
- learn to evaluate the merits of alternative methodologies in analysing questions of politics and policymaking
- develop an awareness of the added-value of comparative and international perspectives on questions of politics and policymaking
- stimulate active class participation
- enhance students' academic writing skills.

Inhoud vak

This course zooms in on a selection of topical debates in political science on politics and policymaking in Europe. The selected topics link politics to policies, and they link the national level to the European (and the global) level. Thus, topics to be included involve both more procedural questions (for instance, the rise of populism, the interaction between democracy and courts, the accountability of international decision-making in national political systems) and policy issues (like creating jobs, fighting terrorism, securing sustainable development). Around these topics, we seek to identify what are the important questions and what and how political science can contribute to answering them. In that process, we review and assess different theoretical approaches and different methodologies on how they operate and what kind of insights they yield (and what not). The course is concluded with a paper in which students offer a (preliminary) analysis of a relevant political question.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar.

Students are expected to come to class having prepared the required readings in order to allow for meaningful discussions.

Furthermore, each student will be assigned to prepare the discussion of one or two texts on the syllabus.

Toetsvorm

1. Class participation (presence, contributions, quality of contributions) => 30% of final grade.
2. Final paper => 70 % of final grade.

Literatuur

A selection of texts, which will be announced and made available through Canvas.

Doelgroep

Students in the MSc Political Science.

This is a required course for students in the track 'Comparative and European Politics'.

For students in the other tracks, it is an option.

Selected Issues: Global Environmental Governance

Vakcode	S_SIGEG ()
Periode	Periode 2

Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Examinator	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Docent(en)	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	500

Doel vak

- To increase students' knowledge of major empirical developments in Global Environmental Governance;
- To train students in identifying the policy relevance of the results of political research as well as detecting pitfalls and shortcomings;
- To invite reflection on the policy relevance and strategic consequences of research;
- To develop students' academic writing skills.

Inhoud vak

This course introduces students to the current state of research within the field of global environmental governance. Global environmental change is one of the great challenges humankind is facing today. Humans now influence almost all biological and physical systems of the planet. Scientists today see mounting evidence that the entire earth system now operates well outside the normal state exhibited over the past 500,000 years, and that human activity is generating change that extends well beyond natural variability – in some cases, alarmingly so – and at rates that continue to accelerate. The perennial question from a social science perspective is how to organize the co-evolution of societies and their surrounding environment, in other words, how to develop effective and equitable governance solutions for today's global problems.

This course builds on Theories and Approaches: International Relations and Political Concepts and Processes by teaching students how to apply core concepts of political science to substantial issues in international studies. At the same time, students will be made aware of the current state of research within the field of global environmental governance. This knowledge will be useful in the upcoming workshop later in the program.

Governance refers to the phenomenon that many public functions increasingly seem to be assumed and carried out by actors other than the government actors of the nation-state. In particular, the course further investigates three profound transformation in global environmental governance: (1) the increasing diversity of agency (i.e. the observation that authority to govern is vested not only in governments and public actors but in a host of non-state actors as well); (2) the institutionalization of novel governance mechanisms and instruments beyond international agreements (e.g. private certification schemes in global forest politics); and (3), the increased fragmentation of global environmental governance into a number of functionally interlinked but increasingly conflictive policy domains (e.g. the potential overlap between climate change and biodiversity governance). For each type of empirical transformation discussed above, a selection of important examples will be analyzed. Students are encouraged to make their own contributions in the form of one essay that presents original research and one class presentation that critically discusses a concrete empirical example of global environmental governance.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar

Toetsvorm

Written assignment (50%) + class participation (10%) + group presentation (40%)

Literatuur

We will use the following text book: Biermann, Frank, and Philipp Pattberg, editors (2012): *Global Environmental Governance Reconsidered*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

A reading list will be made available via Canvas.

Doelgroep

MSc students Political Science

Overige informatie

This course is compulsory for students in the track Global Environmental Governance and optional for students in the other Master tracks.

Selected Issues: International Security

Vakcode	S_SIIS ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. M. Hoijtink
Examinator	dr. M. Hoijtink
Docent(en)	dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn, dr. M. Hoijtink, mr. O.L.F.M. Blarel
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	500

Doel vak

- Familiarise students with topical research in international security and to get a practical sense of the insights and challenges involved;
- Increase students' understanding of the structures, actors and processes regarding contemporary international and global security;
- Enhance students' critical understanding of the potential and limits of competing approaches to international security;
- Stimulate active class participation;
- Enhance students' academic writing skills.

Inhoud vak

International Security is a core and still evolving sub-field of International Relations. While traditionally focused on the security of states and on the concern with national security as a source of international conflict, recently, and in the context of globalization, the field has moved beyond this state-centric focus. On the one hand non-state actors and transnational (economic, social and environmental) processes can be seen as affecting national security. On the other hand, it is argued that the concept of security itself must be broadened beyond that of states to include for example human, societal, environmental and energy security. However, also in 'global security' as a more

encompassing term, states and their strategies, continue to play a critical role. From this perspective we will critically evaluate both more traditional and newer approaches to international security and examine how they are applied to various contemporary issues. Special attention will be paid to so-called critical approaches, in particular those who seek to relate issues and dynamics of international security to the unequal power structures of the global political economy. From this perspective we may 'deconstruct' national and other actors' strategies for security by analysing the social forces involved in shaping these strategies and hence the social purpose (beyond the official justifications given) that they may serve. From this perspective we will amongst others review the politics of America's national security discourse and related foreign policy; the rise of East Asia and possible security implications; the geopolitics of the growing competition for energy sources and the relationship between security and development.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar

Toetsvorm

Class Participation and written assignment(s). All parts must be passed.

Literatuur

To be announced on canvas.

Doelgroep

Students of Master Political Science

Selected Issues: Transnational Political Economy

Vakcode	S_SITPE ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. R. Fernandez
Examinator	dr. R. Fernandez
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	500

Doel vak

- To increase students' knowledge of major empirical developments in transnational political economy;
- To stimulate critical theoretical and normative reflection on research results;
- To train students in identifying the policy relevance of the results of political research as well as detecting pitfalls and shortcomings;
- To advance students' understanding of the epistemological issues involved in International Relations (pertaining to both theory and method) and thereby rendering them capable of developing sound research designs;
- To enhance students' abilities in academic writing and reporting on research as well as providing structured feedback.
- To enhance students' skills in leading and structuring a discussion,

debating, collecting relevant literature, present key findings and set up and conduct group work.

Inhoud vak

This course deals with a key field of International Relations (IR). Traditionally, the field of IR was subdivided in the fields of international security and international political economy. As a consequence of major transformations of the international system (end of the Cold War, globalization, the rise of new great powers, climate change), the boundaries between these subfields have blurred. In this course the focus is on transnational political economy. We will deal with the general framework through which transnational affairs are dealt with (e.g. international regimes, global governance), and with a number of specific issues (e.g. rise of China and emerging markets, international finance, energy and environmental security) partly depending on students' inputs. In each case, students are challenged to explore the ways in which the boundaries between economic and politics in a transnational setting are transcended; seemingly "economic" issues are actually highly political in nature and are often the cause of conflict and struggle (sometimes violent) between and within states.

Onderwijsvorm

Interactive seminars

Toetsvorm

Participation (40%), written assignments (60%, of which final paper 40%, which must be graded with at least a 5.5 to pass)

Literatuur

State-of-the-art articles and book chapters (via Canvas).

Doelgroep

Course is open only to students in the MSc Political Science, MSR students and the LL.M. Law and Politics of International Security programmes; other students need special permission.

Overige informatie

This course is compulsory for students in the track International Relations and Transnational Governance and optional for students in one of the other Master tracks.

Theories and Approaches in Comparative European Politics

Vakcode	S_TACEP ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. P.J.M. Pennings
Examinator	dr. P.J.M. Pennings
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course is meant to introduce the students to the contemporary state of the art in comparative political science.

Inhoud vak

This course provides students a thorough understanding of the key issues and main theories and approaches in comparative politics. This includes an in-depth knowledge of how the process of Europeanization affects politics and governance. The course will be concluded by means of a paper that discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the relevant theoretical approaches to a prominent puzzle in comparative politics.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar: Instruction - Discussion - Assignments

Toetsvorm

In addition to a final individual paper, there will be presentations, weekly assignments and peer reviews. The course requires active participation which includes attendance and presentations.

Literatuur

To be announced. A number of recent articles will be selected that cover the main theoretical and comparative approaches to the politics and governance of European and OECD countries.

Doelgroep

Students of MSc Political Science.

Theories and Approaches in International Relations

Vakcode	S_TAIR ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Examinator	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Docent(en)	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Objectives and learning goals:

- To provide students with an overview of the theoretical foundations of IR, thus enabling them to analyse concrete historical developments from various theoretical perspectives;
- To teach students to critically reflect upon the meta-theoretical foundations - and their methodological and normative implications – of (social science) theory (increasing their reflexive knowledge of both the main traditions and of paradigmatic change);
- To familiarize students with the critical assessment of political science literature, in particular by placing it within a historical context and by reflecting upon both the social constitution of theory as well as its socially constitutive effects.

Inhoud vak

Whereas IR traditionally (and narrowly) defined deals almost exclusively with relations between states, the 'discipline' has moved much beyond such a narrow state-centrism in order to embrace a much broader conception of world politics in which there is attention to both state and non-state actors and both interstate and other global social structures. This broader conception of world politics is point of departure for this introductory course and is in fact taken one step further by departing from the notion that contemporary world politics is of a fundamentally transnational nature. Thus, politics is not just between states but also the political struggle between various transnational interest groups, movements and social forces. Although there is no world polity, there is a European polity, and internationally there are numerous international organizations that constitute institutionalized structures of global governance. Policy, finally, is not just produced by states as foreign policy, but also by the aforementioned international organizations and by the EU. A second characteristic is that although we consider IR as a mature sub-discipline of political science which is grounded in various approaches and methods of general political science (and therefore clearly linked to the other stream of the MSc in Political Science), we also recognize the contributions from other disciplines (including philosophy, economics, sociology, anthropology, and law) to the field and stress the importance of interdisciplinary research. This course is structured as a historical overview of the development of the discipline, placed in a wider historical context of 'real-world' developments in the global system - stressing the obvious links between those developments and the development of theory - as well as in a wider social science context, trying to see how IR theory developed in relation to other disciplines and to wider debates within the social sciences. Next to the historical context considerable attention is given to the meta-theoretical assumptions (and methodological implications thereof) underlying various approaches and theories as we believe that these are key to understanding the major debates, and that - for their own research - it is important that students critically reflect upon those assumptions.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar. Building on prior knowledge of students (i.e., students from our Bachelor's programme are assumed to have basic knowledge of the IR and European integration literature used in the bachelor, and students coming from outside to have an equivalent knowledge), students will work through the literature in tutorial form. The total amount of reading will be about 80 pages per session.

Toetsvorm

Participation, including three pieces of homework (30%) and one final essay (70%).

Literatuur

To be announced.

Doelgroep

MSc Political Science students.

Workshop in Comparative Policy and Politics

Vakcode	S_WCPP ()
Periode	Periode 4

Credits	12.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. H.J.M. Schoonvelde
Examinator	dr. H.J.M. Schoonvelde
Docent(en)	dr. H.J.M. Schoonvelde, dr. P. Overeem
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	600

Doel vak

- To train students in critically evaluating political science research, in particular in the area of Comparative European Politics;
- To guide students in the process of designing theory-guided research projects, alone or in working groups;
- To train students in selecting and applying the appropriate methods and techniques of data collection and analysis to carry out research projects;
- To enhance the abilities of students in academic writing and reporting on research for discussion;
- To invite critical theoretical and normative reflection on the research results;
- To train students to work in small research teams.

Inhoud vak

The workshop will focus on the theme of Political Reform in Rough Times: Are Compromises Still Possible? In particular, attention will be given to the question whether developments like polarization and the rise of populism (including permanent campaigning, incessant media attention and greater transparency, the use of referenda, etc.) are making agreements on responsible political compromises more difficult, as some political scientists have claimed, or not, and how this varies across countries and policy areas. The course aims to provide students with knowledge of the institutions in the context of which political deals are forged, ranging from the constitutional level (polity) to the party system and electoral system level (politics) onto the substantive domain level (policy). Explanations of their variations is laced with an in-depth understanding of the impact of the just-mentioned developments since 2001 (taking the 9/11 attacks as a symbolic starting point) on the capacity of political actors to agree on reforms by striking compromises. In addition, this course aims to enable students develop their skills of comparative cross-national (particularly European) political analysis and reform process tracing, and to apply theoretical concepts and methods of institutional policy analysis to instances of policy reform and/or even constitutional reform and hence to the (changing) scope for compromise-making under present conditions. The main aim of the workshop is to train students 'on the spot' by letting them critically evaluate the research of others (looking at contrasting examples); to develop a theory-guided research design jointly with fellow students; and to carry out (part of) that research also in small groups as well as individually. Students can build upon this in developing a design for their own Master's Thesis.

Onderwijsvorm

Tutorial. Students will work in small groups, and report on their work both orally and in writing.

Toetsvorm

Individual assignments and group work as well as in-class participation.

Literatuur

Dodds, A., Comparative Public Policy, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013.

Gutmann, A. and D. Thompson, The Spirit of Compromise: Why Governing Demands it and Campaigning Undermines it, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.

Additional readings to be announced in due course (on Canvas).

Doelgroep

Students in the MSc Political Science, Tracks Comparative European Politics and Policy and Politics.

Workshop in Global Environmental Governance

Vakcode	S_WGEG ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	12.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Examinator	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Docent(en)	prof. dr. P.H. Pattberg
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	600

Doel vak

To train students in critically evaluating political science research, in particular in the area of global environmental governance; To guide students in the process of designing theory-guided research projects, alone or in working groups; To train students in selecting and applying the appropriate methods and techniques of data collection and analysis to carry out research projects; To enhance the abilities of students in academic writing and reporting on research for discussion; To invite critical theoretical and normative reflection on the research results; To train students to work in small research teams.

Inhoud vak

At the beginning of this workshop, students select one environmental policy field or problem to further analyze during the course. Each week is dedicated to one specific aspect of global environmental governance: After an introduction into current debates in global change research, the first week focuses on drivers of environmental degradation, such as contemporary production and consumption practices, inadequate regulation of business and industry, globalization, and vulnerability (financial and otherwise). In week two, the focus is on international governance within the respective issue area, i.e. environmental regimes and international organizations. Week three extends this mapping of key institutions and actors to the transnational realm (e.g. cities, companies, non-governmental organizations). Week four addresses the challenge of assessing effectiveness of global environmental governance practices, whereas in week five, we focus on the justice dimension of

governance, particularly legitimacy, accountability and fairness. Finally, in week six, the broader question of interlinkages between issue areas, in particular between the environment and non-environmental domains, are addressed. After having studied and discussed the concept of the week, students work towards a short application to their policy field. Results will be presented in class and discussed with peers and the professors. The separate short assessments will form the basis for the final research paper.

Onderwijsvorm

Tutorial. Students will work in small groups, and report on their work both orally and in writing.

Toetsvorm

Individual assignments and group work well as in-class participation.

Literatuur

Selected articles and books

Vereiste voorkennis

Participation in Selected Issues in Global Environmental Governance (S_SIGEG) is required.

Doelgroep

MSc students in political science and international relations.

Workshop in International Relations

Vakcode	S_WIR ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	12.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. M. Hoijtink
Examinator	dr. M. Hoijtink
Docent(en)	dr. M. Hoijtink, A.A. van Hardeveld MSc
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	600

Doel vak

- To train students in critically evaluating political science research, in particular in the area of international relations and transnational governance;
- To guide students in the process of designing theory-guided or policy-oriented research projects, alone or in working groups;
- To train students in selecting and applying the appropriate methods and techniques of data collection and analysis to carry out research projects;
- To enhance the abilities of students in academic writing and reporting on research for discussion;
- To invite critical theoretical and normative reflection on the research results;
- To train students to work in small research teams.

Inhoud vak

On the basis of a collective thematic focus the workshop aims to train students in doing political science themselves within the field of International Relations and Transnational Governance. This course starts by critically examining; - as a class, and in small groups; - some key issues – on the basis of selected readings – within the overarching theme, thus seeking to acquire in depth knowledge and understanding of existing research in this area, and then, in the final weeks, proceeds by applying that knowledge by designing and carrying out small research projects. This way, substantive knowledge is deepened while at the same time the focus is on training students 'on the spot'; further developing students' (research) skills and competences within the setting of a research practical. The main aim of the workshop is thus to train students in the practice of political science research, familiarizing students with the different meta- theoretical and methodological issues and problems involved, such as: research design; choice of research methods; data collection and empirical analysis; causality, inference and interpretation.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminar

Toetsvorm

Class Participation and Written Assignment(s). All Parts must be passed.

Literatuur

To be announced on Canvas

Vereiste voorkennis

Participation in Selected Issues: Transnational Political Economy

Doelgroep

Students MSc Political Science, Track International Relations