



## Political Science

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

De premaster Politicologie biedt een voorbereidingsprogramma op de MSc Political Science voor studenten met inhoudelijke en methodologische deficiënties in hun vooropleiding. De premaster begint met de inleiding in het vakgebied State, Power and Conflict. Daarna volgen studenten vakken in methoden van sociaal-wetenschappelijk en politicologisch onderzoek, beschrijvende en inferentiele statistiek en academisch schrijven. De geleerde academische en onderzoeksvaardigheden worden door de studenten toegepast op politicologische vraagstukken. De premaster wordt afgesloten met een Engelstalig onderzoekspaper.

[Doelstellingen en eindtermen](#)

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# Premasterprogramma Political Science

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
<a href="#">PM Methodologie swo PS</a>	Periode 2	6.0	S_PMMPS
<a href="#">PM Political Science Research 1</a>	Periode 4	6.0	S_PMPSR1
<a href="#">PM Political Science Research 2</a>	Periode 5+6	9.0	S_PMPSR2
<a href="#">PM State, Power and Conflict</a>	Periode 1	6.0	S_PMSPC
<a href="#">PM Tutorial Academic Writing PS</a>	Periode 3	3.0	S_PMAWPS

## PM Methodologie swo PS

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_PMMPS ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 2
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Nederlands
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	mr. O.L.F.M. Blarel
<b>Examinator</b>	mr. O.L.F.M. Blarel
<b>Docent(en)</b>	dr. J.C. Muis, mr. O.L.F.M. Blarel
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Werkgroep, Hoorcollege, Deeltoets extra zaalcapaciteit

### Doel vak

At the end of this course, students:

- Can distinguish between different views on social reality, on how to investigate social reality, and establish a relationship between these views and the conduct of social science research.
- Can take the steps from a research question to the design of a research, data collection and analysis design, and reflect on all the decisions that have to be made during these steps.
- Can distinguish between different ways of collecting and analyzing data, and indicate which ways are most suitable in which conditions.

### Inhoud vak

Course content

Part 1 of this course (the morning program) offers an introduction to the social scientific research process. The course shows, on the one hand, that the way a researcher approaches social reality is often accompanied by the choice for a particular research design and associated methods of data collection and analysis techniques. On the other hand, the course provides an overview of different data collection methods and analysis techniques.

Following the book *Social Research Methods* of Bryman (2015), we make a distinction between research strategy, research design and research methods. During the course, attention is first drawn to the translation

of a social-scientific problem into a research question. Having the research question as a starting point, we provide insight into the multiple ways in which it can be answered, but above all that there are multiple research strategies, so there are different views on how the problem can be approached. A distinction is often made between an interpretative approach (understanding social phenomena from the participants' perspective) and a positivist approach (explaining social phenomena from the perspective of the researcher). The choice for a particular approach often implies a certain preference of a researcher for certain types of research questions. The commonly used labels 'qualitative' and 'quantitative' research are also discussed.

Research design refers to all decisions aimed at answering the research question. It encompasses the range of concrete decisions that shape one's research. Think about decisions whether or not to perform a manipulation (experimental design vs. observational data), the time frame of one's research (longitudinal vs. cross-sectional design) and the choice of the units (case study vs. comparative design). The choice of a researcher for a particular design is based on the research question.

Once the research design is chosen, the subsequent question is how data can be collected and analyzed to answer the research question. Data collection methods include questionnaires, interviews (structured, unstructured, focus groups), studying texts and images (content analysis), and (participatory) observation. Once the decision is made to collect certain data in a certain way, the following question is how these data can be analyzed in order to answer the research question as well as possible. Based on the analysis, the results are presented in an insightful manner that addresses the problem, the observation and analysis method (e.g. an empirical article, an ethnography). Because answers usually lead to new questions, then the empirical cycle is re-run.

In part 2 of this course (the afternoon program) the learned methodological knowledge and skills are applied to current issues in political science.

### **Onderwijsvorm**

Lectures and tutorials

### **Toetsvorm**

Written examination and small written assignments.

### **Literatuur**

- Alan Bryman. 2015. Social Research Methods (fifth revised edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- A selection of political science journal articles to be announced.

### **Doelgroep**

Pre-Master students Political Science

### **Overige informatie**

This course consists of two parts: a general part 1 (a joint FSW program; the language is English) on the Friday morning and a political science tutorial (part 2) in the afternoon.

## **PM Political Science Research 1**

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_PMPSR1 ()
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<b>Periode</b>	Periode 4
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	T.J. Bogers MA
<b>Examinator</b>	T.J. Bogers MA
<b>Docent(en)</b>	dr. J.C. Muis, mr. O.L.F.M. Blarel, dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Studiegroep, Practicum, Deeltoets extra zaalcapaciteit, Hoorcollege

### **Doel vak**

Kennis en Inzicht: Na afloop van deze cursus heeft de student(e) kennis van en inzicht in:

(1) de elementaire methoden en technieken van beschrijvende en inferentiële statistiek.

Toepassing: Na afloop van deze cursus is de student(e) in staat om:

(2) elementaire beschrijvende statistische technieken te onderscheiden, uit te voeren en te interpreteren;

(3) een elementaire causale analyse uit te voeren en te interpreteren;

(4) elementaire inferentiële statistische technieken voor het schatten en toetsen van statistische hypothesen te onderscheiden, uit te voeren en te interpreteren;

(5) de genoemde analysetechnieken uit te voeren in SPSS;

(6) een gegeven tabel met statistische gegevens te lezen.

### **Inhoud vak**

Het hoorcollegedeel van deze cursus (het ochtendprogramma) biedt een inleiding tot de statistische methoden van sociaal-wetenschappelijk onderzoek. Studenten ontwikkelen vaardigheden om verzamelde kwantitatieve gegevens te beschrijven. Daarnaast biedt het vak een overzicht van technieken om verzamelde gegevens te analyseren en hypothesen te toetsen. De onderwerpen die in deze cursus aan bod komen zijn: beschrijvende univariate statistiek, beschrijvende multivariate statistiek, het opstellen en 'lezen' van tabellen, kansverdelingen, het toetsen van hypothesen en betrouwbaarheidsintervallen, univariate en multivariate regressie, en betrouwbaarheidsanalyse. Tijdens practica SPSS worden de genoemde analysetechnieken toegepast. Ook bij het kunnen 'lezen' van tabellen wordt kort stilgestaan.

De hoorcolleges worden gevolgd door practicumbijeenkomsten (het middagprogramma), waarin de geleerde kennis en vaardigheden worden toegepast met behulp van SPSS.

### **Onderwijsvorm**

Zelfstudie, wekelijkse repsonsiecolleges en practica

### **Toetsvorm**

Schriftelijk tentamen (ongeveer 70%), drie deel toetsen (ongeveer 30 %).

De deeltoetsen kunnen niet worden herkanst. De herkansing is een tentamen en bevat onderdelen (in de juiste verhouding) van het schriftelijk tentamen en de deeltoetsen.

### **Literatuur**

Verplicht:

Agresti, A. & Franklin, C. (2013.) Statistics: the Art and Science of

Learning from Data. Pearson Education. 3e editie. Hieruit zal een selectie van hoofdstukken gemaakt worden.

Aanbevolen:

Software-pakket SPSS, bijvoorbeeld via Surfspot (<https://www.surfspot.nl>). De opgaven uit het boek en de practicumopgaven vereisen vaak het gebruik van SPSS. Het is altijd mogelijk SPSS in de practicumzalen te gebruiken, maar deze ruimte is beperkt en er wordt vaak onderwijs gegeven. SPSS is dan niet te gebruiken.

### Doelgroep

Premasterstudenten Political Science

### Intekenprocedure

LET OP: Voor dit vak kun je niet zelf intekenen voor de practica, maar word je ingedeeld door de vakcoördinator.

N.B. Je moet wel intekenen voor het vak met de bijbehorende vakonderdelen!

### Overige informatie

LET OP: De premastervakken worden één keer per week en altijd op de vrijdagen aangeboden. Het programma bestaat uit een ochtenddeel (hoorcolleges) en een middagdeel (practica).

## PM Political Science Research 2

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_PMPSR2 ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 5+6
<b>Credits</b>	9.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	T.J. Bogers MA
<b>Examinator</b>	T.J. Bogers MA
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Studiegroep, Hoorcollege

### Doel vak

In this course students will:

- deepen their knowledge of methods and techniques of political science research and be able to apply these in a limited own research project;
- further develop their ability to analyse, evaluate and interpret political data;
- learn to apply insights of political science to topical societal questions;
- learn to formulate and execute a clear research design, and present their research findings into a clearly written and coherently argued research paper.

### Inhoud vak

During period 5 (April-May) students follow several short modules in methods and techniques in social scientific research such as open interview, and document analysis. In period 6 students finalise their research paper. Particular attention shall be paid to the collection and analysis of data and the recording of research findings. Students are also expected to present their findings to their peers.

**Onderwijsvorm**

Tutorials

**Toetsvorm**

Written Assignment (research paper).

**Literatuur**

To be announced.

**Aanbevolen voorkennis**

Students are expected to have participated in the preceding course Political Science Research 1 and have completed the Pre-Master courses from periods 1 to 3.

**Doelgroep**

Students pre-Master Political Science.

**Overige informatie**

This course is intended exclusively for students of the Premaster Political Science.

**PM State, Power and Conflict**

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_PMSPC ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 1
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn
<b>Docent(en)</b>	dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Studiegroep, Hoorcollege

**Doel vak**

This course aims to familiarize students with fundamental political science concepts, especially the concept of power, and apply those concepts in order to gain a better understanding of the recent history of, and contemporary issues in, world politics. After completing the course, students will have:

- Knowledge of different approaches to the concept of power and be able to apply these to the analysis of (contemporary) political issues;
- An understanding of what 'states' are and how the modern state and the modern states system came into being;
- Knowledge of some key approaches in political science and an overview of the discipline and major sub-disciplines;
- Knowledge of and insight into the main developments in the history of world politics from the Peace of Westphalia to the Iraq War and the current era of globalization and the power shift to Asia;
- Be familiar with main patterns of cooperation and conflict between

states as well as between non-state actors and be able to understand some of these patterns by the application of key political science concepts and some key approaches within the sub-discipline of



### **Inhoud vak**

This course, which offers a broad introduction to the major concepts of and main approaches in political science, consists of two main parts. After a critical overview of different concepts of power, the concept of the state and contending perspectives on the conflict and cooperation within modern political systems, the course introduces students to contemporary world politics through an overview of international political history from the 17th century to the present. Here we seek to understand history by identifying recurrent patterns of cooperation and conflict not just between states but also involving non-state actors, and by applying some of the concepts and approaches dealt with in the first part of the course. The course will end with a discussion of contemporary issues within the context of a globalized world politics, such as the ongoing War on Terror, the communications revolutions and its impact upon power.

### **Onderwijsvorm**

Lectures, web-lectures and tutorials.

### **Toetsvorm**

Written examination

### **Literatuur**

- Nye, J., en D. Welch Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction. Latest International Edition. Pearson.
- To be announced

### **Doelgroep**

Students Pre-Master Course Political Science

### **Overige informatie**

This is the same course as taught in the regular Bachelor programme political science. However, Pre-Master students will normally only be able to attend the Friday morning lecture. The lecture held the other day in the week will be accessible as a weblecture or slidecast. On Friday afternoon Pre-Master students political science will participate in a tutorial in which they will discuss the various concepts and themes as covered in both lectures of that week and in particular learn to apply the concepts in the analysis of contemporary issues in global politics.

## **PM Tutorial Academic Writing PS**

<b>Vakcode</b>	S_PMAWPS ()
<b>Periode</b>	Periode 3
<b>Credits</b>	3.0
<b>Voertaal</b>	Engels
<b>Faculteit</b>	Faculteit der Sociale Wetenschappen
<b>Coördinator</b>	H. Mercenier
<b>Examinator</b>	drs. B. Slijper
<b>Docent(en)</b>	H. Mercenier
<b>Lesmethode(n)</b>	Studiegroep, Hoorcollege

**Doel vak**

Students learn to build a scientific argument, using academic English.

**Inhoud vak**

The practice of academic writing will be introduced in a number of oral lectures. In subsequent study groups students will practice in a number of small assignments, using available videoclips and (digital) academic writing guides. Through interactive tutorials and weekly assignments, students will be familiarized with and practice citing and paraphrasing, argumentation, and structuring (academic) texts. Peer review and discussion on these writing is core, and takes place under supervision of a qualified teacher. Students write a final review of a scientific work in their field of interest.

**Onderwijsvorm**

Study group meetings and working in peer groups.

**Toetsvorm**

Participation in the study group and written assignment.

**Literatuur**

To be announced.

**Doelgroep**

Pre-Master students Political Science