



# Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

## Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

# The Governance and Politics of Social Problems

Course Code	S_GPSP
Credits	6
Period	P2
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Social Sciences
Course Coordinator	drs. B. Slijper
Examiner	dr. A.P.M. Krouwel
Teaching Staff	dr. A.P.M. Krouwel, drs. A. Olierhoek MA
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Written partial exam

## Course Objective

In this course, students acquire knowledge about the core ideas and concepts of political science and public administration/governance studies in relation to contemporary societal developments.

## Course Content

Besides getting familiar with the basics of their to-be profession, students will gain insight into: (1) the differences and similarities between political science and the study of governance and public administration, (2) the way in which political systems and systems of government are attuned theoretically and in which they divert practically, and (3) the ways in which both are (cooperatively and/or antagonistically) coping with the common challenges they face.

It follows that students will learn how current societal, economic and cultural developments can be analysed (4), and how these influence politics and governance (5). Examples of questions that could be raised in the lectures are 'What does the rise of anti-establishment parties do to (day-to-day) political communication?' and 'What does the limited ability of governments to implement and execute policies mean for democracy?'. Finally, as part of the more theoretical aspects of this course, we also address normative questions (6). Students learn to recognize the implicit and explicit moral aspects of policy formation, implementation and execution, as well as political participation, voting or abstention in elections, and so on.

## Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lectures

## Method of Assessment

Interim assignments and final exam

## Literature

Course handbook:

Costello, R., & Robinson, N. (Eds.). (2020). *Comparative European Politics: Distinctive Democracies, Common Challenges*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

## Additional Information Target Audience

First year's Bachelor's students in Political Science;  
First year's Bachelor's students in Bestuurs- en Organisationswetenschappen