

PADM 4130: American Intergovernmental Relations

Instructor Information

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Course Overview

The U.S. “government” is actually constituted by an enormous number of “governments” which are not neatly organized into a hierarchy with a clear chain of command. Rather, governmental relationships and interactions are complex and evolving. Such interactions may be collaborative, cooperative, or competitive. The comparative power of federal, state, local, and interregional entities has waxed and waned over time due to changes in legislation, culture, and technology. This course is designed to provide the learner with a road map and a “cheat sheet” for determining who is responsible for what and why.

The course will examine several hot button issues in which the authority of one branch of government was challenged by another, and debate whether the current structure makes sense. Toward the end of the course, we will consider supranational organizations and how the roles of these organizations tie in with traditional notions of national sovereignty.

This course will be helpful to any student interested in the reach and role of governmental entities from the perspective of political science, history, or public policy.

Course Structure

This course takes place 100% asynchronous online. The primary tool of communication for this course is the Canvas course portal. Please make sure that you have access to Canvas, and please visit the link for online communication tips <https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>. Your interaction with the instructors and with your fellow students will take place in Canvas. Content is delivered in modules with due dates set by the instructor.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will develop competencies in the following areas:

1. Constitutional, policy, and administrative relations between the Federal and state governments
2. Constitutional, policy, and administrative relations between state and local governments
3. Collaborative and competitive relations between local governments
4. U.S. role in supranational organizations

Required Materials

- O'Toole, L. J., & Christensen, R. K. (2013). *American intergovernmental relations: Foundations, perspectives, and issues*. Cq Press. (ISBN13: 9781452226293)

Additional materials will be posted on Canvas

Course Requirements and Grading

The course assignments have been connected to help students build their knowledge throughout the semester. I will introduce the pertinent subject matter and attempt to tie together the various readings on a topic, but you will be expected to actively participate in the discussions. You are expected to read and comprehend all of the required readings and materials posted on Canvas.

Assignment		Points Each Possible	Points Total
Weekly Activities	Quizzes	25 points * 12 weeks (30%)	300 points
	Short essay	25 points * 4 weeks (10%)	100 points
	Discussion	10 points * 10 weeks (10%)	100 points
Exams	Midterm Exam	250 points (25%)	250 points
	Final Exam	250 points (25%)	250 points
Total Points Possible		1,000 points (100%)	1,000 points

Course Grading Scale:

A = 900-1000; B = 800-899; C = 700-799; D = 600-699; F = 0-599

Weekly Activities:

Every week except the two exam weeks, you will have weekly activities.

Quizzes: Small quizzes will be assigned every week except exam weeks based on class modules and assigned readings. The quizzes are intended to test your mastery of the material covered. **Please note that each quiz will be available from 7:00 AM on Thursday and due by 11:59 PM on Friday of the assigned week.**

Short Essays: There will be four short essays throughout the semester over the course materials. It should be a double-spaced, 12pt, Times New Roman, and 300-500-word short response to the question. Students are expected to **submit short essays by Friday, 11:59 PM of each assigned week.**

Discussions: Students must address the discussion question in the assigned weeks. These discussions are designed to deepen your understanding of the assigned readings and foster an interactive learning environment. **Your initial post is due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday of the assigned week, and you must respond to at least one classmate's post by 11:59 PM on**

Friday of the same week. Timely participation is crucial, as it allows for meaningful engagement and dialogue. Your contributions will be evaluated based on the quality of your insights, the relevance to the readings, and adherence to deadlines.

Exams:

Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. They will be open-book, take-home exams.

Midterm Exam: A midterm exam will be administered in the middle of the semester in week 8. It will account for 25 percent of the final grade. The exam will cover only the first half of the semester.

Final Exam: A final exam will be administered at the end of the semester in week 16. It will account for 25 percent of the final grade. The exam will cover only the second half of the semester.

Detailed instructions for the assignments will be available on CANVAS.

Course Schedule & Required Reading

We will follow this schedule unless there is a need for revision. Errors and unforeseen circumstances may occur and it is in the professor's discretion to make changes that support student learning. Any changes to the schedule will be reflected in this syllabus, and an announcement and in the relevant modules in Canvas.

Topic & Schedule	Reading	Course Activities
Module 1: Aug 18-24 American Federalism 1	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 1	Module 1 Discussion (Aug 20 & 22) Module 1 Quiz (Aug 22)
Module 2: Aug 25-31 American Federalism 2	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 1-2 Cox (1999)	Module 2 Quiz (Aug 29) Short Essay 1 (Aug 29)
Module 3: Sep 1-7 Federalism or IGR	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 2-3	Module 3 Discussion (Sep 3 & 5) Module 3 Quiz (Sep 5) Short Essay 2 (Sep 5)
Module 4: Sep 8-14 Moral Hazard and IGR		Module 4 Discussion (Sep 10 & 12) Module 4 Quiz (Sep 12)
Module 5: Sep 15-21 Federal-State Relations: Policy Conflict and Regulation 1	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 12, 13, 21, 22	Module 5 Discussion (Sep 17 & 19) Module 5 Quiz (Sep 19)

Module 6: Sep 22-28 Federal-State Relations: Policy Conflict and Regulation 2	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 12, 13, 21, 22 Torruella (2017)	Module 6 Discussion (Sep 24 & 26) Module 6 Quiz (Sep 26)
Module 7: Sep 29-Oct 5 Federal-State Relations: Homeland Security	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 25	Module 7 Discussion (Oct 1 & 3) Module 7 Quiz (Oct 3)
Module 8: Oct 6-12 Midterm Exam Prep		Midterm Exam (Oct 6-10)
Module 9: Oct 13-19 Fiscal Federalism 1	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 14, 15, 17	Module 9 Quiz – Bonus (Oct 17)
Module 10: Oct 20-26 Fiscal Federalism 2	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 14, 15, 17	Module 10 Discussion (Oct 22 & 24) Module 10 Quiz (Oct 24)
Module 11: Oct 27-Nov 2 State-Local Relations		Module 11 Discussion (Oct 29 & 31) Module 11 Quiz (Oct 31)
Module 12: Nov 3-9 State-local Relations: Policy Conflict and Regulation		Module 12 Quiz (Nov 7) Short Essay 3 (Nov 7)
Module 13: Nov 10-16 Local Government Relations	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 4 Agranoff (2006)	Module 13 Discussion (Nov 12 & 14) Module 13 Quiz (Nov 14)
Module 14: Nov 17-23 International Governance	O'Toole et al. (2013) Ch 24	Module 14 Discussion (Nov 19 & 21) Module 14 Quiz (Nov 21) Short Essay 4 (Nov 21)
Thanksgiving Break: Nov 24-30		
Module 15: Dec 1-7 Final Exam Prep		Final Exam (Dec 1-5)

Other readings will be assigned and posted on Canvas.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

Assignment due dates are listed in the syllabus and posted on Canvas. For each assignment, you can find instructions and additional materials on Canvas. All assignments should be submitted via Canvas, unless indicated otherwise.

Quiz and Exam Policy

Each quiz or exam is timed and has a deadline for completion. Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before beginning. After all quizzes and exams are graded and released, the score will be posted in Canvas. Students may not discuss a quiz or exam with other students.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Late Work

All assignments are due by 11:59 PM, the end of the due date. You will lose 10% of your total score if you submit within 48 hours after the deadline. You will lose 20% of your total score if you submit beyond 48 hours after the deadline. Your assignment will not be accepted beyond 7 days of the deadline with no legitimate reasons or no communication with the instructor. Please email the instructor BEFORE the deadline to request an accommodation to waive the late policy. An extension may be given under limited circumstances, including but not limited to, the student's or a close family member's illness or injury; death of a close family member; or other major life event. The student must provide written documentation of any such event upon request. If a student fails to timely contact the professor and/or provide the requested documentation, the student will not be given additional time to complete the assigned coursework and will receive no credit for the assigned coursework.

Cheating or Plagiarism

In accordance with UNT policy (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>), cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the course. Any work submitted for a grade should be the original work of the student. Remember, plagiarism is a violation of acceptable student conduct. Long quotations should be avoided. Text or unique ideas taken directly from an author (quoted or paraphrased) should be cited and that citation should include a page number for the text. Violations will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary action will be taken should such violations occur. Please see the professor if you have any questions about academic integrity in general or as it relates to particular requirements for this course.

Syllabus Change Policy

We reserve the right to change, modify, add to, alter, delete, and otherwise rearrange the syllabus to make the learning process accessible and in response to changing in a situation. If this were to occur, students will be given advanced notice and a copy of the changes.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each

faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.