Multilevel governance in federal systems: Germany, Canada, and the EU compared
11:35 a.m. – 2:25 p.m, Tuesdays
240 Paterson Hall

Instructor: Arthur Benz
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1. Course description

The course deals with the highly topical issue of governance across levels of political systems. By comparing Germany, Canada and the EU, students will learn how policies of levels of governments are coordinated, whether this is done in an effective and democratic way, and how institutional and societal conditions influence multilevel governance. Additionally, by discussing relevant theories, students will be introduced into the analytical tools essential for studying multilevel governance in national and transnational polities and their application in particular cases.

In line with recent trends in European studies, the course treats the EU in a comparative perspective with federal states. This way we can gain new insights into the special features of European governance. On the other hand, the study of so called “new modes of governance” in the EU (e.g., network governance, soft law, Open Method of Coordination) sheds new light on recent developments involving governments in federal states. Therefore the course is addressed to students interested in European Union studies, comparative politics, and Canadian studies.

2. Evaluation

- Participation in Seminar Discussions: 10 %:
  Students are required to contribute to seminar discussions based on their reading of the texts.
- Presentation of one of the texts: 20 %:
  During the seminar, each student should introduce the basic messages of two of the texts in a short presentation (not more than 10 minutes). It is important that the presentations will be focussed on the main points or hypotheses and will stimulate discussions.
- Outline of the term paper: 20 %:
  To prepare their term paper, students have to write an outline (1-2 pages, max. 1000 words), containing the research question, the research design, the line of the argument and basic literature. The research question will not be assigned by the instructor, but has to be selected and developed by
the students. This way they should learn how to deal with a “problem” in a scientific process. The outline will be marked according to the quality of the suggested research design. It is due on February, 26 at the latest and must be discussed with the instructor during office hours.

- **Term paper:** 50%
  
  Based on their outline and the feedback by the instructor, students write their term paper. The length of the paper should not exceed 5000 words (without lists of contents and references etc.). The paper is evaluated according to the following criteria: coherence between research question, research design and conclusions; consideration of state of research (literature), style and formal aspects (e.g. references).
  
  The paper is due on April 1. Papers submitted late will be accepted with a penalty of one grade point (e.g. A- instead of A), unless a medical (or equivalent) excuse is provided. Papers will not be accepted after April 7.

3. Schedule, topics and required readings

**January, 8: Introduction: Clarifying concepts, overview**

**January, 15: Historical developments and institutional frameworks (introduction in comparing federal systems)**

Reading:

  
  ch. 4 (45-67),
  
  ch. 6 (87-104),
  
  ch. 8 (127-143).

**January, 22: Division and sharing of powers between levels (why multilevel governance?)**

Reading:


**January, 29: Fiscal relations between levels**

Reading:


February, 5: Societal conditions, party politics, interest intermediation
Reading:

February, 12: Three levels or more: the role of regions and municipalities, internationalisation of national federations
Reading:

February, 26: Modes of multilevel governance I: the joint-decision trap
Reading:

Outline of research paper due!

March, 4: Modes of multilevel governance II: intergovernmental negotiations
Reading:

March, 11: Modes of multilevel governance II: hierarchy and networks
Reading:
March, 18: Modes of multilevel governance III: competitive federalism; Open Method of Coordination
Reading:

March, 25: The problem of democratic legitimacy
Reading:

April, 1: Conclusions: Reviewing the concept of multilevel governance
Reading:

Research paper is due

4. Readings, Literature

The reading listed under each topic provides articles or book chapters which should introduce the discussion. They do not always comprehensively cover the subjects of the sessions, but should introduce basic information or prominent approaches on multilevel governance. There is no single textbook for the course. However, a number of good textbooks on comparative federalism and the EU are available. They are indicated in the list of supplementary readings. This list should also help students to prepare their paper.

Selected literature for further studies (* recommended):

a) Comparative Federalism

b) Canada


**c) Germany**


**d) European Union**

- Zeitlin, Jonathan and Philippe Pochet (eds.), 2005: The Open Method of Coordination in Action: The European Employment and Social Inclusion Strategies, Brussels, New York: P.I.E. Peter Lang,
e) Multilevel Governance – Theoretical Approaches

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: March 14th, 2008 for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See http://connect.carleton.ca for instructions on how to set up your account.