Governance in Theory and Practice

Online course

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/governance
INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Governance in Theory and Practice

Overview
Governance is a complex concept which is often used differently in various disciplines of social sciences. Moreover, the key debates in the studies on governance vary in different strands of the literature. This course is organized as an introductory exploration to the wider multidisciplinary study of governance and offers diverse literature and methodological approaches. The course will guide participants through the key theoretical debates surrounding the concept of governance while at the same time present a range of empirical examples illustrating how governance works in practice. The target group of this course is oriented but not limited to students, policy practitioners, NGOs staff, civil and international servants.

The course is divided into four units. The first unit is an introduction to the key concepts of governance. The second unit introduces governance studies in the discipline of public administration. Unit three discusses governance in the study of international and global politics. Finally, unit four introduces the concept of “good governance” in the development studies and the study of political economy.

Key Concepts
- Governance, institutionalism, legitimacy, democratic governance, accountability
- Traditional public administration, new public management, public-private partnerships, transparency
- Global governance, globalization, supranational cooperation, multi-level governance, EU governance
- Good governance, economic development, weak states, effective governance, international organizations

Learning Goals
By the end of the course students should be able to:
- Understand the multidisciplinary nature of the concept of governance
- Understand the different approaches and critiques in the academic discourse on the main concepts of governance
- Be aware of the debate on bureaucracy in public administration
- Understand the technical and political complexity of public networks
- Understand concrete issues and dilemmas related to global governance
- Comprehend the transformation of governance in a globalized world
• Grasp the role of cooperation in international settings
• Understand the origins of “good governance” as a term and be able to explain the main characteristics of “good governance”
• Understand the role of state in promoting good governance measures
• Grasp the challenges facing international organizations in disseminating good governance

• COURSE OUTLINE
  1. Unit 1: Defining Governance: Key Concepts
  2. Unit 2: Governance in Public Administration
  3. Unit 3: Governance, Globalization, and International Politics
  4. Unit 4: Good Governance

• LEARNING MATERIALS

  1. Lectures with unit materials
     • The course units each include a mandatory overview compiled in a unit package (available on CANVAS).
     • Additional lectures, seminar series presentations or video materials may be shared as optional materials.
  
  2. Readings

    REQUIRED


**RECOMMENDED READINGS AND MOVIES**


Orlowski, Jeff (2020-09-09), *The Social Dilemma* (Documentary, Drama).

Mauriat, E., Sauper, H., Mille et Une Productions., Coop99 Filmproduktion., Saga film


**REQUIRED ACTIVITIES**

1. Study the unit materials shared on CANVAS
   - Read the slides and supplementary materials suggested
   - Throughout the slides there are reflection points. These are questions designed to prompt your thinking on topics discussed. You are encouraged to write down your thoughts in preparation of your discussion with your tutor/classmates.

2. Discussion Forum
   - In case of questions on the materials, or readings, you are advised to interact with others on the discussion forum. In addition to obtaining answers to your questions, the forums can be used to share ideas and knowledge. Your tutors will monitor these discussion fora and provide input.

3. Tutorial sessions/tutor interaction
   - Following each unit there will be a meeting with your tutor. If you are participating as part of a group, the tutorial will discuss the material for that unit as well as the reflective assignment. If there are no other participants in the course, you are invited to share your reflective assignment with the tutor in advance of the (individual) tutorial.

4. Graded written assignments
   - There is one written assignment per unit, which must be uploaded to CANVAS. All four assignments contribute to the final grade. Self-assessment quizzes are also part of the exercises, but do not form part of the final grade.

5. Graded oral exam
   - There is a short oral exam at the end of the course, which is to be recorded and graded.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**
Each of the four end of unit assignments contributes 20% each towards the final grade. A final oral examination, based on the course content and assignment, counts for the outstanding 20%. In order to pass the course, the students must attend at least three tutorial sessions out of the four sessions scheduled.

You will receive a passing grade for this course if the average grade is minimally 5.5 (on a scale from 1-10). If the final average grade is below 5.5 you will be given the opportunity to resit assignments that were graded below 5.5, as well as participate in the resit oral exam. You will not be offered a resit if the average grade is above 5.5.

Assignments submitted after the submission deadline will automatically receive a grade of 0 points. You will be permitted to submit the same assignment as a resit submission in the re-sit upload link in CANVAS.

**TIMELINE**

We expect that the course will take 10 weeks to complete and your registration will be valid for 10 weeks.

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The date and time of the assignment, oral exam and re-sit will be agreed between you and your tutor, and the dates update on CANVAS. Please note, this does not mean deadlines can be altered at will. Please ensure that CANVAS has been updated in line with your discussions.

All dates and times are given in Central European Time (CET).

**Module 1: Defining Governance: Key Concepts (Week 2)**

**Description**

The module provides students with an introduction to essential concepts in the understanding and analysis of governance. Governance is a complex occurrence in a very diverse and unpredictable political reality. Especially in a globalized world, one must acknowledge the need for flexibility in governance schemes, in order to govern the unpredictable.

In this module we will assess common elements between different interpretations that lead to an encompassing definition of governance. We will also discuss how the concept was born and in which context (understand governance as something different from
government). The discussion in the literature will also show how governance differs from institutions, policies and organizations.

**Key readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


**Module 2: Governance in Public Administration (Week 3)**

**Description**
This module focuses on the concept of governance in the field of public administration. It offers a platform for discussing the difference between the traditional model of public administration and the new public management reforms. We encourage the discussion on strengths and weaknesses of each of these.

In this module we will reflect on the functioning and performance of public networks and civil society organizations when setting the agenda and monitoring governmental policies, and which dilemmas arise for national politicians in charge of the state.

**Key readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


**Recommended Movie Screening:**


**Module 3: Governance, Globalization, and International Politics (Week 4)**

**Description**

The module provides students with an introduction to essential concepts of governance in the study of international relations. The module offers guidelines to discuss models of cooperation that transcend national borders and their implications for states in a globalized world.
Drawing from the key readings and the optional articles, this module encourages discussion on the challenges that arise with the change in state authority to foster democracy and governance in a globalized world.

**Key readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


**Recommended Movie Screening:**


- Orlowski, Jeff (2020-09-09), *The Social Dilemma* (Documentary, Drama).

**Module 4: Good Governance (Week 5)**

**Description**

What is “good governance” and how does it differ from the classical notion of “governance”? Good governance is a set of values which characterize a successful form of policy making and policy implementation.

This module focuses on the basics of the good governance debate by discussing approaches to what falls within good governance and how we may prioritize its
elements (i.e. transparency vs. development). The key readings provide sufficient material for conceptualizing how the concept of good governance is understood in practice. The students are encouraged to see the practice of good governance in relation to state, government, and economic development.

**Key readings:**

**Recommended readings:**

**Recommended Movie Screening:**

**CERTIFICATION**
Upon completion of the course, you can request an educational badge. Instructions on how to do so are on CANVAS. Please note, you must request the badge with your Maastricht university email account.

In case you also require a softcopy, please request the certificate from your tutor before end of week 9.

**TUTOR CONTACT**
There are six tutor interactions scheduled during this course:
- Four weekly unit meetings
- Oral exam
- Resit exam (if applicable)
Outside these scheduled tutor interactions we encourage you to use the discussion board function on CANVAS to ask questions; your tutor will be active on this platform throughout the course.

- ETHICS AND PLAGIARISM
Course assignments are checked for plagiarism. In case your assignment does not properly reference and is identified by the software as an assignment with a high plagiarism score, your assignment will be graded with a zero. You will be entitled to submit a different re-sit assignment.
On CANVAS there is a toolkit on ethics in research, that includes the guidelines of proper referencing.
UNU-MERIT » Smart Tools

- CONTACT DETAILS

**Course tutor**
Dr. Oksana Celbis o.celbis@maastrichtuniversity.nl

**Course developers**
Dr. Mindel van de Laar, Mindelvandelaar@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Dr. Oksana Celbis o.celbis@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Dr. Theo Papadopoulos, Dr. Victor Cebotari, Dr. Biljana Meshkovska

**CANVAS support service**
Kirsten Haaland. Haaland@merit.unu.edu

**Online course coordinator**
Myrthe van Engelshoven. myrthe.vanuijen@maastrichtuniversity.nl

**Online course programme manager**
Dr. Mindel van de Laar Mindel.vandelaar@maastrichtuniversity.nl