UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Multilevel Governance in the European Union

Code: 45824
Credits: 6

2026/2027

Degree programme	Type	Course
Political Science	OP	1

Contact lecturer

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Group languages

You can consult this information at the end of the document.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge on the process of European integration.

Objectives

The theories on Multilevel Governance (GMN) are closely associated with the process of integration of the European Union, considered a single model of political construction based on principles such as the transfer of sovereignty of states and the need for negotiation in all areas of decision. An important part of Multilevel Governance within the EU refers to the participation of sub-state government entities (particularly regions and federal states, and cities and other local levels). These levels interact today in continuous dialogue with state governments and European institutions, establish networks of cooperation among themselves, and even project in the world looking for new strategies of economic development or strengthening projects of solidarity in spaces where sometimes states have a presence hard.

The module proposes two main objectives:

1. The theoretical study of the GMN concept, based on the following questions: What are we talking about when talking about Multilevel Governance? What are the main theoretical debates on Multilevel Governance and what are the repercussions of the debate on political processes and public policies in the EU? What type of processes and policies in Europe incorporate Multilevel Governance logics, and in what way?

2. The application of the concept in the different realities of the GMN at sub-national levels of the EU: the diversity of regional and local political structures and their interaction with European policies, particularly those aimed at cohesion and territorial integration. Thus, the analysis of the theoretical aspects of the GMN is combined with a recognition of the main institutions involved, and with a study of examples and practical experiences around aspects such as sustainable local development, Territorial Cooperation, External Decentralized Cooperation, etc.

Learning outcomes

- CA23 (Critically interpret the impact of EU policies at different territorial levels.) Critically interpret the impact of EU policies at different territorial levels.
- CA24 (Assess the democratic impact of technocratic decisions in Europe from an ethical and inclusive perspective.) Assess the democratic impact of technocratic decisions in Europe from an ethical and inclusive perspective.
- CA25 (Participate in international settings in the study of multilevel governance in the EU.) Participate in international settings in the study of multilevel governance in the EU.
- CA26 (Undertake critical autonomous learning on European integration with democratic engagement.) Undertake critical autonomous learning on European integration with democratic engagement.
- KA22 (Describe the impact of European union policies on public opinion in different member states.) Describe the impact of European union policies on public opinion in different member states.
- KA23 (Describe the multilevel governance approach and empirical methods applied to the study of democratic legitimacy in Europe.) Describe the multilevel governance approach and empirical methods applied to the study of democratic legitimacy in Europe.
- KA24 (Identify methodological tools for comparative policy analysis in European contexts.) Identify methodological tools for comparative policy analysis in European contexts.
- SA16 (Formulate research questions on the relationship between European policies and public opinion from a comparative perspective and based on empirical evidence.) Formulate research questions on the relationship between European policies and public opinion from a comparative perspective and based on empirical evidence.
- SA17 (Design research with a multilevel governance approach to analyse EU cohesion policies.) Design research with a multilevel governance approach to analyse EU cohesion policies.
- SA18 (Apply mixed analysis techniques to assess the perception and interpretation of European policies.) Apply mixed analysis techniques to assess the perception and interpretation of European policies.
- SA19 (Communicate research results in a clear and organised way to diverse audiences.) Communicate research results in a clear and organised way to diverse audiences.

Contents

The course focuses on the following topics that will be further detailed in class sessions.

1. The process of decision-making in the EU

2. The EU and the rule of law

3. Transparency in the EU

4. Theories of European integration

5. Policy-making in the EU

6. The EU and the polycrisis decade

7.EU multilevel governance

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Readings and collection of data	60	2.4	CA23, CA24, SA17, SA18
Individual work	30	1.2	CA23, CA24, CA26, KA22, KA23, SA17, SA19
Theoretical classes and seminars	35	1.4	CA23, CA24, KA22, KA23, KA24, SA16, SA17, SA18

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Annotation: within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exam second part of the module	30	2	0.08	CA23, CA24, SA17, SA18, SA19
Class participation	20	20	0.8	CA23, CA24, CA26, SA18, SA19
Written exam	50	3	0.12	CA23, CA24, CA25, CA26, KA22, KA23, KA24, SA16, SA17, SA18, SA19

A written exam on the first part of the module: 50%

An exam on the second part of the module: 30%

In-class participation: 20%

IMPORTANT: Attendance is compulsory (at least 80% of the sessions).

Bibliography

Al principio del curso, un listado con las lecturas obligatorias será remitida a los alumnos a través del campus virtual.

Lecturas preparatorias:

Bomberg, E., J. Peterson and A. Stubb (eds) (2008), The European Union: How Does it Work?, Oxford University Press.

Cini, M. (ed) (2009), European Union Politics, Oxford University Press.

Dinan,D. (2004), Europe Recast. A History of European Union, Palgrave Macmillan.

Dinan, D. (2005), Ever closer union?: An introduction to European integration, Boulder. Co.

Hix,S. And B. Hoyland (2012), The Political System of the European Union, Palgrave (Spanish version in McGraw Hill).

Nugent, N. (2010), The Government and Politics of the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan.

Software

NA

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this link. To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE