

**Mississippi Valley State University
Rural Public Policy and Planning Program
RP 506: Intergovernmental Relations
Spring 2019**

Course time: Online Asynchronous

Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Ronald Love **Office:** U

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Office Hours: Mondays (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Tuesdays (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

Other times by appointment

For Technical Support : Contact Mr. Mack Pendleton, Continuing Education, at 662-254-3114 or 254-3913 ; Email (for blackboard only): pendleton.bb.mvsu@gmail.com

Catalog Course description:

This course provides students with an understanding of the formal and informal relationships among all levels of government. This course will examine the evolution of the American federal system. It will also explore the operations of contemporary American intergovernmental relations from political, economic/financial, and administrative perspectives. The themes of inter-unit dependence/collaboration, complexity and conflict will be discussed. Current trends, issues, judicial, interpretations, and administrative actions involving intergovernmental relations (IGR) as well as the future of intergovernmental system will also be discussed.

Expanded Course Description:

Intergovernmental relations in the United States of America are a complicated, dynamic process that has evolved. Its primary benefits today are not necessarily the Founders' justification for adopting the constitution in 1787. This course is designed to provide an understanding of the dynamics of and interrelationships among and between the federal, state, and local levels of government. It will also analyze the origins, evolution, controversies, and prospects for survival of the American federal system. The subject of intergovernmental relations and management has consistently engendered intense scrutiny and much controversy throughout America's entire history from before birth and through the current era. Every major domestic policy problem debated and decided through our nation's history has involved critical intergovernmental aspects. Even today, such major policy areas as health care, the environment, education, civil rights, and state and local economic development contain thorny issues related to intergovernmental management. Moreover, intergovernmental management in the United States is now facing many new challenges caused by the myriad economic, technological and demographic trends of the new millennium. All of these trends continue to have a significant and direct effect on the fiscal capacity of the different levels of government in the United States. The course focuses on the changing relationships among federal, state, and local government agencies and institutional actors in intergovernmental politics and the policy process. The course also highlights the aspects of intergovernmental relations beyond National-State relations to include interstate and state-local relations, the expanding role of regional cooperation, and recent developments in sub-national governments. Finally, the implications of intergovernmental relations for different policy areas are explored.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After completing the course, students are expected to 1) understand fundamental governing relations among federal, state, and local governments, 2) understand legal, political, fiscal, administrative aspects, and emerging issues and challenges of intergovernmental relations in the US, 3) exercise critical evaluations for social, welfare, and environmental, and other public policies from the perspective of intergovernmental relations.

In addition, students will (i) be able to identify the various phases of federalism in the United States and provide examples of executive, legislative, and judicial decisions relevant to each phase, and (ii) be able to identify various federalism "tools" and strategies available to each level of government as each level strives to influence the other.

Course Requirements

Required Books/Chapters:

Stephens, Ross G., and Nelson Wikstrom. 2007. *American Intergovernmental Relations: A Fragmented Federal Polity*. Oxford University Press (ISBN: 978-0-19-517202-7).

O'Toole, L.J., and R.K. Christensen. 2013. *American Intergovernmental Relations: Foundations, Perspectives, and Issues*. 5th Ed., CQ Press (ISBN: 978-1-4522-2629-3).

(Book chapters). The books may be in the library, and it is the student's responsibility to get the book chapters through the library. If the book is not available in the library student should arrange with the Librarian for inter-library loans)

Grover Starling. *Managing the Public Sector*, 8th or 9th Edition, 2008 or 2011. Thomson Wadsworth, 2008 or 2011. **Chapter 3: Intergovernmental Relations, Synopsis 1 (Chapter handouts to be included in the course module)**

Milakovich, Michael E., and George J. Gordon. *Public Administration in America* (9th or 11th Edition), 2007 or 2013. Thomson Wadsworth. **Chapter 3: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations, Synopsis 2 (Chapter handouts to be included in the course module)**.

Supplementary Texts

Grodzins, Morton. "The American System" in Shafritz, Jay M., and Albert C. Hyde. 2007. Classics of Public Administration, 6th Edition, (MA: Thomson and Wadsworth).

Student Requirements

a. Read the course Homepage for instructions on how to participate in this course. This course is being taught in an online format. Keep in mind that this is not a computer course. You will find instructions on accessing the Blackboard course Environment from the Student Demo Homepage. From the Blackboard course Environment, you can obtain a copy of the course syllabus, and access all course modules for submitting discussion items, assignments, and exams. Email is also available.

b. Download a copy of the course syllabus and retain it for the entire semester. The syllabus contains all course requirements and materials including assigned readings, discussion items, assignments, and exams. All course content may be accessed through the Blackboard course Environment link from the Course Homepage. You are responsible for all assigned readings each week as identified in the course syllabus. Do not attempt to respond to the discussion questions before reading the assigned material for the week.

Course Policies and Procedures

Reading and discussion are the principal activities of this course. The required papers are intended to further class discussion. Each participant is expected to do all of the assigned readings before the online class sessions.

Threaded Discussion is available on Blackboard. You will be able to ask questions about course content and share information with each other. A classmate may be able to answer a question about content more quickly than your instructor. Also, posting content questions on the Discussion Board will allow everyone to view the answers to frequently asked questions. The instructor monitors the Discussion Board with the intention of responding every workday when deemed necessary. Discussion created as assignments require contributions to the discussion board. Students are expected to post responses to module questions and peers' postings on a regular basis.

Discussion board postings should be of quality rather than quantity. For example, a response that says "I agree" with no additional information or documentation will earn 0 points; responses that possess a higher standard of quality will be graded accordingly.

1. Discussion Questions: You are required to post answers in the discussion module to the discussion items the instructor will assign for weekly discussions. The instructor may select discussion questions from the textbook or design any other questions appropriate to the topic. Your answers/responses must reflect your understanding of the material identified for you to read. Moreover, you are responsible for reading and becoming familiar with all materials, not just the discussion items you choose to answer. Each student is required to post answers in the Blackboard assignments module to the discussion questions assigned for the week. The items in the textbook are there to help guide you into studying essential points within the chapters. **In your answers make sure you reference by identifying the page numbers where your answer is based.**

2. Short Concept Papers: Students will prepare and lead the discussion on the following three topics:

- i. "Issues Surrounding U.S. Intergovernmental Relations"
- ii. "The Intergovernmental Relations aspects of a Specific Policy Issue."
- iii. "Problems and Prospects of Intergovernmental Relations"

The three short papers are to be your articulate thoughts on some of the specific topics emanating from your readings during the course. A short-paper is about 3-5 typewritten pages. To stimulate discussion, these short papers are required to be posted on the discussion board on the day they are due. Grading is based on the abstract's clarity, organization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, coverage, and objectivity. The student will stimulate/lead their discussion papers on the blackboard by justifying why the topic covers critical intergovernmental relations issues. Each student is required to post short papers in the Blackboard assignments module by the due date.

3. Book Chapter Synopsis: Two books referenced above.

4. Research Paper: Students will prepare a "research paper" examining an aspect of intergovernmental relations about specific public policy, or a related theoretical component. An 8-10 page research paper will involve analysis in a policy area where intergovernmental relations or federalism is a significant issue. This paper will focus on the role of IGR and federalism in the policy area as well as the issues surrounding that policy area that cross over governmental levels. The paper must be well referenced. Each student is required to post the research paper on the Blackboard assignments module by the due date. Further instructions will be given.

5. Exams: A midterm examination will be given. A research design paper will serve as a final examination. You are expected to take this midterm exam through Blackboard when it is due during the semester. The final exam (Research design paper) will be posted on the blackboard when it is due. You should check the course outline in Blackboard or the course syllabus to find out when these exams are scheduled and mark them on your calendar, so you do not forget to take them. You **MUST** remember to log on and take the exams. If you fail to take an exam for any reason other than medical illness, death, or another similarly severe conflict which kept you from accessing a computer for the entire availability of the exam, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. If you do suffer one of these severe conflicts, you must notify me immediately. I will not accept any excuses at the end of the semester. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings.

Exam answers will only be accepted via the controlled environment of the online exam module. All exams are timed. Typically, you will be allowed 160 minutes to take an exam. Always check the time limit on the exam before beginning. Each exam will be accessible for 5 days; I will usually inform you via the Blackboard communication mail. **You will have only one opportunity to take each exam.** You should, therefore, try to take the exam as early as possible, so if you experience trouble, we can try to fix it. Don't wait until the last minute and then tell me you had computer or connection problems.

Additional Exam requirements: NO MAKE-UP exams will be given. Take exams as soon as they are available to give yourself a little time in case something happens with your computer or the Blackboard server. There will be no extension of testing dates because of personal computer failure. If you wait until the last minute and then your computer does not work, you will receive a zero for the exam. If your computer is unstable, plan to take the exam from a different computer that is more reliable. Failure to protect your account access and ensure your proper login identification is not a valid excuse for missing an exam. The use of online exams requires an assumption of academic honesty on the part of the student. You can use any of your notes you like to take these exams, but you must take them on your own. Any evidence that someone else has taken an exam on your behalf, or that you took an exam with the assistance of someone else, or for someone else, will result in automatic failure of the course for you and any other class member(s) involved with no exceptions. **If you are unfamiliar with online testing and worried about being able to access the system successfully use the help module on the Blackboard or contact me for further instructions.**

Important:

Discussions, synopsis, and short papers: Complete all discussions, synopsis, and short papers and submit them into the Blackboard respective module no later than Friday at 11:59 pm of the week that it is due. Read each assigned work entirely and respond to the question(s) associated with the assignment. Give sufficient details in your responses so that it is evident that you read the chapter and understand the material. **Do not plagiarize (take information verbatim from a source without citing the source) or give direct statements from the book in response to questions.** You must be able to make your assessment of the information that you read and write about.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity includes a commitment to the values of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonest act that is committed in an academic context. Honesty and integrity are essential values of the Mississippi Valley State University's mission to pursue truth and knowledge. Therefore, Mississippi Valley State University will not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form and will impose sanctions if demonstrated. Academic dishonesty erodes the quality and value of degree conferred.

Although the faculty is responsible for establishing standards for moral and academic excellence in teaching and learning, these standards can be reached only with the cooperation and support of students. Students are expected, therefore, to accept responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all acts inside and outside the classroom, studio or laboratory. For a detailed description of sanctions and appeal procedures consult Student Handbook and Undergraduate Catalog.

Diversity Statement

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographic area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others.

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the Social Sciences Building in Room 105 to register for the program at the beginning of each semester.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mrs. Kathy Brownlow via phone or email at 662-254-3443 or kbrownlow@mvsu.edu.

Grade Appeals:








Any student who believes s/he has been graded unfairly, even after talking with me, may appeal that grade by following the procedures set out by the University in the Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to prove that you deserve a higher grade. Keep all copies of your work.

Instructional/Learning Strategies

This course is organized into 17 learning modules; each module contains assigned readings, a weekly discussion, and short papers. Also, there will be two exams: Midterm and Final. **Each student will spend a minimum of 2,250 minutes on course activities for 3 credit hours course.**

Performance Standards and Grading Policy			Points	% of grade
❖	Weekly discussion questions		200	20%
❖	Two Book Chapter synopsis		150	25%
❖	Three short papers @ 50 points		150	15%
❖	Mid-Term exam		100	20%
❖	Research Design (Final Exam)		<u>100</u>	<u>20%</u>
		Total	800	100%
Grading Scale	Points	Grading Scale	Points	
90-100	= A	740-800	= A	80-89 = B
70-79	= C	420-579	= C	60-69 = D
0-59	= F	0-418	= F	260-419 = D

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topics/Activities	Time required
<p>Week 1 Jan. 07-11</p>	<p>Assignment 1: Introductions and Course Overview Discussions with Mr. Mack Pendleton, Continuing Education, regarding how to use the Blackboard and be successful in your Online class. Please contact Mr. Pendleton at 662-254-3114 or 254-3913; Email: Pendleton.bb.mvsu@gmail.com</p> <p>Course & Syllabus Overview/Logistics (Please download the syllabus and read. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact me on the discussion board). Assignment 1: This assignment requires you to indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Name: Last, First  Convenient Phone: Office, Home (if contact is needed)  E-mail address  Degree Program  Major  Job title, if working, and employer  Background, if any, and a detailed statement of your expectations for the course after reading the syllabus (300 min. - 500 max. words). 	<p style="text-align: center;">30 mins.</p>
<p>Week 2 Jan. 14 – 18</p>	<p>Historical Perspectives on Federalism and IGR O'Toole, "American Intergovernmental Relations: An Overview" Madison, "Federalist No. 39," (O'Toole, Ch. 6) Diamond, "What the Framers meant by Federalism," (O'Toole, Ch. 7) Grodzins, "The Federal System," (O'Toole, Ch. 1) *Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 1, (1-22): Optional</p> <p>Assignment 2 Due: Please post your top 4 policy issues related to intergovernmental relations and your justification for the issues (each one paragraph long).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">120 mins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">60 mins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30 mins.</p>
<p>Week 3 Jan. 21-25</p>	<p>Theoretical and Other Perspectives on Federalism and IGR Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 2, (23-44) Wright, "Models of national, State, and Local Relationships," (O'Toole, Ch. 2) Threaded Discussion 1: From your view, which model does Wright identify as the most useful for explaining today's intergovernmental relations? Why?</p> <p>Grover Starling. Managing the Public Sector, 8th or 9th Edition, 2008 or 2011. Thomson Wadsworth, 2008 or</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">120 mins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">60 mins.</p>

	2011. Chapter 3: Intergovernmental Relations, Synopsis 1 due Jan 26, 2019	
Week 4 Jan 28-Feb. 01	Intergovernmental Politics I Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 3, (45-75) Commisa, "Governments as Interest Groups," (O'Toole, Ch. 9) Bowman, "Trends and Issues in Interstate Cooperation," (O'Toole, Ch.10) Threaded Discussion 2: (to be assigned)	120 mins. 120 mins.
Week 5 Feb. 4-8	Intergovernmental Politics II Derthick, "Ways of Achieving Federal Objectives," (O'Toole, Ch.12) Kettl, "Homeland Security: The Federal Challenge," (O'Toole, Ch.25) Case Study 1-- Homeland Security: Intergovernmental Response (Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch.3 (53-63) Milakovich, Michael E., and George J. Gordon. Public Administration in America (9th or 11th Edition), 2007 or 2013. Thomson Wadsworth. Chapter 3: Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations, Synopsis 2 due on Feb. 9, 2019.	120 mins. 60 mins. 60 mins.
Week 6 Feb 11-15	Fiscal Aspects of Intergovernmental Relations I Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 4, (76-107) Break, "The Economics of Intergovernmental Grants," (O'Toole, Ch. 14) Mony penny, "Federal Grants-in-Aid to State Governments," (O'Toole, Ch. 15) Threaded Discussion 3: (to be assigned)	120 mins. 60 mins.
Week 7 Feb. 18-22	Fiscal Aspects of Intergovernmental Relations II Sbragia, "Entrepreneurial Cities, U.S. Federalism, and Economic Development," (O'Toole, Ch. 16) U.S. ACIR, "Why Categorical Grants?" (O'Toole, Ch. 17) Brunori, "Financing Local Government in a Changing World," (O'Toole, Ch. 18) Nivola, "Tense Commandments: Federal Prescriptions and City Problems," (O'Toole, Ch. 19) Threaded Discussion 4: (to be assigned)	120 mins. 60 mins.
Week 8 Feb. 25-Mar 1	National Policy Process and Public Policy; National State and National-Local Relations Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 5, (108-140) Case Study 2 – No Child Left Behind: implications for Intergovernmental Relations (Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch.5 (114-122) Short Concept Paper 1: Due Week 8: Threaded Discussion 5: (to be assigned)	120 mins. 60 mins.
Week 9	Midterm Exams	120 mins.

Mar. 4-8		
Week 10 Mar. 11-15	Spring Break	
Week 11 Mar. 18-22	Administrative Aspects of Intergovernmental Relations U.S. ACIR, "The Techniques of intergovernmental Regulation," (O'Toole, Ch. 21) Posner, "The Politics of Unfunded Mandates," (O'Toole, Ch. 22) Agranoff and McGuire, "Another Look at Bargaining and negotiating in Intergovernmental Management," (O'Toole, Ch. 23) Short Concept Paper 2: Due	120 mins. 60 mins.
Week 12 Mar. 25-29	States in the Intergovernmental System and State Local Relations Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 7, (159-187); Ch. 8, (188-216) Case Study 3 – Welfare to Work (Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch.7 (161-165) Threaded Discussion 6: (to be assigned)	120 mins. 30 mins.
Week 13 Apr. 1-5	Local Governments in the American Intergovernmental System and Inter-Local Relations Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 9, (217-245) Case Study 4 – Semi-Independent State and Local Agencies (Stephen and Wikstrom, Ch.9, (218-221) Threaded Discussion 7: (to be assigned)	120 mins. 60 mins.
Week 14 Apr. 8-12	Intergovernmental Relations: Present and Future Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch. 10, (246-277) Case Study 5 – System Failure: Response to Hurricane Katrina (Stephens and Wikstrom, Ch.10, (248-254) Short Concept Paper 3: Due	120 mins. 60 mins.
Week 15 Apr. 15-19	Emerging Intergovernmental Issues and Challenges O'Toole and Hanf, "American Public Administration and Impacts of International Governance," (O'Toole, Ch. 24) Walters, "International Relations and Federalism: Its Past, Present, and Future, and Does Anyone Care?" (O'Toole, Ch. 30) O'Toole, "American Intergovernmental Relations: Concluding Thoughts." Page 395-398 Threaded Discussion 8: (to be assigned)	120 mins.
Week 16 Apr. 22-26	Graduating Seniors Final Exam	160 mins.
Week 17 Apr. 29-May 3	PowerPoint file your research paper. Due May 02, 2019. Provide a brief description of your research question, methods, significant findings, and policy recommendations. Use the note feature in PowerPoint file to explain each slide in the presentation (Maximum points = 100).	80 mins.
	Total Virtual Time Required	2,610

NOTE: This document does not constitute a contract with the University. It contains guidelines. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary. Students will be notified if this is the case.