

**Jean Monnet Chair in Innovative Governance**  
**Course on**  
***Intergovernmental Relations***  
***Comparing Canada and the European Union***

The primary features of systems of intergovernmental relations are the coexistence of governments, which are at one and the same time interdependent and autonomous: The complexity of policy-making and the demands of a modern industrial society result in considerable overlap, even duplication, in the responsibilities of the different levels of government. In many fields the agreement of several governments is often necessary in order to proceed with the development and implementation of government policies and programs. Thus, what we have is something that can be labelled “intergovernmental governance.” Further complicating matters are ongoing debates over issues such as asymmetrical federalism and the role of first nations in Canada, and democratic accountability and responsibility in the European Union.

The focus of this course is the nature of this intergovernmental governance and the impact of this process on different policy areas, which compares and contrasts Canada and the European Union.

Students will be engaged in both individual and team projects with the aim of understanding how policy issues are handled at different stages, and in different arenas, of the intergovernmental process. Team projects will tackle a specific policy field and show how the intergovernmental framework in Canada and the European Union, and the debates over fiscal imbalance and asymmetrical federalism for instances, have shaped specific policies.

**Course Overview Topics**

Class discussions will be organized around key issues in intergovernmental relations and policy development. These will include but will not be limited to:

- Federalism and multilevel governance, and their institutional variations
- Intergovernmental relations and the choice of policy instruments
- Collaboration and competition in Canadian executive federalism, and bargains in the European Union
- The Canadian social, economic and environmental union and European Union energy, banking, regional and social policies
- Instruments of fiscal transfers: Equalization and the Canada Health and Social Transfers and European Union Regional and Social funds
- Case studies on anyone of those policy arenas

**Units:**

1. Introduction: Federalism, Intergovernmental Relations and Multilevel governance
2. The Economic, Cultural and Political Bases of Canadian Federalism and of the European Union;
3. Intergovernmental Relations and the Policy Process
4. The Canadian constitution / The Lisbon Treaty
5. The role of the courts
6. Local Government, Aboriginal Government and Federalism
7. Canadian Executive Federalism: Machinery & Processes
8. European Council Leadership
9. Fiscal Relations: Basic Principles and Overview in Canada and the EU
10. Canada: The State of the Social Union
11. EU and Canada and their respective Economic Unions – Regional, National and International Dimensions
12. EU and Canada Environmental Unions

**Teaching Method:** This course is delivered in an online format to both political science and public administration students, using *Moodle*. For those who haven't used *Moodle* before, you may wish to view some of the online instructional material on Moodle: at <http://moodle.uvic.ca/>. The course is organized into 13 Units covering 11 weeks of instruction and two weeks of presentations of team proposals and projects.

