

Outline of Minor “Governance of Student Organisations”

2 November 2020

Minor title:	Governance of student organisations
Course credits:	15 ECTS
Period:	Quarters 2, 3 and 4 (November–June)
Language:	English
Lecturer/coordinator:	dr. Martin Rosema e-mail: m.rosema@utwente.nl website: https://www.utwente.nl/en/bms/pa/staff/rosema/
Entry requirements:	(1) Member of a governing board of a student association recognised by the Student Union when the minor starts (or having been appointed for a board position starting in the same academic year); and (2) Enrolled in a UT Bachelor degree programme in which at minimum 60 ECTS have been obtained
Minimum number of students:	8
Maximum number of students:	30 (in pilot year 2020-2021: 24)

Background and set-up of the minor

The university has more than one hundred student organisations, which enrich students’ learning, personal development, and social life in numerous ways. The students who take up a position in the governing board of such organisations sometimes put their degree programme on a hold for a year. Others combine their board membership with their study. The aim of this minor is to provide both groups of students an opportunity to broaden and deepen their academic development by offering a teaching programme that exploits the unique opportunity that their special position in a governing board brings. On the one hand, this minor aims to familiarize such students with insights from governance sciences from which they may benefit in their role on such a board. On the other hand, the minor takes advantage of the situation by using those positions and organisations as an object of study. For students an additional benefit may be that by completing this minor during their board year, they still obtain 15 course credits and may thus limit the delay in completing their degree programme.

The board minor comprises five components, each of which focuses on one particular theme. They are: (a) “Governance: an introduction”, (b) “Governance: interdisciplinary perspectives”; (c) “Policy studies”, (d) “Leadership theory and practice”, and (e) “Student organisation research

project". Each component includes several lectures and seminar meetings, in which the students meet with each other and the minor coordinator (or another lecturer) and discuss those topics on the basis of academic literature or small practical assignments. The latter are a combination of individual tasks and group assignments, varying in size and format (e.g. giving an oral presentation, holding an interview, designing a poster, or writing a report). Students are expected to participate in at least 70% of the weekly meetings and workshops. The course materials comprise a combination of prescribed academic literature and additional self-selected reading materials or other sources. A series of workshops on academic skills and professional skills are integrated in the meetings.

Learning objectives

- Students know and understand key concepts from the field of governance studies and are able to apply them in the context of their own student organisation.
- Students are able to describe and reflect on processes of governance from multiple disciplinary perspectives.
- Students know and understand key concepts from the field of policy studies and are able to apply them in the context of their own student organisation.
- Students know key concepts from the field of leadership studies and are able to apply these when studying leaders in society and when reflecting on their own functioning.
- Students are able to design and conduct a simple research project that is relevant for the governance of student organisations and communicate the findings to a broad audience.
- Students have improved their academic skills (e.g. academic writing, critical thinking) and professional skills (e.g. presenting, negotiating).

Minor components

- Governance: an introduction (Q2; 5 ECTS)

This component will introduce students to theories and research about three forms of governance: corporate governance, public governance, and organisational governance. Furthermore, they will deepen their knowledge about key concepts in the field of governance and politics, such as decision-making, democracy, power, influence, accountability, participation, legitimacy, policy cycle, policy instruments, and good governance. This will enable students to better reflect on the governance of their own student organisation as well as other organisations.

Each weekly meeting is devoted to one or two specific topics and prepared by small tasks, such as giving an oral presentation, writing a brief report, or designing a poster. The tasks are a mix of individual tasks and group assignments. Workshops about time management, presentation skills, and negotiation skills are integrated in this component.

- Governance: interdisciplinary perspectives (Q3; 3 ECTS)

This component will deepen students' understanding of governance processes by studying these from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The University of Twente has scholars with strong expertise in many relevant domains and utilizing their knowledge is at the heart of this component. Each meeting will involve one lecturer as a guest, who either will provide a guest lecture or will be interviewed by some of the participating students.

The precise content will largely be determined by the students themselves, who will decide which domains will be focused on (e.g. communication science, economics, law, philosophy, psychology, etc.) and who will be invited to contribute. Special attention will be given to the role of modern technologies in governance processes, such as e-governance and algorithmic governance. Each meeting will be prepared by reading one academic publication (to be selected by the students in consultation with the guest lecturer of each week) and a small practical assignment. Guest lecturers may replace the reading material by video lectures by themselves or others. Some of the practical tasks will focus on participants' own student organisation, while other tasks will address broader topics.

- Policy studies (Q3; 2 ECTS)

This component will familiarize students with key elements of policy processes, such as agenda setting, policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Furthermore, they will also deepen their insight in the use of policy instruments by governments and other organisations. On this basis, students will increase their understanding of the policy making by their own student organisation, as well as the policy making by other organisations that affect their student organisation (e.g. national or local governments, businesses, or the university).

Students will write an individual policy paper about a self-selected topic, which could be targeted at their own student organisation or any other organisation they consider relevant or interesting. Draft versions of the papers are subjected to peer review by two other students. Workshops about writing skills and visual design are integrated in this component.

- Leadership theory and practice (Q4; 2 ECTS)

This component will introduce students to leadership theories, while also familiarising them with key concepts in leadership research. Students will next study leadership styles and leadership skills in practice via a combination of self-assessment exercises and an in-depth study of a leader of their choice on the basis of a biography. This could be a business leader, political leader, sports coach, or leader in any other domain. This will result in a book review that summarizes and critically reflects on the biography, as well as an oral presentation. Workshops about management skills and debating skills are integrated in this component.

- Student organisation research project (Q4; 3 ECTS)

The final component of this minor concerns an individual research project about a topic that is relevant for the organisation of which the student is a governing board member. Students are encouraged to include original data collection in their research, such as conducting a survey among the members of their student association or holding interviews with stakeholders in a relevant network. Each student will be teamed up with two other students from the minor, who will provide feedback in every stage of the research project. The research findings will be presented in two formats: a written report and a video summary.

Figure 1 visually presents the set-up of the minor in terms of the five components and their place in the schedule across the year. A detailed overview of the workload of the five components in relation to the types of activities (class meetings, self-study of reading materials, group tasks, and individual tasks) is provided in Appendix A.

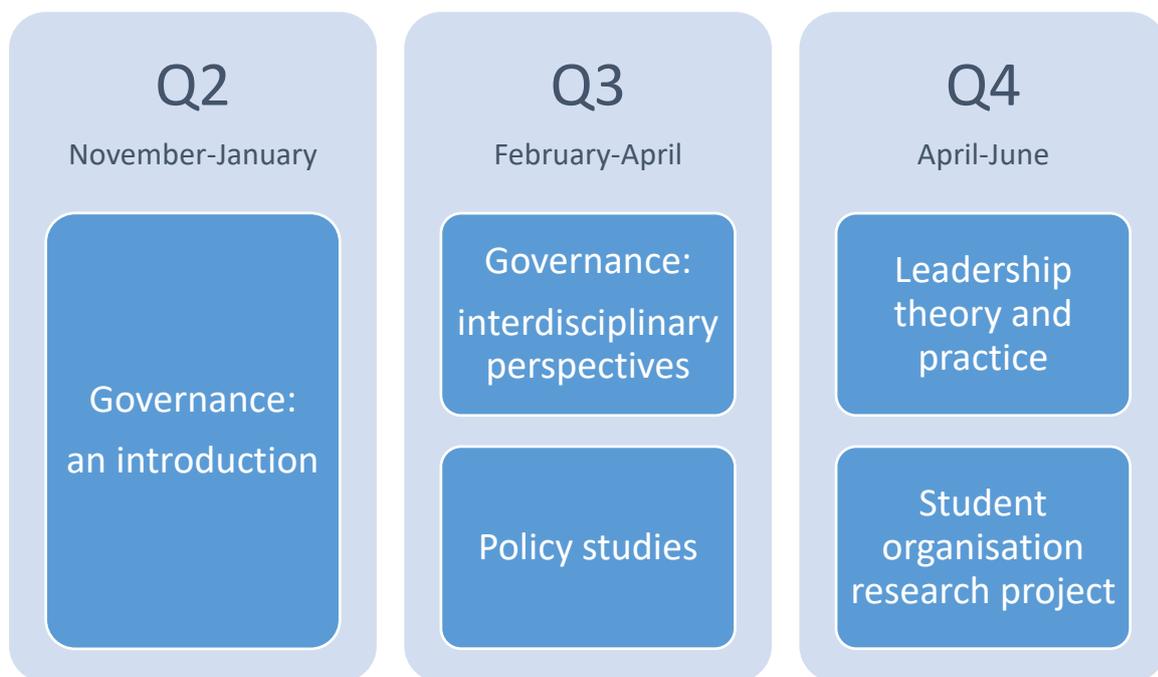


Figure 1: Components of the minor across three quartiles

Literature

Obligatory reading materials:

- Bevir, Mark (2012). *Governance: A very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Grint, Keith (2010). *Leadership: A very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Van Tulder, R. (2012). *Skill sheets: An integrated approach to research, study and management*. Pearson, 2nd edition.
- For each component: A syllabus with a selection of book chapters and journal articles that are available via the university library or made available via Canvas. For the component policy studies this may be replaced by a single book.

Assessment

The assessment comprises the following elements.

Governance: an introduction

- Group tasks: average grade of four tasks# 70%
- Participation in class meetings and group work 30%

Governance: interdisciplinary perspectives

- Group task: organisation of one class meeting with guest lecturer 35%
- Individual tasks: average grade of two tasks## 35%
- Participation in class meetings and group work 30%

Policy studies

- Individual task: policy paper 70%
- Participation in class meetings and peer review 30%

Leadership theory and practice

- Self-assessment exercises 20%
- Book review of biography 25%
- Oral presentation of biography 25%
- Participation in class meetings 30%

Student organisation research project

- Written report 50%
- Video summary 20%
- Participation in class meetings and peer review 30%

These tasks can be chosen from at least six weekly tasks.

These tasks can be chosen from at least four weekly tasks.

If students complete more group tasks or individual tasks than listed in the above overview for the assessment, only the highest grades are taken into account. For example, if for “Governance: an introduction” students complete five tasks instead of four and these are graded with 6, 7, 7, 8 and 8, the grade for this part becomes 7.5 (average of four highest grades).

Taken together across the whole minor, this means that the grading is based on three main elements (see Figure 2): individual assignments (40%), group assignments (30%), and participation in class meetings and group work (30%). The latter incorporates participation in the peer review process in two components of the minor.

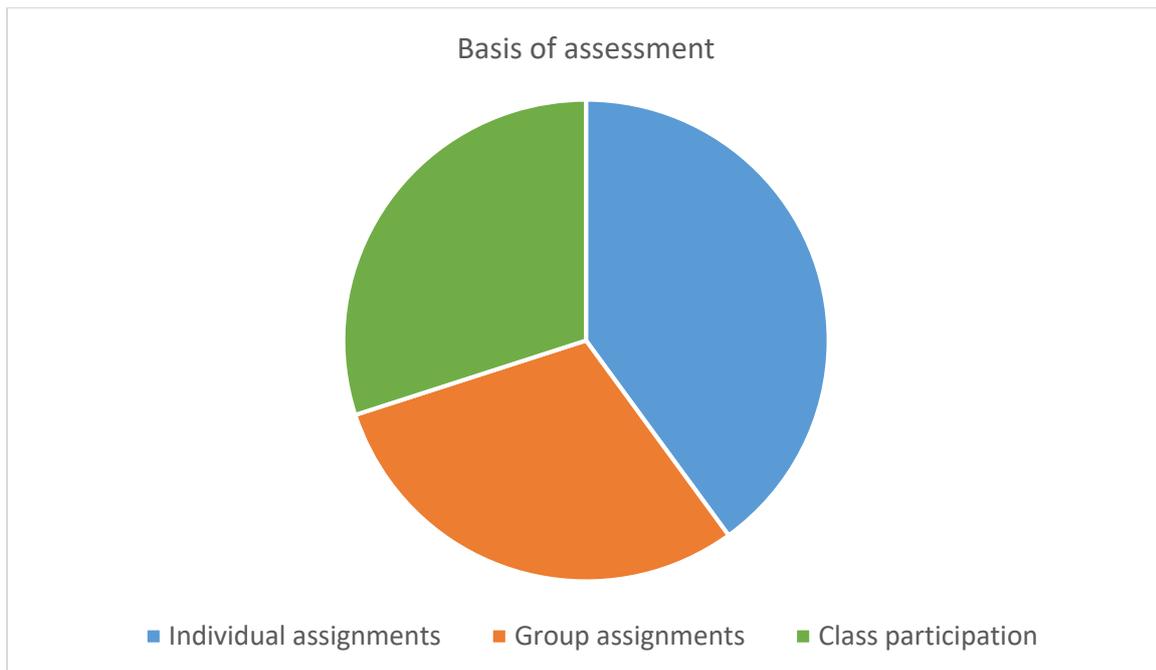


Figure 2: Elements of the grading system

Overall grade

The overall grade equals a weighted average of the grades for each component, in which the weight reflects the workload of the component as listed above (2 ECTS, 3 ECTS or 5 ECTS). The minimum grade for each component is 4.5. If any of the components receives a grade lower than 4.5, then the overall grade for the minor equals the lowest grade obtained for any of the components. Furthermore, students are obliged to actively participate in at least 70% of the workshops and 70% of the other class meetings. Students who fail this requirement will receive no grade.

If the overall grade is lower than 5.5 and/or one of the component grades is lower than 4.5, students are allowed to either revise two of the existing tasks or complete one replacement task (to be designed by the lecturer) that is comparable in terms of content and workload.

About the lecturer

Martin Rosema is an assistant professor of political science in the Public Administration Group of the School of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences. He teaches several courses about public governance and related themes in the bachelor degree programme Management, Society and Technology and the master degree programmes of Public Administration and European Studies. Furthermore, he teaches about research methods in the pre-master programme Psychology. Most of his past research has focused on political behaviour, in particular the psychology of voting and the design and effects of voting advice applications. His current research includes projects on algorithmic governance and on the use of brain-imaging technology to study political attitudes and behaviour.

Before joining the University of Twente, Martin Rosema studied political science at Leiden University (M.A., Ph.D.) and social psychology at the University of Cambridge (M.Phil.). During his time in Twente, he spent short periods as guest lecturer at University College Utrecht and Radboud University in Nijmegen. Furthermore, he held several editorial and board positions, including co-director of the Dutch Parliamentary Election Study (2006), co-editor of the journals *Res Publica* (2007-2010) and *Political Psychology* (2015-2018), member of the governing council of the International Society of Political Psychology (2008-2011), and member of the governing board of the Dutch Political Science Association (2009-2015). Across the years, he taught about thirty different courses and was nominated multiple times by students for the annual best teacher award. In his free time he enjoys listening to music, visiting modern art museums, and walking in the mountains.

Recruitment and selection of students

There are two requirements for entry in this minor, namely (1) being a member of a governing board of a student association recognised by the Student Union when the minor starts (or having been appointed for a board position starting in the same academic year); and (2) being enrolled in a UT Bachelor degree programme in which at minimum 60 ECTS have been obtained.

In the first week of the quarter in which the minor starts (Q2), an online information session will be held via MS Teams. Students who wish to participate in this minor can sign up until the end of this week via the Canvas site of the minor (to be added to this site, students can send an e-mail to the lecturer with this request; see front page for the e-mail address). They have to submit four documents: (a) application form, (b) letter of motivation, (c) transcript of their course results, and (d) curriculum vitae.

In the first year (2020-2021), the minimum number of students is 8 and the maximum is 24. If more students sign up than spots available, the lecturer will make a selection from the applicants. The criteria are motivation, course results obtained so far, level of student activism, and nature of the board membership (priority to full-time board members). Simultaneously, the selection will be aimed at ensuring diversity within the group of participants in terms of degree programmes and type of student organisations that students are from. Interviews with applicants may be held to assess motivation. If needed to make final choices, the criteria will be supplemented with a random selection (lottery).

Appendix A: Specification of the workload

The below table provides an overview of the workload across the five components of the minor and the types of activities.

Table 1: Workload (in hours) across components of the minor and types of activities

Period	Component of the minor	Class meetings	Literature (pages)	Reading time	Individual tasks	Group tasks	Peer review	Total hours	Total ECTS
Q2	Governance: an introduction	8*3= 24	125+6*25= 275	23	6*4= 24	6*12= 72		143	5,1
Q3	Governance: interdisciplinary perspectives	5*3= 15	5*25= 125	10	4*4= 16	40		81	2,9
Q3	Policy studies	3*3= 9	100	8	32		2*4= 8	57	2,0
Q4	Leadership theory and practice	3*3= 9	125+200= 325	27	16+3*2= 22			58	2,1
Q4	Research project	5*3= 15	125	10	40		4*4= 16	81	2,9
Total		72	950	78	134	112	24	420	15,0