

Outline of Minor “Governance of Student Organisations”

Version 25 September 2024

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 45 ECTS have been obtained
Minimum number of students:	8
Maximum number of students:	30

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 governing board positions bring. 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. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to share experiences with members from other boards and reflect on these.

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). The class meetings are scheduled in weeks 1-8 of each quarter and last 3 lecture hours. Students are expected to participate in at least 70% of the weekly meetings. The course materials comprise a combination of prescribed academic literature and 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, 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. These tasks are group assignments, but these may build on individual preparatory tasks. One or two workshops about topics such as negotiation skills, presentation skills or time management, are integrated in this component. The component is completed with an individual reflection paper about the minor activities in quarter 2.

- Governance: interdisciplinary perspectives (Q3; 2 ECTS)

This component will deepen students' understanding of governance processes by studying these from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and practice. The University of Twente has scholars with strong expertise in many relevant domains and utilizing their knowledge is one aim of this component. Special attention will be given to the role of modern technologies in governance processes, such as e-governance and algorithmic governance. Furthermore, this component also aims at including insights from practitioners and thus making connections between the theoretical insights from the introductory component and governance in real-life settings.

Students will be split into small groups and each group will either prepare and organize a class meeting with an interview with a guest speaker, or they will conduct an interview with a guest at any location and provide an oral presentation about this interview in class. 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. or practice) and who will be invited to contribute or being interviewed. The component is completed with an individual reflection paper about the minor activities in quarter 3.

- Policy studies (Q3; 3 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 or three other students. One or two workshops about topics such as 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 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 an oral presentation about the chosen leader in class (or alternatively: a book review that summarizes and critically reflects on the biography). One or two workshops about topics such as management skills and debating skills are integrated in

this component. The component is completed with an individual reflection paper about the minor activities in quarter 4.

- 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 holding interviews with stakeholders in a relevant network or conducting a survey among the members of their student association. The research findings will be presented in the format of a written report.

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.

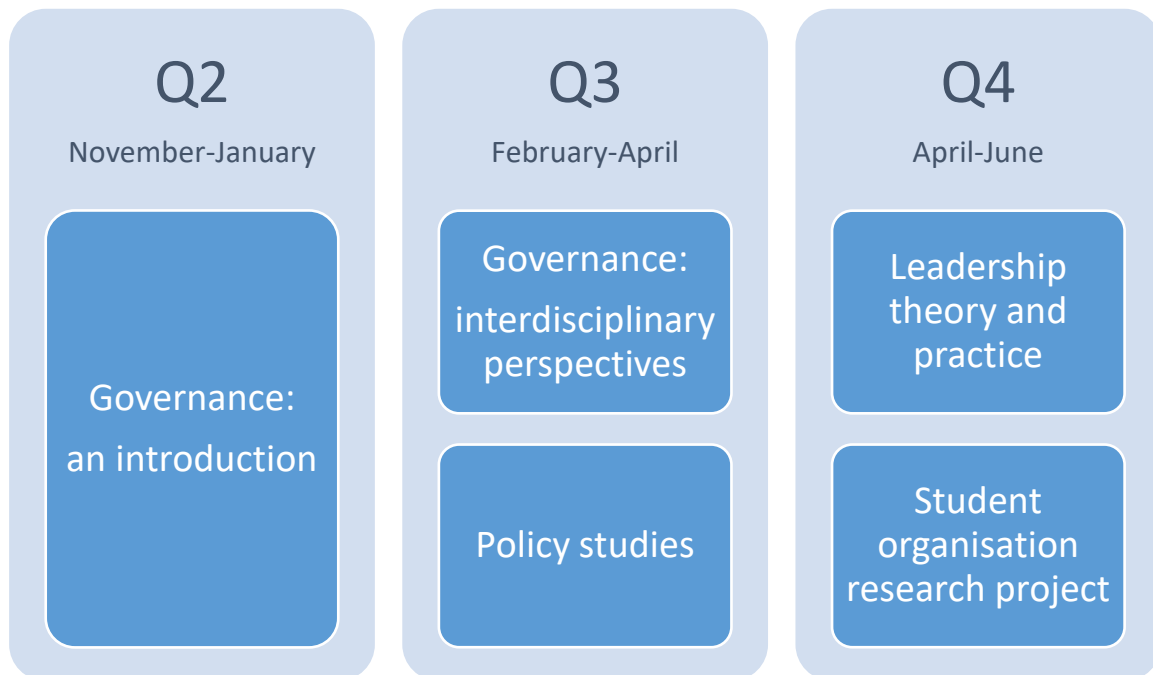


Figure 1: Components of the minor across three quarters

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.
- Each component is potentially supplemented 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 in the future be replaced by a single book.

Assessment

The assessment comprises the following elements.

Governance: an introduction

- Group tasks: weekly tasks# 70%
- Reflection paper and participation## 30%

Governance: interdisciplinary perspectives

- Group task: organisation of one class meeting with guest lecturer 70%
- Reflection paper and participation 30%

Policy studies

- Individual task: policy paper 100%

Leadership theory and practice

- Oral presentation of biography 70%
- Reflection paper and participation 30%

Student organisation research project

- Individual task: written report 100%

These tasks will be graded jointly with a single number grade; each task be provided with written feedback via Canvas.

The reflection paper will be graded with a number grade. Participation in the group tasks is evaluated via BuddyCheck in Canvas, whereas class participation is assessed by the lecturer. In exceptional circumstances, these may lead to an upward or downward adjustment of the paper grade with one point.

Taken together across the whole minor, this means that the grading is based on a combination of group grades (33%) and individual grades (67%).

Overall grade

The overall grade for the minor 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 be present and actively participate in at least 70% of the 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 Section 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 (MS&T) and the master degree programme of European Studies. Furthermore, he teaches about research methods in the aforementioned bachelor programme. Most of his past research 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 democratic innovation and the use of modern technologies (e.g. brainimaging, virtual reality) to study political attitudes, emotions 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 spending holidays in mountainous areas.

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 45 ECTS have been obtained.

In the first week of the quarter in which the minor starts (Q2), an online information session will be held. 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 two documents: (a) application form, which includes information about their board position, and (b) transcript of their course results.

The minimum number of students is 8 and the maximum is 30. 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	$8 \cdot 3 = 24$	$125 + 6 \cdot 25 = 275$	23	$6 \cdot 4 + 20 = 44$	$6 \cdot 8 = 48$		139	5,0
Q3	Governance: interdisciplinary perspectives	$4 \cdot 3 = 12$	$4 \cdot 25 = 100$	8	$8 + 16 = 24$	12		56	2,0
Q3	Policy studies	$4 \cdot 3 = 12$	100	8	40	16	6	82	2,9
Q4	Leadership theory and practice	$4 \cdot 3 = 12$	$125 + 200 = 325$	22	$8 + 16 = 24$			58	2,1
Q4	Research project	$4 \cdot 3 = 12$	125	10	56		6	84	3,0
Total		72	825	71	192	76	14	419	15,0