Draft 12/ 21/20 1

POSC 6931:

SEMINAR ON AMERICAN FEDERALISM

AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Spring 2021

Tues. 5–7:40pm

Lalumiere 176

Professor Philip Rocco

E-mail: philip.rocco@marquette.edu

OH: Thurs: 2–5 pm (via Teams)

A student should enter the field of intergovernmental fiscal relations with modesty and even

humility…It is a field mined with explosives; beneath a placid surface lie some very deep emotions

ready to burst into flame at the slightest provocation.

Committee on Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations, U.S. Treasury (1943)

A second New York is being built

a little west of the old one.

Why another, no one asks,

just build it, and they do.

David Berman (1999)

One can hardly comprehend American politics today without understanding the field of

power constituted by relaec u

ഀ u rഀ p

ഀ y

n

ഀ ndeliutn itn

inebdy ie

ഀ

ol

np uel
l

ഀ

ഁ

in

l
te

rs n

ue

l

h

i

ം

ഁ

l
rican pe

ehf

Draft 12/ 21/20 2

course are organized along the lines of the initial research divisions at the now extinct

Advisory Commission on Intergovm

Draft 12/ 21/20 3

PśơĕƌĭŦǀĕƌśřĕśơëŐȾřŦśĹơŦƌȾȨǛǚɳȩȔ Each participant will be expected to provide – once during

the semester – a weekly roundup of at least five (5) news items that pertain to relations

among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. This roundup will be published

on D2L the evening before seminar and should include links to relevant articles and a 2-3

sentence description of each story). Items can be drawn from national or local

general-interest periodicals, specialty publications such as DŦǀĕƌśĹśĭ, ĕǁȾ©ơëơĕŐĹśĕ, řĕƌĹćëś

ĹơǇȾëśĎȾ ŦƩśơǇ, Ⱦ¡ŦŐŐȾ ëŐŐ, ŦśĎȾ ƩǇĕƌ, as well as reports or press releases issued by federal

agencies, think tanks, or “Big 7” intergovernmental organizations (CSG, GFOA, ICMA, NACo,

NCSL, NGA, NLC, USCM) or other relevant publications.

PƔƔƩĕȾĆƌĹĕĬȾȨǟǚɳȩȔ Early in the semester, each participant will identify an issue or dilemma in

contemporary intergovernmental relations that will become the focus of a 10-15 page issue

brief directed at a nonspecialist audience. In addition to identifying the issue, these briefs will

g ive a brief history or background, discuss the current state of play (e.g. by describing the

positions of various actors in the policy debate, options for resolution), and provide some

indication of how the issue may evolve in the near future. Potential topics will be discussed

during the seminar and participants will, by March 9, submit to the instructor a summary of

their intended topic via e-mail. Pending instructor approval, participants will consult relevant

academic and ‘gray’ literature, as well as news coverage where applicable, and develop a list

of readings to be discussed with the instructor during the semester. Participants will submit a

final version of their issue briefs by May 11.

Course materials

You must obtain a copy of Donald F. Kettl, ¶ĴĕȾ$ĹǀĹĎĕĎ ©ơëơĕƔȾŦĬȾřĕƌĹćëȔȾÕĴǇȾCĕĎĕƌëŐĹƔř

$ŦĕƔśȹơȾÕŦƌō (Princeton University Press, 2020). All other readings will be made available via

D2L.

COURSE OUTLINE

(* = optional reading; Readings subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

PART I: INTRODUCTION

First Session (1/26): Why study American federalism?

1. Rozell, Mark J., and Clyde Wilcox. "Federalism in a time of plague: how federal systems

cope with pandemic." ¶ĴĕȾřĕƌĹćëśȾ¡ĕǀĹĕǁȾŦĬȾƩĆŐĹć ĎřĹśĹƔơƌëơĹŦś 50, no. 6-7 (2020):

519-525.

Draft 12/21/204
2.Downey, Davia Cox, and William M. Myers. "Federalism, Internn

Draft 12/21/205
4.Kathryn T. Rice, Leora S. Waldner, and Russell M. Smith. "Why new cities form: An
examination into municipal incorporation in the United States 1950–2010,”`ŦƩƌśëŐȾŦĬ
ŐëśśĹśĭȾdĹơĕƌëơƩƌĕ29, no. 2 (2014): 140-154.
5.Yunji Kim, Austin M. Aldag, and Mildred E. Warner, “Blocking the progressive city: How
state pre-emptions undermine labour rights in the USA,”½ƌĆëśȾ©ơƩĎĹĕƔ(2020):
0042098020910337.
6.Peter Eisinger, “City politics in an era of federal devolution,”½ƌĆëśȾĬĬëĹƌƔȾ¡ĕǀĹĕǁ33,
no. 3 (1998): 308-325.
7.David P. Carter, Aaron Deslatte, and Tyler A. Scott, “The formation and administration
of multipurpose development districts: Private interests through public institutions,”
ĕƌƔƉĕćơĹǀĕƔȾŦśȾƩĆŐĹćȾnëśëĭĕřĕśơȾëśĎȾDŦǀĕƌśëśćĕ2,no. 1 (2019): 57-74.*
8.Laura Evans, “Expertise and scale of conflict: Governments as advocates in American
Indian politics,”řĕƌĹćëśȾŦŐĹơĹćëŐȾ©ćĹĕśćĕȾ¡ĕǀĹĕǁ(2011): 663-682.*
Fifth Session (3/2): What does the nationalization of politics mean for subnational
governance?
1.David Brian Roberton,CĕĎĕƌëŐĹƔřȾëśĎȾơĴĕȾnëōĹśĭȾŦĬřĕƌĹćë(Routledge, 2018), Ch. 3.
2.Jacob M. Grubmach, "From backwaters to major policymakers: Policy polarization in
the states, 1970–2014,”ĕƌƔƉĕćơĹǀĕƔȾŦśȾŦŐĹơĹćƔ16,no. 2 (2018): 416-435.
3.Jennifer Karas Montez, “US state polarization, policymaking power, and population
health,”nĹŐĆëśōȾ ƩëƌơĕƌŐǇȕOctober 20, 2020.
4.Paul Nolette and Colin Provost. "Change and continuity in the role of state attorneys
general in the Obama and Trump administrations,”ƩĆŐĹƩƔȔ¶ĴĕȾ`ŦƩƌśëŐȾŦĬȾCĕĎĕƌëŐĹƔř
48, no. 3 (2018): 469-494.
5.Raymond LaRaja, Jonathan Rauch, and Samuel VanSant Stoddard, “The state of state
parties––and how strengthening them can improve our politics,” Brookings Institution
Working Paper (2016).
6.Philip Rocco, Ann C. Keller, and Andrew S. Kelly, "State Politics And The Uneven Fate
Of Medicaid Expansion,”KĕëŐơĴȾĬĬëĹƌƔ39, no. 3 (2020):494-501.
Sixth Session (3/9): What does federalism mean in Washington, DC?
1.Ann O’M. Bowman, "Intergovernmental councils in the United StateԔ惘ᑠ怄뀀20
nevqoś Ő
AedeqaŐĹQŦĴbeew
,䎙饭2.R no. 3.(2016: 瀢退W30-6835
2A.e8oJs5aik Lecizg Papsipe,Lf the O016T瀢退op,Buih Ind Soue As8.20uo䎙饭PbŐĹuƔ:
)QĴe JŦuqśaŐ ŦĬ

Draft 12/ 21/20 6

3. Frank Thompson, “The rise of executive federalism: Implications for the picket fence

and IGM,” ¶ĴĕȾřĕƌĹć

Draft 12/ 21/20 9

8. Margaret Weir, Jane Rongerude, and Christopher K. Ansell. "Collaboration is not

enough: V irtuous cycles of reform in transportation policy." ½ƌĆëśȾĬĬëĹƌƔȾ¡ĕǀĹĕǁ 44,

no. 4 (2009): 455-489.

9. A

nn O'M Bowman, and Neal D. Wo