


# Sampol 205

## “Regions, federalism and EU integration”

### Michaël Tatham (Professor)

#### Objectives of the class (learning outcomes)

Spring 2017	<a href="mailto:michael.tatham@uib.no">michael.tatham@uib.no</a>
Teacher	Michaël Tatham
Title	<b>Regions, federalism and EU integration (205)</b> 10 ECTS ( Seminar)
Term offered, Exam Term, and duration	Spring semester; Exam spring semester; Duration 1 semester
Course Requirements and Credit Reduction	None
Number of sessions	10
Language and form of instruction	<b>Class in English</b> All readings are compulsory and to be done BEFORE the class
Prerequisites; Recommended Background	Fulfilment of general admission requirements;  SAMPOL115, MET102 and SAMPOL110/SAMPOL105, SAMPOL106 & SAMPOL107
Course description	 <p>Much of comparative politics and EU integration research focuses on governmental institutions (such as executives and legislatures), non-majoritarian bodies (e.g. courts and agencies) or sectorial/societal stakeholders (firms, citizens, trade unions, etc.). This course focuses on a different category of actors: regions. Sometimes directly elected and endowed with primary legislative powers, sometimes purely nominated with limited policy authority, regional governments and administrations are often neglected in comparative politics and EU analyses. Having defined and mapped the evolution of the regional level of governance in Europe, this seminar then seeks to explore the relationship between regionalisation and Europeanization, as well as the interaction between these different sets of actors. To this end, we will examine the most recent scholarly contributions as well as the classics in the field.</p>
Base literature	<p><b>Marks, G., Hooghe, L., &amp; Blank, K.</b> (1996). European Integration from the 1980s: State-Centric v. Multi-Level Governance. <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 34(3), 341-378.</p> <p><b>Keating, M.</b> (2008). Thirty Years of Territorial Politics. <i>West European Politics</i>, 31(1 &amp; 2), 60-81.</p> <p><b>Bourne, A.</b> (2003). The Impact of European Integration on Regional Power. <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i>, 41(4), 597-620.</p> <p><b>Hooghe L, Marks G and Schakel A H</b> (2010) <i>The Rise of Regional Authority: A comparative study of 42 democracies</i>. Abingdon: Routledge.</p>

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the territorial make-up of the EU 28 (from fully federal countries to centralised unitary ones);
2. Provide an overview of mainstream studies on (and explanations of) the role of regions in EU politics;
3. Provide an insight into the key debates related to multi-level governance and European integration in their territorial dimensions;
4. Demonstrate capability/willingness to read and understand research using different analytical methods, be they more qualitative or quantitative;
5. Present strong skills in the critical reading of a variety of texts and the academic scholarship based upon those texts;
6. Display ability to think critically but constructively;
7. Demonstrate capacity to construct a coherent essay. Students must show awareness of the benefits and pitfalls linked to conceptualisation, hypothesis generation, variable operationalisation, choice of measurement indicators, as well as the choice of method to test for association.

#### **Pre-requisites**

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1. Students should be able to read and speak English, although your English will probably also improve over the course of the class. I will repeat and rephrase according to your needs;
2. A willingness to read literature using different research methods, ranging from detailed historical analysis to statistical analysis;
3. A willingness to properly prepare for each class and engage constructively in discussion.

#### **Teaching Method**

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The exact format of teaching will depend on the number of students registered for and attending the class.

Students are expected to complete the readings for each topic prior to the seminars and to participate actively in class discussion.

#### **Assessment**

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Final grade consists of a 6-hour desk exam (which counts for 100% of the grade).

#### **Guidelines for assessment – 6 hour exam**

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Think of the essay question, decompose and analyse each term (definition, conceptualisation), think of the structure of your arguments. Do not start writing before your entire structure, from beginning to end, from introduction to conclusion is set. It might be helpful to spend some time to determine the overall structure of your essay with a “skeleton” essay prior to writing up.

## Course outline

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### **1. Introduction (1): General knowledge: the EU and the comparative method (16.January.2017)**

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Bomberg, E., Peterson, J., & Stubb, A. (2008) "The European Union: How Does it Work?," In *The New European Union Series*, edited by J. Peterson & H. Wallace. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1, pp. 3-21

Arend Lijphart, *Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method*, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 65, No. 3 (Sep., 1971), pp. 682-693

Key questions: What is the EU and how can we best describe, understand, and analyse it? What are the main strengths and weaknesses of different comparative methods? What strategies can be best implemented to increase the reliability of findings?

### **2. Introduction (2): Territorial politics – an overview (23.January.2017)**

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Keating M (2008) Thirty Years of Territorial Politics. *West European Politics*, 31(1 & 2), 60-81.

Bauer M W, and Börzel T A (2010) Regions and the EU. In M. Zürn, H. Enderlein and S. Wälti (Eds.), *Handbook on Multilevel Governance* (pp. 253-63). Cheltenham, Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

Keating, M., Hooghe, L. and Tatham, M. (2015) 'Bypassing the nation-state? Regions and the EU policy process'. in J. Richardson and S. Mazey (eds.), *European Union: Power and policy-making*, Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 445-466.

Key questions: How has the study of territorial politics evolved over time? What is "new regionalism"? What is the role and place of regions in the EU political system today?

### **3. Regional authority (1) – conceptualisation and measurement (30.January.2017)**

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Hooghe L, Marks G, and Schakel A H (2010) *The Rise of Regional Authority: A comparative study of 42 democracies*. Abingdon: Routledge.  
Chapters 1 and 2.

Key questions: On what conceptual basis can one rest when attempting to measure regional authority? What are self-rule and shared-rule? How can one code regional authority along 8 dimensions for 42 countries and over half a century?

#### **4. Regional authority (2) – validity and trends (06.February.2017)**

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Hooghe L, Marks G, and Schakel A H (2010) *The Rise of Regional Authority: A comparative study of 42 democracies*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Chapters 3 and 4.

Key questions: Why should we care about validity? Why should we compare the RAI with other indicators? What are the limits of the RAI? What are the effects of population, identity, democracy, and European integration on regional authority?

#### **5. European integration and regional power (13.February.2017)**

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Bourne A (2003) The Impact of European Integration on Regional Power. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 41(4), 597-620.

Bienefeld, E. (2015) The Basque Lobby at the EU level: A matter of expertise and networks, *International Journal of Iberian Studies* 28(1): 21-41.

Fleurke F, and Willemse R (2007) Effects of the European Union on Sub-National Decision-Making: Enhancement or Constriction? *Journal of European Integration*, 29(1), 69-88.

Key questions: What is the effect of European integration on regions and their political power? Is European integration more an opportunity or a constraint for regions? Has this changed over time? Is there a local/regional dichotomy on the question?

#### **6. Regionalist and stateless nationalist parties and the European Union (20.February.2017)**

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Jolly S K (2007) The Europhile Fringe? Regionalist Party Support for European Integration. *European Union Politics*, 8(1), 109-30.

Hepburn E (2008) The Rise and Fall of a "Europe of the Regions". *Regional & Federal Studies*, 18(5), 537-55.

Key questions: How can one categorise the relationship between these parties and European integration? Is there consensus? Have these parties "instrumentalised" Europe? What kind of conclusions can one draw? How does this relate with the previous session?

#### **7. Regional interest representation in the EU (1) – mobilisation (06.March.2017)**

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Marks G, Nielsen F, Ray L, and Salk J (1996) Competencies, Cracks, and Conflicts: Regional Mobilization in the European Union. *Comparative Political Studies*, 29(2), 164-92.

Tatham M and Thau M (2014) The more the merrier: accounting for sub-state paradiplomats in Brussels. *European Union Politics* 15(2/4): forthcoming.

Marks G, Haesly R, and Mbaye H (2002) What do Subnational Offices Think they are Doing in Brussels? *Regional and Federal Studies*, 12(3), 1-23.

Key questions: How can one understand and account for direct regional interest representation in Brussels? What factors affect most such mobilisation? What do regions actually do when they represent their interests in Brussels? Do all offices have similar ambitions when it comes to their activities in Brussels?

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**8. Practitioner session: West Norway Brussels office (Vest-Norges Brussellkontor) (date to be confirmed, potentially 13.March.2017)**

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To be confirmed: representatives of the West Norway office in Brussels invited to share their EU experience with the sample of 205 participants.

Exact date to be confirmed.

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**9. Regional interest representation in the EU (2) – bypassing (27.March.2017)**

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Tatham M (2008) Going Solo: Direct Regional Representation in the European Union. *Regional and Federal Studies*, 18(5), 493-515.

Tatham M (2010) With or Without You? Revisiting territorial state-bypassing in EU interest representation. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 17(1), 76-99.

Tatham M (2013) Paradiplomats against the state: Explaining conflict in state and sub-state interest representation in Brussels. *Comparative Political Studies* 46(1): 63-94.

Key questions: Through what channels can regions represent their EU interests? Can they do this in an un-mediated, circumventing way? How efficient are these channels? Can they be a vehicle for actual influence? Do regions cooperate with or bypass their member states? What factors can help us understand these patterns?

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**10. Regions and theories of EU integration (1) – Multi-Level Governance and institutional change (03.April.2017)**

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Marks, G., Hooghe, L. and Blank, K. (1996) 'European Integration from the 1980s: State-Centric v. Multi-Level Governance', *Journal of Common Market Studies* 34(3): 341-378.

George S (2004) Multi-level Governance and the European Union. In I. Bache and M. Flinders (Eds.), *Multi-level Governance* (pp. 107-26). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tatham M (2011) Devolution and EU policy-shaping: Bridging the gap between Multi-Level Governance and Liberal Intergovernmentalism. *European Political Science Review* 3(1), 53-81.

Tatham, M. (2014) 'Limited institutional change in an international organisation: accounting for the EU's shift away from "federal blindness"', *European Political Science Review* 6(1): 21-45.

Key questions: What are the main critiques addressed to the multi-level governance (MLG) framework? Have the answers of MLG scholars been convincing? How can MLG and liberal intergovernmentalism dialogue and/or complement each other? What is the EU's federal blindness? How can we account for its paradoxical persistence?

### **11. Regions and theories of EU integration (2) – Support and ring-fencing (24.April.2017)**

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Tatham, M. and Bauer, M. W. (2014) Support from below? Regional élites, governance preferences and supranational institutions, *Journal of Public Policy* 34(2): 237-267.

Tatham, M. and Bauer, M. W. (2014) Competence ring-fencing from below? The drivers of regional demands for control over upwards dispersion, *Journal of European Public Policy* 21(9): 1367-1385.

Key questions: What are the main drivers of regional élite support for deeper European integration? What are the main drivers of regional demands to ring-fence EU competences? How does this relate to European integration's impact on regional authority/competences? How does the Committee of the Regions come across in both these studies?

We will devote some time in the last session to discuss exam preparation and exam tips.