**Jawaharlal Nehru University**

**School of Social Sciences**

**Centre for Political Studies Monsoon 2019**

**PO 514**

**Comparative Federalism**

**MA Optional**

Dr. Papia Sengupta

Room No. 127, SSS II Building

Email: papiasg@jnu.ac.in

Contact hours:Monday 11-1 pm (email in advance for appointment)

This course introduces students to principles and theoretical understandings of federalism in comparative perspective. It will not only give insights into issues of contemporary federalism but also elaborate on different conceptual underpinnings on federal governments, intergovernmental relations, different contextual forms that federalism has taken in different cultural societies. Citing cases from India, Canada, USA, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark and Aaland Island in Finland as well as some South Asian experiences with federalism such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal will be introduced to the students. How does federalism relate to democracy? Can undemocratic states be federal? What are the different forms of asymmetry that federal governments have generated across the world? Is federal form of government adaptable in countries with cultural diversity? Students will also learn about fiscal federalism and economic relations between the federal states and its constitutive units.

***Course Content***

1. Federalism: Theoretical Underpinnings and anomalies
2. Federalism and Democracy
3. Asymmetric and territorial federal arrangements
4. Fiscal federalism: comparative analysis
5. Federalism and identities: Case of language minorities

**Federalism: Theoretical underpinnings and anomalies**

*Required readings*:

* Daniel Elazar (1995*) Federalism: An Overview.* Pretoria: HSRC Publishers.
* Ronald Watts (1995) *Comparative Federal Systems*. McGill-Queens University Press.
* Michael Burgess (2006) *Comparative Federalism: Theory and Practice*. UK: Routledge.
* Jan Erk (2008) *Explaining Federalism: State, society and congruence in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany and Switzerland*. Oxon: Routledge.
* Thomas O Heuglin and Alan Fenna (2015) *Comparative Federalism: A Systematic Inquiry.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
* Tefsa Bihonegn (2015) Federalization with a Constitutional Guarantee to Secession: Controversies, Paradoxes and Imponderables in Ethiopia. *Regional and Federal Studies.* Volume 25(1).
* Stephen Tierney (2009) Federalism in a Unitary State? A Paradox Too Far. *Regional and Federal Studies* Volume 19(2).

**Federalism and Democracy**

* Michael Burgess & Alain Gagnon (2010) *Federal Democracies.* London, USA: Routledge.
* Pippa Norris (2008) *Driving Democracy: Do Power-Sharing Institutions Work?* Edinburgh, New York: Cambridge University Press.
* Akhtar Majeed, Ronald Watts & Douglas Brown (2006) A Global Dialogue on Federalism Volume 2, *Distribution of Powers and Responsibilities in Federal Countries.* Montreal, Kingston, London, Ithaca: McGill Queens University Press.

**Asymmetric and territorial federal arrangements**

* Louise Tillin (2007) Unity in Diversity: Asymmetry in Indian federalism. *Publius*. Volume 37(1).
* Govinda Rao and Nirvikar Singh (2004) *Asymmetric federalism in India*.
* Ronald Watts (2005) *A Comparative Perspective of Asymmetry in Federations*. Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, Toronto: Canada.
* Wilfried Swenden (2016) Centre-State Bargaining and Territorial Accommodation: Evidence from India. *Swiss Political Science Review*. Volume 22(4).

**Fiscal federalism**

* Vijay Kelkar (2019) Towards India’s New Fiscal Federalism. Working Paper No. 252. *Working Paper Series. National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. New Delhi.*
* Tuomo Virkola (2014) Fiscal Federalism in Four Federal Countries. The Research Institute of Finnish Economy.
* Ralf Hepp & Jurgen von Hagen (2009) Fiscal Federalism in Germany: Stabilization and Redistribution before and after unification. *ZEI Working Paper, No. B 01-2009. Center for European Integration.* University of Bonn.
* Ronald Watts & Paul Hobson (2000) *Fiscal Federalism in Germany*. Institute of Intergovernmental Relations. Canada.
* Raoul Blindenbacher (2007) *Fiscal Federalism and Accountability within the Swiss System of Government.* Forum of Federations.
* Heiko Burret, Lars Feld & Christoph Schaltegger (2018) Fiscal Federalism and Economic Performance: New Evidence from Switzerland. *Working Paper 7250*. Munich Society for the Promotion of Economic Research.

**Federalism and identities: Issue of language and territorial autonomy**

* Papia Sengupta (2017) Impulsive imposition: Language and Politics of majoritarianism in India. *Economic and Political Weekly Engage.*
* Selig Harrison (1960) *The Most Dangerous Decades*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
* Papia Sengupta (2018) *Language as Identity in Colonial India: Issues and Politics.* Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.
* Papia Sengupta (2009) Endangered Languages: Some Concerns. *Economic and Political Weekly*. August 16th.
* Subrata Mitra (1999) Language and Federalism: The Multi-ethnic Challenge. *Forum of Federation.*

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Credits: 4

**Scheme of Evaluation: Participation notes, term paper and end semester examination.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Due Date** | **Assignment** | **Length** | **Percentage share of semester marks** | **Notes** |
| Participation | Notes | 2 pages | 10%  | 20th July-1st August |
| Term paper #1Book/film review and presentationFebruary 10th (depending on number of students) | Paper and presentation | 7-10 pages/ slides | 30 % | Paper 25% and presentation 5% |
| End semester exam | Written exam | 60 percent |  |

**Written Assignment Grades**

All written assignments are to be submitted by the due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted and they will receive a mark of 0.** Exceptions will be considered for medical reasons or a family emergency (with appropriate documentation). If you would like reconsideration of an assignment or essay grade, you must provide a two-page written explanation of why you believe the grade was incorrect. All requests of this type will be reconsidered, but this may mean that your grade could be **lowered**. **No reconsiderations will be handled without following this procedure.**

**This matrix will be used in grading your written assignments**:

1. Explanation of the subject: understanding of the subject, thesis statement and explanation=60%
2. Supporting arguments: supporting arguments from documents, book etc. and using proper terms and vocabulary to defend your analysis and opinions= 30%
3. Structure of the paper: APA or CM style, proper length and grammar=10%

**The following questions are also used to assess written assignments**:

1. Has your work met the requirements of the assignment?

2. Is there a clear thesis statement, followed up by approximately three supporting arguments?

3. Is there a description of how the arguments will unfold?

4. Are arguments elaborated rather than rushed and stated as self-evident? Strong arguments are focused and develop a particular point.

5. Is evidence provided to assert an essay's arguments?

6. Does the essay critically engage with other arguments? Strong essays take opposing arguments seriously, and demonstrate why your arguments are more appropriate.

7. Is the essay well organized, enabling its arguments to flow?

8. Is the research adequate and relevant?