Federalism is one of the most commonly used political term in Canada but it is a concept which has remained underexplored in a comparative perspective. Although dominant in North America (Canada, the United States, and Mexico are all federations), this model is not used very much elsewhere. There are 28 federations (some just in the process of emerging like Nepal). In this course, we tackle questions relating to the nature, structure, workings of federalism and federations, both from a conceptual point of view and a comparative perspective. During the term, we will explore major theoretical questions surrounding federalism and the complex political dynamics of federal states. Through analysis of various cases, you will learn about the origins and political organization of federations, as well as examine the complex relationships between federal political structures and their underlying political communities. In addition to analyzing the major constitutional and institutional characteristics of federations including the division of powers, the role of the judiciary, bicameralism, intergovernmental/fiscal relations, and the challenges of constitutional reform, we will explore federalism’s ability to foster peace and unity among diverse peoples. We will also analyze the challenges that federations face due to their internal diversity. In particular, we will examine varying challenges of minority nationalist and secessionist politics in multinational federations like Belgium, Canada, India and Spain. Finally, this course will provide you with a broad overview of some of the major historical and contemporary debates surrounding federalism, allowing you to analyze why federalism has had such resonance both as a political ideal and as a practical form of political organization.

**Required Texts**

2. *Assigned Readings – available through Course Spaces (CS)*
Course Spaces

Course Spaces is an online learning resource provided by the University of Victoria. The POLI 378 page provides important course material such as the syllabus and information on the various course assignments. Any additional material relating to course will also be posted to the POLI 378 page.

Evaluation Criteria

This course emphasizes critical analysis and open discussion of the weekly readings, as well as the development of your research and writing skills. Final grades are broken down accordingly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Date/Details</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Thursday October 10</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Thursday November 21</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>(Date to be determined)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
<td>05%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance, Assignments, and Grading:

The UVic Academic Calendar states: “Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled.” Attendance will be taken, and any student who attends fewer than 70 percent of scheduled class sessions will be assigned a grade of “N” for the course. Students must complete all assignments (see Course Requirements) in order to get credit for the course.

The Learning Environment:

The UVic Academic Calendar notes: “The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and productive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment.” Students and community partners have diverse views on the issues discussed in this course, and we seek to create an environment in which all perspectives – including those of the instructors – can be analyzed critically in a respectful fashion.

Grading Policies and Academic Integrity:

Students must complete all assignments in order to get credit for the course. Numerical grades will be converted to letter grades as follows:

- 90-100% = A+
- 85-89% = A
- 80-84% = A-
- 77-79% = B+
- 70-72% = B-
- 65-69% = C+
- 60-64% = C
- 50-59% = D
Complete overview of University of Victoria’s undergraduate grading system:

http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2013/FACS/UnIn/UARe/Grad.html

As per University of Victoria policy, you must complete all assignments. Failure to do so will result in a grade of ‘N’ (incomplete) for the course.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will take place during class on Thursday October 10. It is a written exam and will last for 70 minutes. The midterm will cover both reading and lecture material from the preceding weeks, and will consist of short essay questions in which you will write about key concepts and specific federal cases.

Essay: Instructions

✓ Themes for the essay: Select one
  Federalism, Multinationalism, and Democracy; State-Nation; Security vs Liberty and Federalism; Federalism and the Accommodation of Ethnic Nationalism; Multinational Federalism; Globalization and Federalism; Federalism and Building the European Union; Colonial Legacies and the Global South Federal experiments. (Note: If you want to explore another topic, please seek my permission.)

✓ A discussion of at least two federal countries.

✓ A minimum of 15 pages and a maximum of 20 pages – double spaced.

✓ A bibliography of 15 to 20 academic sources (no newspaper or magazine articles, no blogs). Please stick to refereed journal articles and books. The best way to find good sources, go to the database search engine (Uvic library website) and use Google Scholar and JSTOR. If a book is not available at UVic, you can request from the library through interlibrary loan process.

The research essay will allow you to engage critically with some of the theoretical debates and/or empirical cases we have explored in the course readings and lectures. Essays must follow proper academic style, formatting and referencing guidelines. It does not matter which citation style you use, make sure that it is consistent.
You might find the following readings useful for your essay:


How to develop your essay (its different components):

See below a general roadmap for dividing up your essay

Identify your topic – give a background. Explain why you find this topic interesting – such as the timeliness of your idea/topic.

What is your research question? For example, what will you will be focusing on? Make sure your research problem is not too broad – narrow it down and make it manageable. Think about your major unit of analysis; and consider the cause and effect (relationship between variables), the time period etc. Regarding your research question, you want to keep in mind that you must establish, prove or disprove the solutions to the question posed- in other words, you cannot describe a topic without a research question.

Identify your main points/arguments. Here the most important point to keep in mind is that you need to rely on academic sources to build your main argument or sub-arguments. Your opinions do not count if these are not substantiated with academic debates/sources. I am looking for an academic writing. Footnote/cite your sources for an idea. Do not present someone else’s idea as that of your own. In short, I am looking for an evidenced based argument/sub-arguments.
Summarize your major findings and the results you found as a result of your analysis.

The conclusion should include a brief interpretation of your study and the conclusions you have derived in relation to your research question.

Pay attention to your grammar, sentence structure and make paragraphs. Stay focused on the research problem you are investigating.

Use paragraphs to separate each important point.

Present your points in a logical order. Create a liking sentence to connect your paragraph.

You can choose any style of citation but make sure it is consistent.

Please submit your essay before the deadline of 4:30 PM on Thursday November 21. It can be dropped in my dropbox at the Dept. of Political Science main office. I will grant deadline extensions only in the event of an illness, an emergency, or on compassionate. Late papers will be penalized 3% a day (including weekends). No electronic submission, hardcopy please!

Final Exam

The final exam will take place during the First Term examination period in December (date of exam to be determined by the University of Victoria). It is a written exam and will last for two hours. The exam will consist of essay questions in which you will write about key concepts relating to federalism, as well as provide comparative analysis of various federal countries discussed in the course. The final exam will be cumulative and will cover both readings and lecture material from the entire course.

Class Participation

Active attendance and participation in broader class discussion are important aspects of this course. See above: Attendance, Assignments, and Grading. I strongly encourage you to come to class prepared to discuss the readings as well as with questions and/or observations regarding the course material and the cases that we are examining.

Classroom Etiquette and Collegiality

I expect appropriate and respectful behaviour from everyone in the course. You are in this class to learn and that requires your full and undivided attention. Accordingly, please arrive to class on time. Laptops are only permitted in class for taking notes. Further, texting is not permitted and cell phones must be turned off during class time. Students must also be respectful to each other and to each other’s contributions to class discussion.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate
accommodations http://rcsd.uvic.ca/. The sooner you let them know your needs the quicker they can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individually or as a member of a group. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution - Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student - Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student’s transcript, or a suspension. It is your responsibility to understand the University’s policy on academic integrity, which can be found on pages 32-34 of the undergraduate calendar.

It is your responsibility to understand the University’s policy on academic integrity:
http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

Useful information from the University on plagiarism and tips on how to avoid it:
http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/documents/avoiding_plagiarism.pdf

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.
Course Schedule and Weekly Readings

There is one text for the course (essential for Part 1 of the course): (HF): Hueglin & Fenna’s *Comparative federalism: A systematic inquiry* plus some supplementary required readings for Part 2 which are available on (CS) Course Spaces.

The course is divided into two parts: Part 1 deals with terms, definitions and historical traditions. Part 2 deals with contemporary themes and challenges to federalism. In this part, examples will be provided from various countries. This course does not enter into a country by country discussion but it attempts to understand the relevance of the federal principle in our contemporary setting.

**PART 1**

- Why study federalism? Its present day relevance? What is Comparative Federalism?
- Formation of Federations

*Required readings*


- Conceptual Distinctions; Federalism and Federation (Principle of territorial government and a Descriptive concept referring to types of political systems)

*Required readings*

(HF) “Federal Principle, Federal Organization” (Chapter 2), pp. 16-46 “

- Differentiating a Federal model from Unitary States and Confederations: Discussion of three models
- Intellectual Traditions of Federalism – Looking at a federal model philosophically and historically

*Required readings*

(HW) “Three Traditions of Federal Thought”, Ch. 4, pp. 73-97.

- Federation: Formal Division of Power; Constitution and the Division of Power; Parliamentary vs Presidential systems (Senate); Territorial Division of Power; the Role of the courts; and the Amendment Formula and maintaining the equilibrium (centralization vs decentralization)

*Required readings*

(HW) “Dividing Powers”, Ch. 6, pp. 135-165.

(HW) “Federalism as a System of Dual Representation”, Ch. 8, pp. 204-237.

• Resilience Test: Federalism: Success or Failure

Required readings


PART 2

• Colonial Legacies and Emerging Democracies – Examples Africa, South Asia – Burma, Nigeria, Nepal

Required readings


• Accommodation of Diversity – Ethnic and Multicultural Challenges; Do Federalism perform better than other forms of government?

Managing diversity- Conflict management

Required readings


Asymmetric Federalism and Reconciling Individual and Collective Cultural Rights through Quotas

**Required readings**

Benoît Pelletier, *Asymmetrical Federalism: A Win-Win Formula!* Asymmetry Series 2005 (15a) © IIGR, School of Policy Studies, Queen’s University

Daniel Stockemer and Manon Tremblay. 2015. “Federalism and Women’s Representation: Do Federations have more Women Legislators than Centralized States?” *Publius* (Fall 2015) 45 (4): 605-625. (CS)


**Multinational and Multicultural Federalism**

**Required readings**


(HW) Read pages: 5-6; 81-83; 116-121; 294-297.


**Nation, Inequality, Identity and Federalism**

**Required readings**


(HW) “Fiscal Federalism”, Ch. 7, pp. 166-204.

Ashutosh Varshney. (2013). “How has Indian Federalism Done?” *Studies in Indian Politics* 1 (1) 43–63 (CS)
Reconciling liberty and equality with the security of the nation and unwanted citizens


• Review Session – last day of the class.