FEDERAL SYSTEMS: THE EU, US AND INDIA COMPARED

Monday and Wednesday, 15:30 – 17:10

Course description:

The course is designed to focus on the analysis of federalism using the cases of three rather different systems. Despite the continental dimension, the EU, the US and India have in common, the three systems differ greatly:

- The United States, together with Switzerland, is considered the most traditional federal system. US federalism is very much the case of a bottom-up development.

- India is a comparatively new state with a combination of Westminster (British style) democracy and symmetrical federalism. Indian federalism has been established top-down.

- The EU is not a state, but – perhaps – a federation in the making. European federalism is the perfect case of a long ongoing process based on nation (member) states as driving forces of integration.

In all cases, federalism has to be seen as an instrument to deal with national, ethnic, religious, social, and geographic diversity. Despite very different backgrounds, all three cases cannot be imagined as unitary (centralised) democratic states. In all three cases, federal structure seems to be the only way to establish democracy.

The focus will be especially on the following questions:

- the structures of federal governments;
- the compatibility of federalism on one side, presidentialism resp. parliamentary rule on the other;
- the question of identity, resp. identities;
- the balance between majority rule and minority protection;
- the preconditions of democratic federalism;
- party systems and federal structures;
- the impact of federalism on foreign policy.
Requirements:

The students are expected to

- participate actively in all classes. This requires preparation by reading the
designed texts;

- give (at least) one presentation. The presentations schedule (who, what,
and when) will be decided in the second week;

- write a term paper (approximately 3500 words) to be delivered at the end
of the term.

The course will strengthen the students’ ability to synthesize information,
determine a focus point, and discern the main line of an argumentation in their
final term paper – as well as the ability to communicate clearly and using the
appropriate media in their presentations and their oral participation in class. The
students will improve their ability to analyze contemporary developments in a
broader political, social, and economic context, always in a comparative
perspective. In discussing different arguments and positions, the students will
acquire tools expected from active citizens in any democracy. In writing a term
paper, the students have to apply the acquired approaches and methods on
specific research questions – an academic technique they can use in their further
careers within a specific region and beyond.

50 percent of grading will be based on the term paper; 25 percent on
participation, 25 percent on the presentations.

Students are invited to communicate with me via e-mail any time they think I
can be of help.
Reader:

1. The Challenge: Diversity and Globalization


2. Democratic Governments


3. The United States I


4. The United States II


5. The European Union I


6. The European Union II


7. The US and the EU in comparison


8. India I


9. India II


10. India III


11. The US, the EU, India, and World Order


Schedule

Week 1
The Challenge: Diversity and Globalization as a challenge
Ruggie et al., Filippov et al.

Week 2
Democratic Governments
Sodaro, Wilson

Week 3
United States I
DeSipio, Glazer

Week 4
United States II
Lipset, Hochschild/Weaver

Week 5
European Union I
Oudenaarden, Ansell

Week 6
European Union II
Moravcsik, Taylor, McCormick

Week 7
US and EU in comparison
Elazar, Weiler, Schmidt, Scharpf

Week 8
India I
Kohli/Basu
Dreze, Sen
Week 9
India II
Wallace/Roy, Varshney

Week 10
India III
Nariman, Chatterjee

Week 11
US, EU, India, and World Order
Kissinger, Oudenaren, Mohan