

Course of Study
Third Semester
MA, Political Science
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Tribhuvan University

1. Comparative Government : Unitary and Federal Systems

Course Code: MAPS - 561

Credit Hours: 3

Teaching Hours: 48

Declaration of Nepal as a federal state in 2007 opens eye to the need and urgency of introducing this course in higher education of Tribhuvan University, Political Science in particular. The students are expected to be beneficiaries in getting a comparative knowledge between unitary and federal systems. The course indeed helps the student to develop a critical and comparative knowledge of different federal models on the formation of federal units and on the division of power between the Centre and the Province.

Objectives:

1. To make student familiar with unitary and federal systems;
2. To impart knowledge on different models of federal system; and
3. To engage on discourse of federal design in Nepal.

Units:

Class Hours

I. Concept

10

1. Unitary System and its Features
2. Federal System and its Characteristics
3. Determining Factors of Unitary or Federal State: Size (Area and Population) and Demography (Homogeneous or Heterogeneous)

II. Unitary State

10

1. Centralized Unitary State (With reference to Bangladesh)
2. Decentralized Unitary State (With reference to Norway)
3. Unitary State with Federal Characteristics (With reference to UK)

III. Federal State

10

1. Origin and Evolution of Federalism

- A. Living Together: (With reference to USA)
- B. Holding Together: (With reference to Pakistan)

2. Models of Federal State

- A. Territorial Federalism (with reference to Germany)
- B. Ethnic Federalism (with reference to Ethiopia)
- C. Identity based Federalism (with reference to India)

IV: Division of Power

10

1. Centralized and Decentralized Federalism
2. Symmetric and Asymmetric Federalism

V: Critical Questions on Federal Design in Nepal

8

Core Readings:

- Bhakti, Ikar Nusa and Irine H. Gayatri (eds.). 2002. *Unitary State versus Federal State*. Washington D.C.: National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.
- Kincard, John and Alan Tarr (eds.). 2005. *Constitutional Origins, Structure and Change in Federal Countries*. London: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Kirkland, Thomas. 2012. *Elementary Arithmetic on the Unitary System*. London: Forgotten Books.
- Loughlin, John, John Kincaid and Wilfried Swenden (eds.). 2013. *Routledge Handbook of Regionalism and Federalism*. London: Routledge.
- Majeed, Akhtar, Ronald L. Watts and Douglas M. Brown. (eds.). *Distribution of Powers and Responsibilities in Federal Countries*. London: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Mishra, Chaitanya and Om Gurung 2012. *Ethnicity and Federalism in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
- Sexena, Rekha (ed.). 2011. *Varieties of Federal Governance: Major Contemporary Models*. Delhi: Foundation Books.

Reference Readings

- Augustin, Simeon and Raphael N. Montes (eds.). *Federalism and Multiculturalism*. Manila: University of Philippines.
- Azam, Kousar J. (ed.). *Federalism and Good Governance: Issues Across Cultures*. New Delhi: South Asia Publishers.
- Baral, Lok Raj and Krishna Hachhethu (eds.). 2014. *South Asia: Nation Building and Federalism*. New Delhi: Vij Books India Pvt Ltd.
- Blindenbacher, Raoul and Arnold Koller (eds.). *Federalism in a Changing World: Learning from Each Other*. London: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Majeed, Akhtar (ed.). 2009. *Federal Power Sharing: Accommodating Indian Diversity*. New Delhi: Manak.
- Turton, David (ed.). 2006. *Ethnic Federalism*. Oxford: James Currey Ltd.