OVERVIEW
Federated systems of government present opportunities and challenges for democratic accountability, managing collective action problems, economic stability, and the distribution of goods and services. This course will take up the theory and practice of governing federated systems using a comparative approach that examines federated systems in several countries including the United States, Canada, Germany, Brazil, and India. Questions this course will examine include:

• What helps explain the emergence, persistence, and erosion of federalism?
• What are the implications of federalism for democratic accountability?
• What are the implications of federalism for fiscal stability?
• Does federalism reduce or exacerbate ethnic tension? If so, when and how?
• What are the implications of federalism for political, social, and economic inequality?

This course is designed to help students identify and critique prevailing theories and empirical approaches to addressing these questions. This course builds on students’ understanding of Comparative Politics and American Politics, but it does not have prerequisites.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course is designed to help students:

• Learn how to identify and critique prevailing theories of federalism
• Critique and develop approaches for the empirical study of federalism
• Understand multiple ways of measuring federalism and its implications
• Consider the normative dimensions federalism.

• Write a final research design proposal, consistent with research grant applications

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Time Allocation
Over the course of the semester, students will spend 30 hours in class sessions. I expect students to spend at least 10 hours per week reading and preparing course material for class session (120 hours total). Students are expected to spend at least 3 hours writing each of 6 reaction papers, for a total of 18 hours. Students are expected to spend 10 hours writing one set of prelim notes to distribute to the class. Students
are expected to spend at least 20 hours researching and writing the literature review for the final research proposal. Students are expected to spend at least 20 hours researching and writing their final research proposal.

Assignments
The assignments are designed to help students apply the concepts we encounter in our class readings and discussions, and prepare them to conduct original academic research.

- Class participation 15%
- 6 reaction papers 30% (5% each)
- Prelim notes 5%
- Literature review 10%
- Research design discussion 5%
- Final research proposal 35%

Class Participation:
Our class will benefit greatly from active participation from all class members. Class participation consists of attending class and engaging regularly and meaningfully in class discussions. Using computers/phones during our class for purposes unrelated to the class will interfere with class discussion and will lower your class participation grade.

If you miss a class, please obtain class notes from one of your classmates. Please note that our class may not be recorded without explicit permission from Professor Moffitt.

Reaction Papers. Six times during the semester, students will submit a one-page (single spaced) reaction paper by 5:00pm on the Sunday before class. Reaction papers should be submitted via our MyCourses site. The reaction paper should focus on the reading assigned for that week. Students will choose which the six sessions to use to write reaction papers. However, students must write two reaction papers for each of our three course sections.

- **October 1:** last date to submit the second reaction paper from Section 1 on Foundations of Federalism.
- **November 5:** last date to submit the second reaction paper from Section 2 on the Political Economy of Federalism.
- **December 3:** last date to submit the second reaction paper from Section 3 on Governance and Policy.

Prelim Notes. One time per semester, each student will compose a set of prelim notes on full set of the week’s required readings and distribute those notes to the entire class. Students will sign up for the week they would like to write prelim notes. More detailed instructions will be provided in class.

Literature Review: By November 19, submit a literature review (no more than 5 pages single spaced) that includes: your research question; a summary of the literature that explains why your research question is important; a summary of the literature that demonstrates how your question would further develop existing literature and address enduring puzzles in the discipline.

Research Design Discussion: Over the course of the semester, each student is expected to discuss final research proposal plans with the rest of the class. These discussions are designed to be work-in-progress conversations and will be structured so that students can receive informal feedback from both the
professor and classmates on their final research proposal. Students will sign up ahead of time for the week they discuss their research design plans.

**Final Research Proposal:** By December 17, students will submit a 12-15 page (single spaced) research proposal that includes the sections on: research questions and literature review; research design and empirical strategy; measurement and analysis. We will follow the format used for NSF dissertation grant proposals. Feedback that students receive on their literature review and on their research design discussion should be incorporated into the final research proposal. More detailed instructions will be provided in class.

All papers should contain accurate and appropriate sources and citations. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the Brown University Code of Conduct.

**All** writing assignments are due at the time specified on the syllabus or at **beginning** of class (submitted via MyCourses) on the indicated date (when a time is not specified). The grade for late papers will be lowered by one full letter grade for each day it is late. Why do I require on-time submissions? To be late in the world of politics, policy, and practice is to be irrelevant. I want each of your voices to be relevant and active in academic and public discourse.

**COURSE MATERIALS**
There are 7 required books for this course available for purchase at the Brown Bookstore and available through the Brown Library:


The *Federalist Papers* may be found at: http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/federalist/

Additional articles and book chapters will be posted on our MyCourses site. The class readings may change slightly over the course of the term. I will let you know about changes to the syllabus at least one week in advance.
The optional reading is truly optional. I include them on the syllabus as resources for you to deepen your knowledge in particular topics or in different geographic regions, consistent with your research interests.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

SECTION 1: FOUNDATIONS OF FEDERALISM

September 10
Session 1: Comparing Federalist Systems


Hamilton, Madison and Jay, The Federalist Papers: Federalist 2, 9, 10, 39, 44, 45, 51 (http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed.htm) and Antifederalist 17 (http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/)

Optional

September 17
Session 2: Normative Federalism and Democratic Transitions
Review Hamilton, Madison and Jay, The Federalist Papers: Federalist 2, 9, 10, 39, 44, 45, 51 (http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed.htm) and Antifederalist 17 (http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/)


Optional Reading
Tocqueville, Democracy in America, "Characteristics which Distinguish the Federal Constitution"


September 24
Session 3: Strategic Design of Federalism and Its Implications


Optional

October 1
Session 4: Battleground Federalism (Parties, Conflict)


Optional


**October 8 NO CLASS: UNIVERSITY RECESS**

**October 15**  
**Session 5: Fiscal Federalism, part 1**


Optional:

October 22
Session 6: Fiscal Federalism, part 2 (cities and regions)


Optional


October 29
Session 7: Fiscal Federalism, part 3 (growth of the state and accountability)


Optional Reading
November 5
Session 8: Accountability through Federalism (Groups, Citizen Oversight, and Inequality)


Optional Reading


Todd Rogers and Joel Middleton, 2015, “Are Ballot Initiative Outcomes Influenced by the Campaigns of Independent Groups? A Precinct-Randomized Experiment Showing That They Are,” *Political Behavior*.

SECTION 3: GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

November 12
Session 9: Governing through Laboratories


Optional Reading


November 19
Session 10: Governing Environmental Policy in Federalist Systems
Margaret Keck and Rebecca Abers. 2013. Practical Authority: Agency and Institutional Change in Brazilian Water Politics, Chapters 1 and 2.


Optional Reading

November 26
Session 11: Governing Social Welfare Policy in Federalist Systems


Optional Reading


December 3
Session 12: Governing Education Policy through Federalist Systems and Concluding Thoughts


December 10
Reading Period

December 17
Final Research Proposal Due

FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 17, 2018 AT 12PM

Submitted via MyCourses
No later than December 17, 2018 at 12pm