

Forum of Federations – Iraqi academics project on federalism

Course Syllabus : 3 weeks (as agreed 19 Nov. 2006)

Unit 1 2 days

Introduction – as described in outline.

Context, prerequisites, rationale of federations

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Respect for minorities
- Constitutional government – government by rules
- Presidential and parliamentary systems
- Electoral systems: majority and proportional systems
- Trust, reciprocity
- Rationale – When does it make sense? When does it not?

Unit 2 1 day

What is federalism and why do countries choose it ?

- Federalism and multi-governance
- What is federalism? Shared and self rule
- The difference between federal and non-federal states – unitary and confederal systems
- The formation and collapse of federal systems
- Other forms of decentralized government and power sharing systems.
- Costs and benefits

Unit 3 1 day

Federalism in Iraq

- Context, prerequisites, rational basis
- Is Iraq a federal society ?
- The federal Constitution of Iraq: description and assessment
- Future federal forms for Iraq

Unit 4 2 days

Regions and governorates in a Federal System

- Types of regional governments
- Number of regional governments

- Defining their territory and character
- Differences in the size of regional and governorate governments
- Regions and governorates in the Iraqi Constitution
- The examples of Spain and India

The federal government: sharing power and majors at the centre

- The central functions of the federal government
- Distribution of power at the centre: electoral democracy
- Distribution of power at the centre: second chambers
- Representative federal institutions
- The importance of the existence of accountable institutions and national political leadership
- The federal government in the Iraqi Constitution
- The examples of Germany and Switzerland

Unit 5 2 days

Distribution of powers between the two orders of government

- Distribution between the federal government and the governments of the regions
- Techniques and constitutional options
- Legislative, executive and judicial authorities.
- Distribution of powers in the Iraqi Constitution

Intergovernmental relations

- Institutions
- Processes
- Politics
- Examples: centralized and decentralized systems and evolution over time – e.g., the US and Canada; institutions of intergovernmental relations – e.g., Germany, India, Australia; etc.

Unit 6 2 days

Fiscal Federalism

- Taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities
- Inter-regional equity and equalization: vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalance
- Borrowing powers
- Management of the economy

- Revenues from natural resources

Fiscal federalism in the Iraqi context: the pre-eminent place of oil and gas

- Management of these natural resources in other federal countries
- The situation in Iraq
- Oil policy challenges
- The examples of Nigeria, Mexico, ...

Unit 7 1 day

The Other pillars of federalism

- The Constitution
- Independent Courts
- Constitutional protection of rights (the Supreme Federal Court)
- Other pillars in the Iraqi context

Federalism as a political drive: the dynamism of federal politics

- Practical system of government
- Takes its shape from the evolving needs of society
- Despite constitutional rigidities, capable of substantial, peaceful evolution over time
- The examples of South Africa (the courts, in the establishment of the regime), the US and Canada (the Constitution as symbol, and the Constitution as arbiter of deep socio-federal conflict), India and Switzerland (the protection of minorities)

Unit 8 0.5 day

Review and Conclusion

Syllabus schedule : (for more details, contact lemieux@forumfed.org)

For purposes of a schedule, it is assumed below that participants arrive on a Saturday, get settled on Sunday; the course would begin on a Monday, and end effectively on a Thursday, 3 weeks later (with each Friday as a rest day).

Monday	AM	Unit 1
	PM	Unit 1
Tuesday	AM	Unit 1
	PM	Unit 1
Wednesday	AM	Unit 2

	PM	Break
Thursday	AM PM	Unit 2 Unit 3
Friday	AM PM	Break Break
Saturday	AM PM	Unit 3 Unit 4
Sunday	AM PM	Unit 4 Unit 4
Monday	AM PM	Unit 4 Unit 5
Tuesday	AM PM	Iraqis: Course Design Break
Wednesday	AM PM	Unit 5 Unit 5
Thursday	AM PM	Unit 5 Unit 6
Friday	AM PM	Break Break
Saturday	AM PM	Unit 6 Unit 6
Sunday	AM PM	Unit 6 Unit 7
Monday	AM PM	Unit 7 Unit 8
Tuesday	AM PM	Iraqis: course design Break
Wednesday	AM PM	Iraqis: course design Iraqis: course design
Thursday	AM PM	Review of Iraqi course design Review and evaluation of the training course