COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar is the first of a two-part course to provide graduate students with the conceptual, theoretical, and analytical tools necessary to understand and execute comparative research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to attend all seminar meetings, to do the assigned readings in their entirety, and to participate actively and thoughtfully in class discussion. The grade for this course will be based on frequency and quality of class participation (50 percent) and a take-home final exam (50 percent). Use of laptop computers, cell phones, or any other communications or internet devices in seminar is prohibited.

COURSE READER: The reader for the course is available at University Copy, 2425 Channing Way (549-2335). Some course readings may be made available on bCourses.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE: The following books are required and should be purchased as soon as possible:

Part I: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Week 1, Aug 31: Introduction

Week 2, Sept 7: No class! (Labor Day holiday)

Week 3, Sept 14: Objectives, Purposes, and Methods of Comparative Inquiry

Fish, Are Muslims distinctive?, chs. 1 & 8.

Part II: IDENTITIES

Week 4, Sept 21: Religion

Fish, Are Muslims distinctive?, chs. 2-3.

Week 5, Sept 28: Ethnicity and Nationality


Week 6, October 5: Class

Marshall and Bottomore, Citizenship and Social Class, entire (Marshall only).

Part 3: INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Week 7, Oct 12: Origins, Operations, Effects

Week 8, Oct 19: The State


Week 9, Oct 26: Parties and Electoral Systems


Part IV: OUTCOMES

Week 10, Nov 2: Democracy and Authoritarianism

Fish, Are Muslims Distinctive?, ch. 7.

Week 11, Nov 9: Order and Conflict

Fish, Are Muslims Distinctive?, ch. 5.

Week 12, Nov 16: Poverty and Prosperity

Ross, The Oil Curse, ch. 6.

Week 13, November 23: Equality, Tolerance, and Justice

Fish, Are Muslims Distinctive?, chs. 3 & 6.
Ross, The Oil Curse, ch. 4.
**Week 14, Nov 30: Historical Legacies**


**Week 15, Dec 7: Reading Week**