This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the study of comparative politics by exploring critical aspects of two broad areas of inquiry in the field: social movements and the state as well as analyzing the relationship(s) between the two. As a comparative core, it will provide students with an introduction to some basic conceptual and methodological questions in comparative politics. Next, the course aims to teach students how we think about and “do” comparative politics by providing in-depth literature on social movements and the state, rather than a wide survey of comparative politics topics. As students have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the literature and some relevant case studies, we will explore the conceptual and methodological implications of different approaches to the topics as well as the different possible ways in which the state and social movements may be shaping and even constituting each other. By the end of this course, I expect students to be engaged in the production of knowledge, creating their own hypotheses and advancing original arguments.

**Course Materials:** All the course materials are available on blackboard. There is one book you need to purchase, *Weapons of the Weak* by James Scott

**Grading:** Each of the papers is worth 28-30% of your grade and participation (which includes attendance and any assigned exercises) is 10-12%. While outstanding participation in class can make the difference in a borderline situation, excellent papers with poor participation will lead to a lower grade than what the papers alone merit.

**Schedule**

**8/24 Course Intro & Objectives: Why are you here?**

**I. Comparative Politics**

**8/31- What is Comparative Politics: Conceptual Questions**


9/7 LABOR DAY / NO CLASS

9/14 What is the Comparative Method (2 page written exercise due)


II. The State

9/21- Origins of the Nation State. & the pluralist perspective


9/28- Marxist Perspectives


10/5 Bringing the State Back in: Neoinstitutionalism

Skocpol, Theda. 1985 “Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research”, Chapter 1 in Bringing the State Back In, edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol.,


Hall, Peter & Rosemary Taylor, R. 1996 “Political Science & the Three New Institutionalisms” in Political Studies XLIV, 936-957


10/12 Cultural Approaches


Scott, James, chapters from *Seeing Like the State* (TBA)

III. Social Movements

10/19 What are social Movements? What is Resistance

PAPER ONE DUE NO LATER THAN NOON


Weapons of the Weak Chapters TBA

10/26- The study of Resistance

Weapons of the Weak – chapters TBA
11/2- *Culture and Identity* 


11/9: *Culture Case studies* (group exercise)


IV States and Movements

11/16 Political Context and Political Opportunity
PAPER 2 DUE AT NOON


Tarrow, Sidney. 1996. “States and Opportunities: The political structuring of social movements” in Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements: Political


Case studies (GROUP EXERCISE #2)


11/23 Cooption, Policing and Co-governance

Chapters in Piven and Cloward’s POOR PEOPLE’S MOVEMENTS TBA


12/7  How do Social movements and the state shape and/or constitute each other?


PAPER THREE DUE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT NOON

Recommended Reading on Transnational Movements:

