The Military in Politics

GOV 390L, U#39225 (cross-listed with ILAS, MES) Spring 2011/BAT 1.104/M 9-12 Department of Government

Instructor: Prof. Barany

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This course is designed to familiarize graduate students with the military's role in modern state and society. The focus is on the sociopolitical character of the armed forces. We will examine the most important issues of civil-military relations, such as why is civilian control important, what types of control arrangements are conducive to healthy civil-military relations in various types of political regimes, and in what ways do military elites respond to state policies and social movements. The class begins with eight weeks of intensive readings in order to get you grounded in the literature and help you learn to appreciate the diversity of civil-military relations in different political systems. You will write brief (one single-spaced page) discussion proposals to facilitate debate about the readings. We will conclude with student presentations (approximately 30-minute summations of your research). The seminar paper is due at the last seminar meeting (May 2); extensions will not be given save for exceptional cases (e.g., unanticipated call-up for combat duty, debilitating illness, etc.).

Grading

8 discussion proposals (2.5% each) : 20 seminar participation (including presentation

of the research paper) : 20 research paper (20-25 pages) : 60

I will assume that as graduate students you will do the readings as assigned. I want you to immerse yourselves in the books and articles in order to be able to make critical and insightful comments during the seminar meetings. Since the seminar is based on discussion, without your substantive, engaged participation it will be of little use.

The research paper is the most important requirement of this course. The paper should be 20 to 25 double-spaced pages in length and should be informed by at least 25 different sources (books, articles, etc.). The paper should be structurally sound and the argument(s) should be built to follow logical reasoning. Ideally, it would take advantage of some existing theory to inform its argument(s); it should be analytical and feature relatively little descriptive material (i.e., ask not "how?" ask rather "why?").

Readings

Barak, Oren. *The Lebanese Army: A National Army in a Divided Society* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2010) **ISBN:** 0791493466

Barany, Zoltan. Building Democratic Armies: Lessons from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas – in manuscript. (will be e-mailed to seminar members)

Barany, Zoltan. *Democratic Breakdown and the Decline of the Russian Military* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007). **ISBN:** 0691128960

Bruneau, Thomas C. and Scott D. Tollefson, eds. *Who Guards the Guardians and How: Democratic Civil-Military Relations* (University of Texas Press, 2006) **ISBN:** 0292719248

Haqqani, Husain. *Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military* (Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005). **ISBN**: 0870032143

Nielsen, Suzanne C. and Don M. Snider, eds. *American Civil-Military Relations: The Soldier and the State in a New Era* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009). **ISBN:** 0801892880

Serra, Narcís. *The Military Transition: Democratic Reform of the Armed Forces*, translated by Peter Bush (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2010). **ISBN:** 0521133440

Trinkunas, Harold. *Crafting Civilian Control of the Military in Venezuela: A Comparative Perspective* (University of North Carolina Press, 2005) **ISBN:** 0807856509

Schedule and topics of seminar meetings

January 24: A brief introduction to the course

Part I. General Issues

January 31: Civilian control: Concepts and issues Read: Bruneau and Tollefson, entire.

February 7: Military politics and regime change

Read: Barany ms, up to and including Chapter 5.

February 14: Military politics and regime change

Read: Barany ms, second half

February 21: Civil-military relations and democratization

Read: Serra, entire

Part II. Case Studies

February 28: Civil-military relations in the United States

Read: Nielsen and Snider, eds., entire

Guest: Col. Christopher Bowman, Air Force ROTC, UT

Ms. Celeste Ward Gventer, LBJ School

Research topic due!

March 7: Politics and the armed forces in Latin America

Read: Trinkunas (entire), and

Sigmund, Paul. "Approaches to the Study of the Military in Latin America,"

Comparative Politics, 26:1 (October 1993): 111-122.

March 21: Military politics in Pakistan

Read: Husain Haggani (entire), and

March 28: The military in Russian politics

Read: Barany (entire), and

April 4: Civil-military relations in the Middle East

Read: Barak, entire

Guest: Prof. Oren Barak, Hebrew University

April 11: student presentations

April 18: student presentations

April 25: student presentations

May 2: student presentations

Research paper due!