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  
Office: BAT 3.156/Office hours: M: 8-9, 1-3

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


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


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 Haqqani (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!