The Military in Politics

GOV 390L, U#39140 (cross-listed with ILAS)
Spring 2013/BAT 5.102/M 9:30-12:30
Department of Government
Instructor: Prof. Barany
Office: BAT 3.156/Office hours: M: 8-9:30, 2-3:30

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 nine 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) followed by Q&A sessions. The seminar paper is due at the last seminar meeting (April 29); extensions will not be given save for truly 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) : 25
research paper (20-25 pages) : 55

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


… and selected articles, particularly for the Turkey/Pakistan and Middle East units.

Schedule and topics of seminar meetings

January 14: A brief introduction to the course

Part I. General Issues & Democratization

January 28: Civilian control: Concepts and issues
   Read: Bruneau and Tollefson, entire.

February 4: Military politics and regime change
   Read: Barany, 1-177 (i.e., up to and including Chapter 5)

February 11: Military politics and regime change
   Read: Barany, 178 to end

Part II. Case Studies

February 18: Civil-military relations in the United States, I.
   Read: Dempsey (entire)
February 25: Civil-military relations in the United States, II.
Read: Maddow (entire)

March 4: 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.

Research topic due!

March 18: The military in Russian politics
Read: Barany (entire)

March 25: Military politics in Turkey and Pakistan
Read: Aqil Shah, “Getting the Military Out of Pakistani Politics,” Foreign Affairs,
   May-June 2011, 69-82
   -- several others

April 1: Civil-military relations in the Arab world
Read: -- Kamrava, “Military Professionalism and Civil-Military Relations in the
   Middle East, Political Science Quarterly, Spring 2000, 67-92
   -- and several others

April 8: student presentations
April 15: student presentations
April 22: student presentations
April 29: student presentations

Research paper due!