The Military in Politics

GOV 390L, U#39140 (cross-listed with ILAS)
Fall 2015/BAT 1.104/M 3:30-6:30
Instructor: Prof. Barany
Office: BAT 3.156/Office hours: M: 1-3:30, 6:30-7

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. In one of these class meetings you will make a 20-minute oral presentation to the seminar on the reading for that day (this should be an analytical and critical assessment). You will also write eight brief (one single-spaced page) discussion proposals to facilitate debate about the readings. These should contain two or three paragraph-long questions raised by the readings you read for the class that you will send to your classmates and me by midnight on Sunday (the previous day). We will conclude with student presentations (approximately 20-minute summations of your research project) followed by Q&A sessions. The topic of the seminar paper must be settled on by October 19; the paper is due at the beginning of the last seminar meeting, on November 30).

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?”).

Grading
1. 8 discussion proposals (2.5% each) : 20
2. critical oral review presentation of the reading (once) : 10
3. seminar participation (including presentation of the research paper) : 20
4. research paper (20-25 pages) : 50

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.
Readings


--------. How Armies Respond to Revolutions and Why (Princeton University Press, 2016) – I will distribute galley proofs


Kandil, Hazem. Soldiers, Spies, and Statesmen: Egypt’s Road to Revolt (Verso, 2014)


Saunders, Phillip C., and Andrew Scobell, eds. PLA Influence on China's National Security Policymaking (Stanford University Press, 2015)


Schedule and topics of seminar meetings

September 14: A brief introduction to the course

Part I. General Issues & Democratization

September 21: Civilian control: Concepts and issues
Read: Owen, U.S. Civil-Military, 1-43; Barany, The Soldier, 14-43

September 28: Military politics and regime change
Read: Barany, The Soldier, 1-14, 43-177

October 5: Military politics and regime change
Read: Barany, The Soldier, 178 to end
Part II. Case Studies

October 12: United States
   Read: Owen, *U.S Civil-Military*, 44-200

October 19: Pakistan
   Shah, *The Army and Democracy*, entire

Research topic due!

October 26: Civil-military relations in the Arab world
   Read: Kandil, *Soldiers, Spies, and Statesmen* (entire) and Kamrava article.

November 2: China
   Read: Saunders and Scobell, *PLA Influence*, entire

November 9: Russia
   Read: Barany, *Democratic Breakdown*, entire, and Gaddy and O’Hanlon article.

November 16: Armies and revolutions
   Read: Barany, *How Armies Respond to Revolutions*, entire

November 23: student presentations

November 30: student presentations

Research paper due!