

# The Military in Politics

GOV 365N, U#38957

Spring 2013/MEZ B0.302/M 3:30-6:30

Department of Government

Instructor: Prof. Zoltan Barany (barany@austin.utexas.edu)

Office: BAT 3.156/Office hours: M: 8-9, 1:30-3:30

What social and political role do the armed forces play in the modern state and society? What are the hallmarks of democratic civil-military relations? Can the armed forces play a progressive social role? Do generals in power ever promote economic development or should they be expected to loot the country they rule? And, ultimately, why do people with guns obey those without? The purpose of this course is to seek answers to these and other age-old questions and to acquaint the advanced undergraduate student with the military's role in the modern state and society. To prevent misunderstandings: the class does not deal with weapon systems, nuclear proliferation, strategy, or tactics. Rather, we focus on the sociopolitical character of the armed forces in a variety of political settings: advanced democracies, authoritarian states, post-communist systems, etc.

My goal is to have you leave this class in May as someone who can intelligently discuss the political and societal role of the armed forces in a number of different contexts. I respect you enough to have high expectations because I assume that as students at the University of Texas at Austin you want to satisfy high standards. We will also have fun, viewing two motion pictures with themes of military politics and reading books that you will not just learn from but, I hope, enjoy.

For the nine meetings when we will discuss readings – 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 – you will prepare one-page discussion proposals (two paragraph-length questions pertaining to the reading for that day) that will serve as a basis for class discussion. You must e-mail me your questions by midnight on the Sunday before the class. You will only “keep” your grade for six, so you have two chances to slack off with impunity.

There will be a one-hour examination on April 8 that will test your knowledge of the materials. This test will be a combination of multiple-choice and one essay question (you will pick one out of three). Other than this, the most important assignment is the 10-12-page analytical research paper that should be informed by at least 10 different sources (books, articles, etc.). It should answer a clear research question, should be structurally sound and the argument(s) should be built to follow logical reasoning. It should be analytical and feature relatively little descriptive material (i.e., ask not “how?” ask instead “why?”). We will, of course, discuss the best way to approach your paper in class and in office hours.

## Grading

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. eight discussion proposals (2.5% each) | : 20% |
| 2. one-hour exam (April 1)                | : 35% |
| 3. class participation                    | : 20% |
| 4. research paper (10-12 pages)           | : 25% |

Note: The “Class participation” grade will be taken seriously because the success of this class hinges on it. This grade will also include an assessment of your presentation, at the end of the semester. I will not take attendance but, obviously, if you are not present, you cannot participate in the discussions and, therefore, you will be at a disadvantage.

## Rules

1. You may not use a laptop in the classroom. All electronic devices must be shut off.
2. I will treat you as adults and I want you to treat this class as adults. I will be in class on time and so should you be. If you do not think you can make it at 3:30PM, do not register for this class.
3. There will be no extensions for the due dates of any written work. (OK: I *might* make exceptions if there is a nuclear attack on Austin or a flood of biblical proportions.)

## Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

## Academic Integrity

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>. Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty. What constitutes plagiarism? Check out the University Honor Code: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>)

## Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

## Emergency Evacuation Policy

In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

## Readings

Barany, Zoltan. *The Soldier and the Changing State: Building Democratic Armies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012). ISBN: 0691137692

Dempsey, Jason K. *Our Army: Soldiers, Politics, and American Civil-Military Relations* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009). ISBN: 0691142254

Junger, Sebastian. *War* (New York: Twelve, 2010) ISBN: 0446556246

... and selected articles for the two classes on the armed forces of the Muslim world

## Schedule and topics:

January 14: Introduction to the course, discussing the assignments

January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday

January 28: Armies and democracy

Read: Barany, *The Soldier and the Changing State*, 1-47.

February 4: Armies and democracy: After war

Read: Barany, *The Soldier and the Changing State*, 47-110.

February 11: Military politics and regime change

Read: Barany, *The Soldier and the Changing State*, 113-242

February 18: Military politics and state transformation

Read: Barany, *The Soldier and the Changing State*, 245-359

February 25: Civil-military relations in the United States

Read: Dempsey, *Our Army*, 1-95

Guest: Captain Daniel Dixon, USN, head of Navy ROTC at UT

## Research paper topic due!

March 4: Civil-military relations in the United States

Read: Dempsey, *Our Army*, 95-207

March 11: SPRING BREAK

March 18: What *exactly* are our soldiers doing in Afghanistan?

Read: Junger, *War*, entire

We will view the movie by Junger and Hetherington, *Restrepo* (93 min.)

March 25: Military and politics in the Muslim world

Read: selected articles

April 1: The Armed Forces in the Arab Spring and beyond

Read selected articles

April 8: One hour-exam

Following the test: *Seven Days in May* (95 minutes)

April 15: student presentations

April 22: student presentations

April 29: student presentations

Research paper due!