Course Description

This seminar studies how militaries shape political life. Militaries are pivotal political actors in much of the world. Their ability to engage in large-scale organized violence makes them powerful allies and dangerous foes for civilian elites and mass publics. We will examine militaries and state formation, how civil-military relations shape foreign policy and military strategy, military involvement in intrastate conflict, military governance, and tensions within militaries. Militaries are sometimes an outcome of other political and social processes, but can also have autonomy to act as an autonomous force. We will thus explore military structure and behavior as both a cause and a consequence of politics.

The broader goal of this course is identify a set of research agendas for the study of military politics. This is a rich area for study but it has suffered from inconsistent attention and a lack of cumulative research, both theoretical and empirical. As you will see, the literature is a mix of abstract theorizing, case studies, and cross-national quantitative studies that do not speak very well to one another. This seminar will therefore be as an opportunity to read broadly on militaries and politics in order to figure out where to go next. The readings may change and, if so, I will be sure to communicate changes to you. I have asked some of our Ph.D candidates to present their work to show what the research process involves and to introduce you to new research horizons.

Course Requirements

Participation in class discussion is essential for a successful seminar. Students are expected to have carefully done all of the required reading and to be prepared to discuss it in detail. I realize that some weeks there is a very heavy reading load, but the works assigned are important and worth your time. You should carefully plan ahead to make sure that you have devoted enough time to heavy weeks; reading ahead can be important (weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 are particularly rough). It is better not to take this class than to take it without being willing to commit to the workload. Participation will account for 20% of your grade.

Two response papers (each no more than 4 pages, doubled-spaced, 12-point font) will be assigned. In week 4 I will assign a paper due in week 5 and in week 8 I will assign a paper due in week 9. The paper topic will identify an important claim from our readings in the previous weeks and ask you to critically assess it in light of our reading and discussions. These are not opportunities for you to do a literature review or summary of readings, but instead to advance an argument. Each paper will account for 10% of your grade. I will provide the topic at the end of
class and the paper will be due in hard copy at the beginning of the next class meeting. Late papers will not be accepted.

**Research paper** of no more than 30 pages total (doubled-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) due at the end of the quarter. It can be emailed to me or dropped off at my office by 5 pm CST, Thursday, June 7, 2012. This paper should address a major question in the study of military politics with a literature review, theoretical argument, and empirical evaluation of the theory relative to its competitors. This empirical evaluation can include a case or comparative case studies, quantitative analysis, or a mix of methods. Students can use this opportunity to lay the groundwork for a publishable article, develop research for a thesis, or “try out” a possible dissertation topic. Please note that this is a hard space limit: the entire paper must not be more than 30 pages. I may reduce your grade for excess.

The paper will account for 60% of your grade. You must confirm your topic with me, in person or over email, before our Week 7 class meeting. Late papers will not be accepted.

**Electronic Etiquette**

I request that students not use their laptops, cell phones, or PDAs during class for any reason. This will allow more focused discussion and intellectual exchange.

I aim to be responsive to email from students. However, please do not expect an answer to your question any sooner than 48 hours after it is sent. Last-minute email questions and requests are bad for everyone involved. I prefer that students use office hours rather than email for asking substantive questions.

**Books for Purchase**

These are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op.


Required articles and book sections that are not drawn from the books for purchase can be found through the online Chalk system (http://chalk.uchicago.edu - these works are identified as such) or the University of Chicago Library website. You should already be familiar with how to track down articles online and if a work in question is not on Chalk or a required book, assume that it is your job to find the piece.

**Academic Integrity**

This is the University of Chicago’s Academic Integrity statement:

“It is contrary to justice, to academic integrity, and to the spirit of intellectual inquiry to submit the statements or ideas of work of others as one's own. To do so is plagiarism or cheating, offenses punishable under the University's disciplinary system. Because these offenses undercut the distinctive moral and intellectual character of the University, we take them very seriously. Proper acknowledgment of another's ideas, whether by direct quotation or paraphrase, is expected. In particular, if any written or electronic source is consulted and material is used from that source, directly or indirectly, the source should be identified by author, title, and page number, or by website and date accessed. Any doubts about what constitutes "use" should be addressed to the instructor.”

If you have questions, ask me and/or consult Charles Lipson’s Doing Honest Work in College (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008). Any violations of university standards will be automatically referred to higher authorities.

**1. Introduction and Basic Overview**


**2. Militaries and State Formation: The European and American Experiences**

Huntington, *Soldier and the State*, chapters 2 and 6
Posen, Barry R. “Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power.” *International Security* 18,

3. Civil-Military Relations: Objective Control and Its Discontents

Huntington, *Soldier and the State*, chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and pp. 464-466
Finer, S. E. *The Man on Horseback: the Role of the Military in Politics* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1988), chapters 4 and 7 (Chalk e-reserves)

4. Militaries, Strategy, and Foreign Policy


[Response Paper #1 will be assigned at this class meeting]

5. Control of the Military Instrument

*We will have Ph.D candidate Shawn Cochran come to part of this class and present some of his work on the civil-military politics of war termination*

Posen, *Sources of Military Doctrine*, all.
Cochran paper (Chalk Course Documents)

[Response Paper #1 will be due at this class meeting]

Centeno, *Blood and Debt*, all.

7. Armies and Rule: Modernization, Personalization, and Dictatorship

Huntington, *Political Order*, chapters 1, 4, 5, 7

8. Wars at Home: Counterinsurgency and Countersubversion

Callahan, *Making Enemies*, all.
McCoy, Alfred W. *Closer Than Brothers: Manhood at the Philippine Military Academy*. New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press, 1999), chapters 6 and 7 (Chalk e-reserves)
[Response Paper #2 will be assigned at this class meeting]

9. Social Division and the Military


[Response Paper #2 will be due at this class meeting]

10. Comparative Coercion

We will have Ph.D candidate Jonathan Obert come to part of this class and present some of his work on the origins of different local security institutions in the 19th-century United States

Davis, Diane E., and Anthony W. Pereira, eds. Irregular Armed Forces and Their Role in Politics and State Formation (Cambridge University Press, 2003), chapter 1 (Chalk e-reserves)
Obert paper (Chalk Course Documents)
Staniland, Paul. “Governing Coercion: States and Violence in Asia” research agenda piece (Chalk Course Documents)