

# The Military in Politics

GOV 365G, LAS337M, REE430 U#38059

Spring 2022/MEZ 2.124/T/Th 3:30-4:45

Department of Government

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Office: BAT 3.156/Office hours: T/Th 1:30-3

This is going to be one of the most work-intensive classes you will take as a University of Texas undergraduate. Do not take this course if you are not prepared to work hard and accept regular, constructive criticism.

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 a couple of documentaries with military politics themes, welcoming some outside speakers, and reading books that you will not just learn from but, I hope, enjoy.

There will be two examinations that will test your knowledge of the materials. They 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 12-15-page analytical research paper that should be informed by at least 15 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. The paper should 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. first midterm examination	20%
2. second midterm examination	30%
3. unannounced pop quizzes	10%
4. research paper	25%
5. class participation	15%

Components: -- in-class engagement,  
-- student-of-the-day summary and questions,  
-- presentation of the research paper

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. You will need to come to every class: if you are not present, you cannot participate in the discussions, you will miss the lectures and the quizzes and, therefore, you will be at a major disadvantage.

## Rules

1. You **may not** use a laptop in the classroom. All electronic devices must be shut off throughout the entire class period. If you are interested in why you are actually going to learn more and have a better time doing it this way, read this brief article:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html>

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 or stay until 4:45PM, **do not** register for this class. Please do not come in late or leave early: it distracts the instructor and your fellow students.

3. There will be **no** extensions for the due dates of any written work. (I **might** make exceptions if there is a nuclear attack on Austin or a flood of biblical proportions. **Might.**)

If these rules seem unreasonable, consider taking another class!

## 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.

## Academic Integrity

I take plagiarism and other kinds of academic fraud very seriously. 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? See [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint\\_plagiarism.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_plagiarism.php) or check out the UT Libraries' plagiarism module:  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>

## Required Readings

**\*B:** Barany, Zoltan. *The Soldier and the Changing State: Building Democratic Armies in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas* (Princeton University Press, 2012), 456 pages.

**BBM:** Beehner, Lionel, Risa Brooks, and Daniel Maurer, eds. *Reconsidering American Civil-Military Relations: The Military, Society, Politics, and Modern War* (Oxford University Press, 2021), 355 pages.

In addition some articles (see under class schedule) are assigned. As I see pertinent shorter articles as the semester progresses, I will ask you to read them. Feel free to bring to the class's attention interesting reading materials you think we could benefit from reading.

## Schedule, Topics, Readings:

### Week 1

1. January 18: Introduction to the course
2. January 20: Armies and democracy  
Read: B, 14-43

### Week 2

3. January 25: Huntington and Professionalism

Read: BBM 1-40

4. January 27: Norms, Democracy, and Dissent

Read: BBM 41-81

Week 3

5. February 1: Oversight and “Skin in the Game”

Read: BBM 85-114

6. February 3: Ministries, Trust, Confidence

Read: BBM 115-148

-- Jim Golby, “Sorry, Gen. Lloyd Austin. A Recently Retired General Should Not Be Secretary of Defense,” *New York Times*, 7 December 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/07/opinion/biden-defense-secretary-dod.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/07/opinion/biden-defense-secretary-dod.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

Week 4

7. February 8: 1<sup>st</sup> Movie: “Obama’s War” (2009), 60'

<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-obamas-war/>

8. February 10: Public Opinion, Popularity

Read: BBM 149-190

-- Mara Karlin and Alice Hunt Friend, “Military Worship Hurts American Democracy”, September 24, 2018, *Order from Chaos*, Brookings Institution

[https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/09/24/military-worship-hurts-us-democracy/?utm\\_campaign=Brookings%20Brief&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=66163363](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/09/24/military-worship-hurts-us-democracy/?utm_campaign=Brookings%20Brief&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=66163363)

-- Jessica D. Blankshain and Max Z. Margulies, “The Downside of High Trust in the Military,” *New York Times*, September 16, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/16/opinion/americans-trust-us-military.html>

Week 5

9. February 15: Crisis, Sexual Harassment

Read: BBM 191-206

-- Melinda Wenner Moyer, “A Poison in the System’: The Epidemic of Military Sexual Assault,” *New York Times Magazine*, August 3, 2021.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/03/magazine/military-sexual-assault.html>

-- Maya Guzdar, “What Happened the Day After I Was Sexually Harassed in the Pentagon,” *New York Times*, September 5, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/05/opinion/culture/sexually-harassed-pentagon.html>

-- Eric Schmitt, “Navy Fires Warship’s Top Two Officers, Citing ‘Loss of Confidence’,” *New York Times*, December 30, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/30/us/politics/uss-montgomery-captain-fired.html>

10. February 17: Profile, Information, Technology  
Read: BBM 209-245

Week 6

11. February 22: Technology, Cyber Operations, Gray Zone  
Read: BBM 245-297

12. February 24: FIRST MIDTERM

Week 7

13. March 1: Coup and Military Rule in Burma  
Guest Lecturer: Yemyo Hein, Woodrow Wilson Center  
Read: TBA

14. March 3: Building Democratic Armies... after World War II  
Read: Barany, Introduction and Chapter 2, 1-13 and 47-77

Week 8

15. March 8: Building Democratic Armies... after World War II  
Read: Barany, Introduction and Chapter 2, 1-13 and 47-77

16. March 10: No class

S P R I N G   B R E A K (MARCH 14-20)

Week 9

- March 22      Movie Two short movies:  
PBS Frontline, "Out of Gitmo" (40:51)  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/out-of-gitmo/>  
and  
PBS Frontline, "Forever Prison" (15:06)  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/forever-prison/>

- March 24      Army Building after Civil Wars  
Read: Barany, Chapter, 78-110

**Detailed Research Paper Outlines Are Due in Class**

## Week 10

17. March 29: TBA

18. March 31: Military Reform after Military Rule: Europe and Latin America  
Read: Barany, Chapters 4-5, 113-177

## Week 11

19. April 5: Military Reform after Military/Socialist Rule: Asia and Eastern Europe  
Read: Barany, Chapters 6-7, 178-242

20. April 7: Building New Armies after Colonial Rule in Asia and Africa  
Read: Barany, Chapters 8-9, 245-302

## Week 12

21. April 12: Building Democratic Armies after (Re)Unification and Apartheid  
Read: Barany, Chapter 10 and Conclusion, 303-357

23. April 14: How Do Armies Respond to Revolutions and Why?  
TBA

## Week 13

25. April 19: Student presentation

26. April 21: Student presentations

## Week 14

27. April 26: Student presentations

28. April 28: Student presentations

## Week 15

29. May 3: Student presentations

30. May 5: IN-CLASS SECOND MIDTERM

**Research paper due!**