

This syllabus contains important information. Read it carefully and keep it. Changes will be announced in lectures and MyUB.

Political Science 438, “Civil-Military Relations”, fall 2007

MWF 1-1:50, 112 O’Brian

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This course explores several of the most crucial questions of the early 21st century, issues as important as they have been in the past: How can governments best control their armed forces, so that they do not seize power? When and how is the use of force a necessary part of a state’s domestic tranquility and of its international relations—in other words, where do the functions of police end and those of armed forces take up? How have military values, needs and demands shaped societies, and vice-versa? What have been the effects of multi-national peacekeeping, peace enforcement and collective security? How do the law of war, human rights and international relations interrelate? What are the consequences for civil-military relations of environmental and health crises (e.g., HIV-AIDS)? How will the emergence of multiple powers armed with nuclear weapons and missiles affect strategic balances? In these days of one-power military dominance, why has the United States found it so difficult to understand and combat terrorists or guerrilla fighters?

The major part of the course is devoted to in-depth analyses of civil-military relations in various states, chosen for geographic diversity, contemporary or recent historical significance, or theoretical relevance. We shall also explore the causes of coups d’état, the history of warfare, warfare, morality and international human rights/ humanitarian law, and coming challenges in international and intra-state conflict.

Readings: There is a great deal of reading that you will be expected to master. The following *books* must be purchased (UB Bookstore or College Store, Maple Road):

- Luttwak, *Coup d’état: A practical handbook*
- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (4th edition is best)

Other *articles* can be found on course reserve (please let me know if there are problems in accessing them). Please note that the readings are lengthy and often complex. You will need to examine them carefully, preferably perusing them at least twice.

In addition, everyone is required to consult a major international newspaper on a daily basis. Examples include the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *the Los Angeles Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Times of London*, *The Independent*, or *The Guardian* (these three are British), *The Times of India*, *The Globalist*, or *The Economist*; I also recommend (for readers of other languages) *Le Monde*, or *El País* on a daily basis; questions may be posed from these publications, as parts of the scheduled tests. You should be able to find their websites easily. An excellent source for overseas publications is www.watchingamerica.com. I also strongly urge you to listen to NPR news (WBFO, 88.7 FM; www.wbfo.org) on your drives to and from campus, or to listen to BBC Radio 2 on your computer (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>). Specific readings appear on conjunction with individual lectures

(see below). I may on occasion ask students to share with others what are important issues relevant to the course. You are, of course, encouraged to ask questions at any point in class.

You **must** check My UB on at least a weekly basis: important announcements will be made there, including possible changes in the assignments or lecture topics. You are responsible. Failure to consult My UB will be no excuse for missing significant items.

Grades will be determined roughly as follows: All examinations will be graded numerically, with the numbers then used for APPROXIMATE letter grades. The cut-off points and averages will be announced through UB Learns, and are intended to give students a sense of where they stand. Cut-off points will be determined for each test. The final determination of grades rests with the instructor, who will decide the dividing line between (say) B- and C+. There are likely to be approximately 25% A (“high honors”), 30% B (“honors”), 30% C (“pass”), 10% D (“minimal pass”) and 5% F (“failure”). Thus, presuming reasonable effort on your part, more than half of you should receive honors grades. Note that attendance will be taken, and will be included (in a positive fashion) in the final grade.

Examinations are *tentatively* scheduled on **September 24, October 29** and **during the final exam period**. Details about them will be announced in class and via UB Learns. The tests will be weighted equally (one-quarter each of final grade; the remaining quarter will come from the paper – see below). Extra credit will be given, please note, to students not only for attendance and contribution of special items (e.g. relevant .jpg files or academic references), but also for effective participation in class discussion, to the extent the size of the course permits.

The **course paper** is due the Monday before Thanksgiving (**November 19**). You will be required to write a seven page analysis of civil-military relations in a **randomly-selected** country. The specific guidelines for the paper will be posted on UB Learns.

Any student with a disability (physical, psychological, learning or whatever) which may impede carrying out coursework, or which requires note-takers, readers, or extended time on exams and/or assignments, should contact me and the Office of Disability Services *during the first two weeks of class*. ODS will provide information and appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations. You should also convey your needs to me, on a confidential basis. The Student Counseling Center is a valuable source for psychological assistance, although it is heavily booked during high-stress times, such as before mid-terms or finals. You are welcome to alert me to personal issues, again on a totally confidential basis, if these affect your academic performance. Finally, out of courtesy to others, turn off all cell phones and pagers and take care of all personal hygiene needs **before** class.

The following schedule indicates the *approximate* order of lectures and reading. Changes may be made from time to time, however; they will be announced via UB Learns and in lectures.

Dates	Lecture topic	Assigned readings
Part I: Introduction: when soldiers take control: bullets over ballots		
8/27-9/7	Causes and consequences of coups	Luttwak (entire); Welch “Military Disengagement”
Part II: Theories of civil-military relations and recent challenges to American civil-military relations		
9/10-19	CMR: “normal” models	Bland, “Patterns in Liberal Democratic CMR”; Cohen, “Theory of CMR”; Huntington, “Officership as a Profession”; Moskos, “Toward a Post-Modern Military”
9/21-28	Terrorism: background and implications	Crocker, “Emerging Failing States”; Juergensmeyer, “Terror in the Name of God”; Hailey, “A Defensive Grand Strategy for the United States”

9/24	Test #1	
10/1	Child soldiers	Crocker, "It's a Small World"; Singer, "Child Soldiers"
Part III: Ethical issues in warfare		
10/3-10/10	What is "just war"?	Kemp, "Morality and War"; Walzer, <i>Just and Unjust Wars</i> (entire); Welch, "Just War"
Part IV: International survey of civil-military relations		
10/12-15	CMR in Africa	N'Diaye, "How <i>Not</i> to Institutionalize Civilian Control" (Kenya); Welch, "Civil-Military Agonies in Nigeria"
10/15		Random selection of countries for paper
10/17-31	CMR in Asia	Cohen "India as a Military Power"; Fravel, "Towards Civilian Supremacy" (Taiwan); Saxer, "Generals and Presidents" (Korea); Scobell, "China's Evolving CMR"
11/2-11/14	CMR in Europe	Baev, "The Plight of the Russian Military"; Cottey et al., "The Second Generation Problematic" (Eastern Europe)
11/9	Test #2	
11/16-21	CMR in Latin America	Mora "A Comparative Study of CMR in Cuba and China"; Norden, "Redefining Political-Military Relations"; Zagorski, "Democratic Breakdown in Paraguay and Venezuela"
11/19		Term paper due
11/24-28	CMR in the Middle East	Cann and Danopoulos, "The Military and Politics in a Theocratic State" (Iran); Cohen, "The Israel Defense Forces"; Duman and Tsarouhas, "'Civilianization' in Greece versus "'Demilitarization' in Turkey"
12/2-9	CMR in international relations	Dandeker and Gow, "The Future of Peace Support Operations"; Deutch, "Exiting Iraq"; Thompson, "Why our army is at the breaking point"
TBA	Test #3 (final)	

Many of you are seniors, thinking about the next stage in life. Among the best opportunities you have are Fulbright grants or the Peace Corps. Announcements about the Fulbright grants will be made available on the course website. In addition, I urge you to search the Peace Corps website (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/>) for details about it. Two years' overseas – or domestically, through Teach USA – will give you unique understanding of life. Go to this website <http://www.teachforamerica.org/> for additional information. I also hope many of you will take advantage of the opportunity to click regularly—perhaps daily—on links that assist national and international good causes. Go to www.thehungersite.com for example, and you will find links to others (e.g., rain-forest, child health) that have special relevance for contemporary international issues. You may nothing, but generous corporations provide the needed dollars.

Finally, I hope that you find PSC 438 an interesting course. Feel free to provide comments as the semester progresses, to help improve it. I would particularly welcome suggestions about topics you wish to cover that don't appear on this syllabus, and which might appropriately be covered in class.