POLS 4031: Politics & the Military
CRN: 82939
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
1:25 pm – 2:15 pm
1024 Carroll Building

Professor: Dr. Courtney Burns
Office: 2205 Carroll Building
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Wednesdays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, and by appointment
Email: cburns@georgiasouthern.edu
Phone: 912-681-0838

Course Overview
This course is designed to provide students with understanding of the military's role in modern state and society. In every modern state the question of the proper balance between the armed forces and the civilian political leadership is a key feature of politics. The focus in this course is on the political role of the armed forces in a cross-national context. This course will examine important civil-military relations, such as (1) why is civilian control of the military important, (2) what causes military intervention and political domination via coup d'etat, (3) what role does the military play in development and democratization, and (4) what is the relationship between sexual violence, the treatment of women, and the military.
This is a course on politics, and not necessarily on military science. Thus, while we will discuss wars and military regimes, we will be focused on relations between the military and civilians in terms of decision-making.

Course Objectives
1. Students can demonstrate an understanding of the defining concepts and theories in the study of civil-military relations.
2. Students will develop a mastery of critical thinking skills by evaluating political developments from an observational and theoretical standpoint in the study of civil-military relations.
3. Students will develop a mastery of writing skills of political phenomena by communicating their perspectives, empirical findings, interpretations and the conclusions of their research on civil-military relations.

Course Readings
There is no textbook for this class. Readings for this course will be provided through either book chapters or academic journals. All readings will be available on Folio under the corresponding weekly tab. You are expected to read before coming to class.
Grades & Course Requirements
Your grade in this course will be based on two exams, two short essays, reading guides, attendance and participation, and 6 pop quizzes over the reading. At the end of the semester, your points will be added together for a final grade. I will not round grades. If you want to receive a certain grade, you must fall within the points range for that grade.

Points
- Attendance & Participation (14 x 10 points) 140 points
- Reading quizzes (6 x 15 points) 90 points
- Reading guides (5 x 10 points) 50 points
- Short essays (2 x 30 points) 60 points
- Midterm exam (80 points) 80 points
- Final exam (80 points) 80 points

Total 500 points

Point Ranges
- A 450 points - 500 points
- B 400 points - 449 points
- C 350 points - 399 points
- D 300 points - 349 points
- F 299 points and below
## Course Schedule (subject to change)

### ***PART 1. Theories of Civil-Military Relations***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 – Introductions &amp; Classic Theories</th>
<th>August 14 – Introductions, Review syllabus</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>No readings</td>
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| August 18 – No class |

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<tr>
<th>Week 2 – Classic Theories of Civil-Military Relations Questioned</th>
<th>August 21 – Solar eclipse! No class</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3 – More Theories of CMR</th>
<th>August 28 – Principal-Agent Theory of CMR</th>
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Blog post by Jahara Matisek on Duck of Minerva

| September 1 – No class |

| Week 4 – More Theories! | September 4 – Labor Day, no class |

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**September 8 – The Modern Garrison State?**  


**Week 5 – Civilians in Charge and the Civil-Military Gap**  
**September 11 – Why civilians?**  

Desch, 1999. *Civilian Control of the Military*. Chapter 1

**September 13 – Outcomes**  


**September 15 – The Civil-Military Gap**  


**Week 6 – Changing Trends in the Military? and Understanding coup d’etat**  
**September 18 – Post Modern Military**  

**September 20 – Changing Trends**  

***PART 2. Military Coup-d’etat & Other Actions***

**September 22 – Understanding Coup Risk**  
Aaron Belkin and Evan Schofer. 2003. "Toward a Structural Understanding of Coup Risk"  

**Week 7 – Coups, Genocide, and Paramilitaries**  
**September 25 – Why do coups happen?**  
Powell, Jonathan. 2012. "Determinants of the Attempting and Outcome of Coups d’état"  
*Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56 (6): pp 1017-1026, 1035-1037

**September 27 – Genocide**  
Colaresi, Michael and Sabine Carey. 2008. “To Kill or to Protect: Security Forces, Domestic Institutions, and Genocide.”  


**September 29 – Paramilitaries**  


**Week 8 – Privatization of forces, Militarization of Police, & Simulation prep**  
**October 2 – Private Military Companies**  


**October 4 – Militarizing Police?**  

**October 6 – Simulation prep**
**Week 9**

**October 9** – Class simulation, Midterm exams handed out (must be present in class to receive an exam)

**October 11** – Class simulation wrap up and discussion

**October 13** – Exams due to my office (2205 Carroll Building) by 2:15 pm, no late exams will be accepted. Exams must be printed and stapled.

***PART 3. The Military and Development and Democratization***

**Week 10 – The Military and Development**

**October 16** – The Role of the Military in Development

**October 18** – *Defense Spending in Developing Countries*


**October 20** – Defense Spending in Developed Countries

No class – online discussion based on article due

**Week 11 – the Military and Democratization/Military Regimes**

**October 23** – No class

**October 25** – *Military Governments I*


**October 27 - Chile**
**Week 12 – Military Regimes and Gender and the Military**

**October 30 - Argentina**

**November 1 – Film – Seven Days in May**

**November 3 – Film continued**

***PART 4. The Military, Gender, Sexuality, and Sexual Violence***

**Week 13 – Studying Gender and the Military/Women in the US Military**

**November 6 – Applying Gender to the Study of the Military**

**November 8 – Gender and Militarization**


**November 10 – Women in the US Military**
Goldstein, Joshua. 2001. *War and Gender*. Selected Pages


A History of Women in the U.S. Military

**Week 14 – Gender and CMR**

**November 13 – Sexual Violence and Conflict**
UNSC 1325


**November 15 – Documentary, The Invisible War**

**November 17 – Documentary Continued**
Week 15 – Thanksgiving break, no class
November 20 - 24

Week 16 – Gender and CMR and Course Conclusions
November 27 – What about Israel?

November 29 – Women and Peacekeeping

December 1 – Course Conclusions
No readings
Final exam prompt handed out in class (must be present to receive it)

Final exam due Wednesday December 6 at 2:30 pm in my office Carroll Building 2205
Exam
The exam due date is set in stone and will not be changed. A missed exam will be graded as a 0 unless the student produces a valid and properly documented excuse. Examples of valid excuses include significant illnesses, deaths in the immediate family, and required attendance at university-sponsored activities. Vacation plans, social events, sorority/fraternity functions, and the like are NOT valid reasons for missing exams. If you have a valid reason for missing an examination, you must (except in dire emergencies) notify me before the due date of the exam and provide required documentation within a week of the examination due date. Students who cannot turn the exam in on time due to a valid excuse will be allowed to turn it in at a later, agreed upon date. Both the midterm and final exam are take home essay exams with 2 essays. Each essay is worth 40 points for a total of 80 points.

Essays
Directions for the two essays will be handed out closer to when they are due. Your essays will be written over the two films being viewed in class.

Attendance and Participation
The last portion of the grade is based on attendance and participation. You will receive a full 10 points if you come to all class meetings during the week and participate at least once. If you only come to class and do not participate, you will only receive 7 points. If you miss one class, you will receive 7 points. If you miss 2 classes you will receive 4 points. If you miss any class, regardless of if you participate, points will be removed from your weekly grade. You must participate at least once and come to all class meetings during the week to receive the full 10 points. This is a senior level course. You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate in class discussion.

Readings, Lectures, and Attendance
It is extremely important that you complete each day’s reading assignment prior to class and that you attend class regularly. Without the background provided by the daily readings, you will find it more difficult to keep up with the lectures. This course will be heavily discussion based, your participation grade is dependent on the contribution you give to discussion in class. To this end, you must keep up with the readings in order to participate fully. In addition, much of the material that is covered in the readings will not be duplicated in the lectures and vice versa. Test questions may be drawn from material in the readings, in the lectures, or in both.

Electronics Policy
No electronics are permitted in class unless given express permission by the professor. If you are using your cell phone or other electronic without permission, you will be asked to leave the class and return the following class period. Electronics can be very distracting to those around you; moreover, science has shown that you learn better when you write notes.

Academic Dishonesty
Students should keep in mind that academic integrity is regarded as essential to all work/activities conducted at the University. Any attempt at advantageous actions that are dishonest in nature will be taken seriously and will result in a zero on the relevant assignment, quiz, and/or exam. The University also reserves the right to utilize dishonesty sanctions ranging from academic probation to expulsion for any such actions. Instances of academic dishonesty include any form of cheating, plagiarism, and/or collaboration. If in doubt about whether an action will fall under the category of academic dishonesty, please see your instructor.

Students with Disabilities/ADA
This class complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), and provide a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating what your need may be for academic accommodation.

This should be done within the first week of class. Cone Hall, Room 2010. Telephone 912-478-1566 Students may also find information online at: http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/disability.