

Yale University  
Department of Political Science

Syllabus  
**MILITARY POWER**  
Political Science 140/674  
Global Affairs 381  
(Seminar)  
Fall 2014

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Class: Wednesdays, 3:30-5:20, Rosenkranz #102  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:30, Rosenkranz #337 (book through my website)

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTLINE**

This seminar explores the foundations, application, evolution, and limits of military power. We will read the main foundational text on the topic – Clausewitz’s *On War* – and pair it with contemporary readings. The course will cover topics such as the relation between military power and politics, technology, coercion, and ethics, as well as the sources of military effectiveness, the problems of civil-military relations, and contemporary topics such as the revolution in military affairs and the problems with military occupations.

## **REQUIREMENTS, GRADING, AND DEADLINES**

This course has no prerequisites.

The course will consist in a series of seminar sessions with pre-assigned readings. Students are expected to do all the readings prior to each session, as well as attend and participate in all sessions. The weekly sessions will focus on (i) laying out the main arguments of the assigned readings and (ii) critically discussing them. I will open up the session with a short (20-minute) lecture on the topic of the day, to be followed by a general examination and discussion of the week’s readings.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- Seminar participation: 25%;
- Response papers (5 x 2 pages): 40%;
- Final paper (12-15 pages): 40%.

Please note that in order to receive an overall passing grade, students must receive a passing grade in *all* three components of the final grade.

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Seminar Participation: Since the course will be conducted in a seminar format, students will take responsibility for leading much of the discussion. All students should be prepared to contribute to class discussion by doing all the readings in advance and bringing to class questions that stem from the readings. In order to encourage completion of the readings prior to each session, all students should email me one question they have about the week's readings by 8:00pm the day before class (except if you're doing a short response paper for that week, on which see more below). Attendance does not in and of itself guarantee a good participation grade.

Response Papers: Each student will post a 2-page reaction to the weekly readings for five different weeks. Your response papers should be posted on the Classes\*V2 by 8:00pm the day before the class meeting in which we will discuss these readings. Short papers received after the deadline but before the relevant seminar session begins will be dropped one full letter grade. Short papers will not be accepted after the relevant seminar session starts. Each of the five short papers will be worth 8% of the final course grade.

These short statements should include an analysis of strengths or weaknesses of arguments made by the authors for the relevant week; questions with which you were left by the readings; or points of confusion that should be clarified. (You should *not* summarize the readings; assume that everybody else has done the reading as well and understands the basic arguments.) You do not have to discuss all of the readings assigned for the week; you can discuss just one or two, or you can pick a broader range and compare them to each other (or to readings for earlier weeks). You are welcome to choose any five weeks in which to write reaction papers, though spacing things out over the semester might be best.

Final Paper: Students will write a substantial (18-20 pages for graduate students; 12-15 pages for undergraduate students) final paper. This paper should present an original view on a topic relevant to the course. Papers should not require much additional reading beyond the assignments.

I will distribute a list of potential paper topics by week 9 (October 29 session). (If you would prefer to write on a topic not included in the list, you should feel free to do so as long as you discuss it with me. In that case, please schedule an individual meeting during my office hours. I encourage you to do it early.) Then, by Friday of week 11 (November 14) all students should send me:

1. A one-page summary of your paper, including your answer to the following five questions:
  - a. What is your question/puzzle?
  - b. What is your hook (i.e., why does the question/puzzle matter)?
  - c. What is your hunch/argument?
  - d. What are alternative answers to the question?
  - e. What type of "evidence" do you intend to use in the paper?
2. A one-page outline of the paper, noting the title of each planned section and summarizing its likely content.

I will provide you feedback on these documents so as to help you shape your essay. The final paper should be emailed to me by Thursday, December 11, at 5:00pm. This deadline is strict. Papers received late will be dropped one full letter grade for each 24 hours past the deadline. To avoid this penalty, if you need an extension, you must let me know before the deadline.

Writing: Throughout the semester, we'll work towards improving your writing skills. Specifically, I will provide you with comments on each short paper, as well as on your final paper summary and outline. The course will also include a detailed in-class analysis of at least one passage from the assigned readings for that week.

Paper Format: Both short and final papers should be printed in letter-sized paper, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around, using a size 12 standard font such as Times New Roman. You can use any citation style you fancy, as long as you stick to it throughout the paper.

## **OTHER POLICIES**

Policy on Plagiarism: All assignments except the presentation are non-collaborative and should be entirely your own work. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in penalties up to and including a failing grade for the assignment (and therefore the course) and referral to the university for disciplinary action. If you haven't done so yet, please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on academic honesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and document citation, which is included under the section on "General Conduct and Discipline" of the Yale College Undergraduate Regulations. It is your responsibility to understand and abide by these policies. If you have any questions, please ask.

Policy on Electronic Devices: If it appears that the use of electronic devices is hindering class discussions, I reserve the right to ban from in the classroom. All cell phones must be turned off during class.

While all these policies will be strictly enforced, I know that emergencies and illnesses might arise during the term. If that happens to be the case, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work out alternative arrangements for you to complete your work within a reasonable period of time. In emergency cases, you will need to present a "dean's excuse" in order to be excused from late work or a series of absences from class sessions.

## **READINGS**

The following books are required:

- Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* (Orlando: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1970);
- Stephen Biddle, *Military Power* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004);
- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984) edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret. [Do NOT substitute other translations. Under NO circumstances read the widely available Penguin edition of the Graham translation, abridged by Anatol Rapoport.];
- Michael Howard, *War in European History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976);
- Robert Pape, *Bombing to Win: Air Power and Coercion in War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1996).
- Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1966);
- Emile Simpson, *War from the Ground Up: Twenty-First-Century Combat as Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013);

- Rupert Smith, *The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World* (London: Penguin, 2005);
- Hew Strachan, *Clausewitz's On War: A Biography* (New York: Grove Press, 2007).

All other readings will be available in PDF format on the Classes\*v2 server. The readings below for each session are listed in the order you should do them.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Week 1 (Wednesday, August 27) – Introductory Remarks

---Begin reading---

### Week 2 (Wednesday, September 03) – Power and Military Force

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, Introductory essays;
- Hew Strachan, *Clausewitz's On War: A Biography* (New York: Grove Press, 2007);
- David Baldwin, "Power and International Relations," in *The Handbook of International Relations*, eds. Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth Simmons (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Press, 2002), pp. 177–191;
- Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, "Power in International Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 59, No. 1 (2005), pp. 39-75.

### Week 3 (Wednesday, September 10) – The Essence of Military Power

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, book I;
- Michael Howard, *War in European History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976).

### Week 4 (Wednesday, September 17) – Military Power and Politics

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, book II;
- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil-Military Relations* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1957), chapters 1-3;
- Jack Snyder, "Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984," *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (1984): 108-146.

### Week 5 (Wednesday, September 24) – Military Power and Coercion

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, book III;
- Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1966), chapters 1-3;
- Branislav L. Slantchev, *Military Threats: The Costs of Coercion and the Price of Peace* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2011), selections TBA.

### **Week 6 (Wednesday, October 01) – Military Power and Technology**

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, book IV;
- Robert Pape, *Bombing to Win: Air Power and Coercion in War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1996), chapters 1-4, 6-7, and 9;
- Eliot A. Cohen, “A Revolution in Warfare,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 75, No. 2 (1996): 37-54.

### **Week 7 (Wednesday, October 08) – Military Effectiveness**

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, book VI, chapters 1-8 and 26;
- Stephen Biddle, *Military Power* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004), chapters 1-7.

### **Week 8 (Wednesday, October 15) – The Utility of Military Power**

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, book VII, chapters 1-5, 15-16 and 22;
- Rupert Smith, *The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World* (London: Penguin, 2005).

### **Week 9 (Wednesday, October 29) – Military Power and Small Wars**

- Emile Simpson, *War from the Ground Up: Twenty-First-Century Combat as Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013);
- Patricia L. Sullivan, “War Aims and War Outcomes: Why Powerful States Lose Limited Wars,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 51, No. 3 (2007): 496-524;
- Jason Lyall and Isaiah Wilson III, “Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars,” *International Organization* Vol. 63, No. 1 (2009): 67-106.

### **Week 10 (Wednesday, November 05) – Military Power and Nuclear Weapons**

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, book VIII;
- Robert Jervis, *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution: Statecraft and the Prospect of Armageddon* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1989), chapters 1-2, 6-7;
- Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2002), chapters 1-2.

### **Week 11 (Wednesday, November 12) – The Ethics of Military Power**

- Michael Walzer, *Just And Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument With Historical Illustrations* (New York: Basic Books, 1977), selections TBA;
- Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* (Orlando: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1970);
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, “Interests vs. Values? Misunderstanding Obama’s Libya Strategy,” *New York Review of Books* blog, March 30, 2011;

**Week 12 (Wednesday, November 19) – Military Power Up Close**

- John Keegan, *The Face of Battle* (New York, NY: Penguin, 1978), chapter 4;
- Martin Middlebrook, *The Kaiser's Battle* (Penguin: London, 1978), selections TBA.

**Week 13 (Wednesday, December 03) – Clausewitz Today**

- Julian Reid, "Foucault on Clausewitz: Conceptualizing the Relationship between War and Power," *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (2003);
- Colin Gray, "Clausewitz Rules, OK? The Future is the Past -- with GPS," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 5 (1999): 161-182.