

Soci 4240, Sociology of War & the Military
Dr. James J. Dowd
weberian@uga.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30
Baldwin Hall, Rm. 320
542-3231/2421

Course Syllabus¹ Fall 2008

In this course, we will examine the modern military as a social institution, that is, as a set of patterned activities that fulfill one of society's fundamental needs and characterized by externality, objectivity, coerciveness, moral authority, and historicity. We will also examine the sociological aspects of modern war. Lectures and discussion will focus on the origins, nature, experience, social consequences, and future of warfare; a discussion of contemporary social issues surrounding militarism and the military, including women and war; the draft; the military in the Third World; and caste, class, and race in the modern military. We will also consider the significance of war and the military as a source of social cohesion and conflict, and its singular role in the formation of the collective memory of nations, ethnic groups, and generations. Our attention will focus particularly on the wars of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, including Vietnam, the Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo and, of course, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Getting Started

In order to get off on the right foot in this course, it is important that you complete each of the following tasks:

Explore the WebCT page set up for this course. This website will serve as the definitive source of information about the course. Please refer to its pages for the most up-to-date information, links to assignments, supplementary material, and much more.

Get the Readings. All of the readings are available in paper and electronic format (e-reserve through GIL) either from the reserve desk in the main library or, in a few cases, from the internet. You are free to get the readings any way you wish, but please note that computer problems are not an excuse for not reading. If you are having trouble getting the readings in electronic format please go to the reserve desk where you can get a hard copy or contact one of your classmates who may already have printed out a copy. Since we won't be using any of these readings until a few weeks into the course, you have some time on this. The password for e-reserve is *warmil*.

Make Sure Your E-mail Is Working. Even during a short summer session, there will be occasions when we will be communicating via e-mail. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail regularly to make sure you do not miss any important announcements or personal communications.

¹ University regulations require that I remind you that a course syllabus is a flexible document. According to our Vice President for Instruction, the syllabus "is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary."

Course Requirements.

The most essential requirement for this course is to be in class every meeting prepared to discuss the issues raised by the required reading. My approach to our classroom sessions is to integrate lectures with discussion. I will present ideas and information that will introduce and supplement material covered in our texts but also material on subjects not covered in our required texts. It is essential that you come to class ready to take part in these discussions. Although I have not included class attendance and participation as a specific component of the overall grade, I should emphasize that I consider class attendance to be the single most important aspect of the student role. If your attendance is sporadic, your grade will suffer. Recognizing, however, that we all get sick now and again, you may occasionally need to miss a class. Knowing this, *I do not need to see excuses for class absences.*

Tests

There will be two tests in this course, in addition to the final exam. The exams will include both short-answers and essay questions. The first test is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 30th and the second test on or about Thursday, Nov. 6th. The final exam will be held on Thursday, Dec 11th, 12:00 - 3:00 pm.

Papers

Each student will write four short papers (2 – 4 pages each). The paper topics are divided below into four groups. Students will choose one paper from each of the four groups and submit the paper on the date indicated. Each paper is worth five points toward the final grade. One paper grade will be dropped, for a total of fifteen points in all.

Grades

Each of the two tests will count 20% towards the final course grade and the final exam will be worth 30%. The papers contribute another 15 % to the grade. The remaining 15% of the grade will be allocated to class participation, including attendance. Final grades for the course are based on the following scale:

A = 94-100
A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76
C- = 70-72
D = 60-69
F = 59 and below

Miscellaneous Policies

1. *Academic Honesty.* All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. Everything you do in this class must be done within the letter and spirit of the UGA academic honesty policy. In

particular, I expect everyone to abide by the student honor code (section 7 of the honesty policy). Cheating or assisting someone who cheats is serious; penalties are severe, and ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. A link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

2. *Disabilities.* If you have a disability and would like to request classroom accommodations, please see me after class or make an appointment during office hours.

3. *Grievances.* Any student who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner should follow the Department of Sociology grievance procedures, the first step of which is to discuss the matter with the professor.

4. *Classroom Behavior.*

Please be in your seat prior to the start of class. More important, ***if you come to class stay until the end.*** It is distracting for everyone when individuals leave class while it is still in progress. Use common sense in this regard. If you become suddenly ill, by all means leave the room.

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during class. This prohibition applies to laptop computers as well.

5. *Class Attendance.*

I expect everyone to be in class for every class meeting. I always presume, unless convinced otherwise, that there is a good reason for an absence; we all get sick now and again and so must miss class occasionally. For this reason, then, I do not need to see excuses for class absences. If any student is participating in a sponsored school activity that requires periods of time away from campus, please see me ***during the first day of the course after class*** so that we may discuss the ways in which missed classes will be made up. Of the 15 points allocated for class participation, five of the points are related to attendance. Here is a guideline:

- 0 absences: 6 points (one bonus point)
- 1-2 absences: 5 points
- 3-4 absences: 4 points
- 5-6 absences: 3 points
- 7-8 absences: 2 point
- 9-10 absences: 1 point
- ≥ 10 absences: 0 points

Required Books

Bacevich, Andrew J. 2005. The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War. N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Press.

Smith, Philip. 2005. Why War?: The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, And Suez. Univ. of Chicago Press.

Chapters and Articles (The password to access the e-reserve papers is *warmil*)

- Bergeson, Albert J. and Omar Lizardo. 2004. "International terrorism and the world-system." Sociological Theory. 22 (March): 38-52.
- Collins, Randall. "Rituals of solidarity and security in the wake of terrorist attack." Sociological Theory. Vol. 22 (March 2004): 53-87.
- Dowd, James J. 2008. "Patriotic Gore: War Movies and the American Flag." Forthcoming, Cultural Sociology.
- Dowd, James J. 2000. "Hard Jobs and Good Ambition: U.S. Army Generals and the Rhetoric of Modesty." Symbolic Interaction. 23 (2): 183-205.
- Einolf, Christopher J. 2007. "The fall and rise of torture." Sociological Theory. 25 (June): 101-121.
- Gourevitch, Philip and Errol Morris "Exposure: What the Abu Ghraib photographs cannot explain." The New Yorker.
- Hersh, Seymour M. 2007. "The General's Report: How Antonio Taguba, who investigated the Abu Ghraib scandal, became one of its casualties." The New Yorker. June 25, 2007.
- Langewiesche, William. 2006. "Rules of engagement." Vanity Fair. November: 312-328; 350-355
- McArdle, Megan. 2008. "Body Counting: Why even the most-dubious statistics influence our thinking." Atlantic Monthly. April.
- McDuffee, Allen. 2008. "Dollar-Driven Recruiting." The Nation. May 16.
- McGrath, Ben 2008 A Soldier's Legacy: Don't ask, don't tell, but Alan Rogers was a hero to everyone who knew him. The New Yorker. August 4.
- Mockenhaupt, Brian. 2007. "The Army We Have." The Atlantic Monthly. June.
- Musheno, Michael and Susan M. Ross. 2008. "Introduction: Haven't had a break." Pp. 1-14 in Deployed: How Reservists Bear the Burden of Iraq. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Musheno, Michael and Susan M. Ross. 2008. "New conscripts of the Twenty-first Century U.S. Army" Pp. 131-147 in Deployed: How Reservists Bear the Burden of Iraq. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- O'Rourke, Lindsey. 2008. "Behind the woman behind the bomb." The New York Times. Aug. 2.

Richardson, Louise. 2006. "The Three Rs." Pp. What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat. Random House.

Scahill, Jeremy. 2006. "Blood Is Thicker Than Blackwater." The Nation. May 8.

Tyson, Ann Scott. 2008. "Woman Gains Silver Star – And Removal From Combat: Case Shows Contradictions of Army Rules." The Washington Post. May 1

Wimmer, Andreas and Brian Min. 2006. "From empire to nation-state: Explaining wars in the modern world, 1816-2001." American Sociological Review. 71 (Dec.): 867-897.

Wright, Lawrence. 2008. "The Rebellion Within: An Al Qaeda mastermind questions terrorism." The New Yorker. June 2.

Wright, Lawrence. 2006. "The Master Plan: For the new theorists of jihad, Al Qaeda is just the beginning." The New Yorker. Sept. 11.

Course Calendar

Tuesday	Thursday
<p>Aug. 19. Introduction. Discussion of course requirements.</p>	<p>Aug. 21. Part 1: The Military Recruiting</p> <p>1. McDuffee, Allen. 2008. "Dollar-Driven Recruiting." <u>The Nation</u>. May 16.</p> <p>2. Mockenhaupt, Brian. 2007. "The Army We Have." <u>The Atlantic Monthly</u>. June.</p>
<p>Aug. 26.</p> <p><i>The Reserves and National Guard</i></p> <p>1. Musheno, Michael and Susan M. Ross. 2008. "Introduction: Haven't had a break." Pp. 1-14 in <u>Deployed</u>.</p> <p>2. Musheno, Michael and Susan M. Ross. 2008. "New conscripts of the Twenty-first Century U.S. Army" Pp. 131-147 in <u>Deployed</u></p>	<p>Aug. 28.</p> <p><i>Socialization and Military Culture</i></p> <p>1. Thomas Ricks. 1997. "Disorientation." Pp. 27-52 in <u>Making the Corps</u>.</p> <p>2. Dowd, James J. 2000. "Hard Jobs and Good Ambition: U.S. Army Generals and the Rhetoric of Modesty." <i>Symbolic Interaction</i>. 23 (2): 183-205.</p>

<p>Sept. 2. <i>Gays in the Military</i> McGrath, Ben. 2008. "A Soldier's Legacy: Don't ask, don't tell, but Alan Rogers was a hero to everyone who knew him." <u>The New Yorker</u>. August 4.</p>	<p>Sept. 4. <i>Women in the Military</i> Tyson, Ann Scott. 2008. "Woman Gains Silver Star – And Removal From Combat: Case Shows Contradictions of Army Rules." <u>The Washington Post</u>. May 1</p>
<p>Sept. 9. <i>Hollywood's View of the Military</i> 1. Dowd, James J. 2008. "Patriotic Gore: War Movies and the American Flag." Forthcoming, <u>Cultural Sociology</u>.</p>	<p>Sept. 11. Part 2: A Brief History of Militarism in the U.S. Bacevich, Andrew J. 2005. <u>The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War</u>. N.Y.: Oxford Univ. Press. Chap. 1.</p>
<p>Sept. 16. Bacevich, Chap. 2 & 3.</p>	<p>Sept. 18. Bacevich, Chap. 4 & 5.</p>
<p>Sept. 23. Bacevich, Chaps. 6 & 7.</p>	<p>Sept. 25. Bacevich, Chap. 8</p>
<p>Sept. 30. <u>Test #1</u></p>	<p>Oct. 2. Part 3: Terrorism. Bobbitt, Philip. 2008. "Introduction: Plagues in the time of feast." Pp. 3-20 of <u>Terror and Consent</u>.</p>
<p>Oct. 7. 1. Wright, Lawrence. 2008. "The Rebellion Within: An Al Qaeda mastermind questions terrorism." <u>The New Yorker</u>. June 2. 2. Wright, Lawrence. 2006. "The Master Plan: For the new theorists of jihad, Al Qaeda is just the beginning." <u>The New Yorker</u>. Sept. 11.</p>	<p><u>Oct. 9.</u> Richardson, Louise. 2006. "The Three Rs." Pp. <u>What Terrorists Want</u>.</p>
<p>Oct. 14. O'Rourke, Lindsey. 2008. "Behind the woman behind the bomb." <u>The New York Times</u>. Aug. 2.</p>	<p>Oct. 16. Bergeson, Albert J. and Omar Lizardo. 2004. "International terrorism and the world-system." <u>Sociological Theory</u>. 22 (March): 38-52.</p>
<p>Oct. 21. Collins, Randall. "Rituals of solidarity and security in the wake of terrorist attack." <u>Sociological Theory</u>. Vol. 22 (March 2004): 53-87.</p>	<p>Oct. 23. Part 4. The War in Iraq McArdle, Megan. 2008. "Body Counting: Why even the most-dubious statistics influence our thinking." <u>Atlantic Monthly</u>. April.</p>

<p>Oct. 28.</p> <p>1. Gourevitch, Philip and Errol Morris. 2008. "Exposure: What the Abu Ghraib photographs cannot explain." <u>The New Yorker</u>. March 24.</p> <p>2. Hersh, Seymour M. 2007. "The General's Report: How Antonio Taguba, who investigated the Abu Ghraib scandal, became one of its casualties." <u>The New Yorker</u>. June 25, 2007.</p>	<p>Oct. 30</p> <p>1. Langewiesche, William. 2006. "Rules of engagement." <u>Vanity Fair</u>. November: 312-328; 350-355.</p> <p>2. Scahill, Jeremy. 2006. "Blood Is Thicker Than Blackwater." <u>The Nation</u>. May 8.</p>
<p>Nov. 4.</p>	<p>Nov. 6. <u>Test #2.</u></p>
<p>Nov. 11. Part 4: War</p> <p>1. Einolf, Christopher J. 2007. "The fall and rise of torture." <u>Sociological Theory</u>. 25 (June): 101-121.</p> <p>2. Wimmer, Andreas and Brian Min. 2006. "From empire to nation-state: Explaining wars in the modern world, 1816-2001." <u>American Sociological Review</u>. 71 (Dec.): 867-897.</p>	<p>Nov. 13.</p> <p>Smith, Philip. 2005. <u>Why War?: The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, And Suez</u>. Chap. 1.</p>
<p>Nov. 18. Smith, Chaps. 2 & 3</p>	<p>Nov. 20. Smith, Chap. 4</p>
<p>Nov. 25. Thanksgiving break.</p>	<p>Nov. 27. Thanksgiving break.</p>
<p>Dec. 2. Smith Chap. 5</p>	<p>Dec. 4. Last class. Smith, Chap. 6</p>
	<p>Dec. 11. Final exam. 12:00 – 3:00.</p>

Paper Topics

As mentioned above, students will write four short papers (2 – 4 pages each). The paper topics are divided below into four groups. Students will choose one paper from each of the four groups and submit the paper on the date indicated. Each paper is worth five points toward the final grade. One paper grade will be dropped, for a total of fifteen points in all. For each paper, students should include the relevant class reading, which is listed below next to each topic. The paper should not be simply a review of the reading, however, but an analysis that attempts to answer the question using the assigned reading (and other sources as well if you choose).

Group One.

1. Is a military draft a good, or necessary, idea for the United States today ? [McDuffee; Mockenhaupt] Aug. 26.
2. What is it like to be a Reservist during the War on Terror? [Musheno and Ross] Aug. 26.
3. How are young civilians socialized to military life? [Ricks] Aug. 28.
4. Are military officers dedicated professionals or ambitious careerists? [Dowd] Aug. 28.

Group Two.

5. Has the time come to revise the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy? [McGrath] Sept. 2.
6. Do women face unique challenges in the military? [Tyson] Sept. 4.
7. Are Hollywood movies about the current war in Iraq similar to or different from Hollywood movies about the Vietnam war? [Dowd] Sept. 9.
8. Do Neo-Cons still believe the War in Iraq was a good idea? [Bacevich] Sept. 16.

Group Three.

9. Why do Americans love the military? [Bacevich] Sept. 25.
10. When will the War on Terror end? Or, what will happen to Al Qaeda? [Wright] Oct. 7.
11. Do women make good terrorists? [O’Rourke] Oct. 14.
12. Why would decent American soldiers torture Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib? [Gourevitch and Morris] Oct. 28.

Group Four.

13. Why is the outsourcing of military functions to private contractors such as Blackwater a good (or bad) idea? [Scahill] Oct. 30.
14. How is the Haditha incident similar to – and different from – the My Lai atrocity from the Vietnam war? [Langewiesche] Oct. 30.
15. What accounts for torture and is it likely to continue in the 21st Century? [Einolf] Nov. 11th.
16. Is Veterans’ Day a meaningful holiday? [use a source of your choosing] Nov. 11th.