Civil-military relations
Syllabus prepared by Kirill Kolesnichenko
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Course Overview
This course centers on civil-military relations in different countries and mechanisms of civilian control of the military. The first classes clarify the basic tensions between the military and civilians. A wide-ranging series of case studies follow. These cases are chosen to create a field of variation that includes states with stable civilian rule, states with stable military influence, and states exhibiting fluctuations between military and civilian control.

Requirements
As the course is a seminar, class attendance and participation are critical. The major requirement is a comparative research paper (20-30 pages long). In this paper, students must systematically compare civilian control mechanisms (or their absence) across at least two countries. Other projects are subject to approval by the instructor. Students will also be required to make oral presentations and to write short position papers.

The overall goal of this course is to provide students with a set of conceptual, theoretical, and empirical tools to better understand the phenomenon of civil-military relations. The course is designed for undergraduate students who completed at least two years of university studies majoring in International Relations, Political Science, Sociology or Public Administration. This syllabus can also be incorporated as a unit into courses with broader subjects such as “World Politics” and “Contemporary International Relations”.
The course is divided into eight units. Each unit takes two weeks and consists of one lecture and one seminar. The lecture provides students with basic facts, main theoretical approaches concerning the unit’s subject. The discussion section (or seminar) is a moderated discussion during which students are expected to speak and debate on the respective unit’s topics. Ideally, students should walk away from this course with an understanding that globalization concerns each of them and that it is up to them, as active and creative individuals to benefit from globalization and even to shape its future direction.

**Course requirements:**

To receive credit for the course, students are required to attend lectures and be actively engaged in discussion sections (at least six of the total eight). They also must do at least two assignments, which are included in each unit. Assignments should be done in the written form and submitted to the instructor.

During the first class meeting, students will be asked to respond to a questionnaire on civil-military relations. They can choose among the provided items or give their own answers. The survey will give students a general idea of what they should expect during the course and help stimulate their reflective thinking on the subject. During the final class, students will be required to fill out the same questionnaire. This time they will not only have to simply choose the answers provided, but also explain their answers in writing. This will play the role of the final course exam. It would also be interesting to compare the results of the initial and final surveys.

Students taking this course must keep abreast of current developments in world politics that pertain to the subject matter of the course. They should read high-quality Russian or international newspapers and magazines available for free online such as *Vlast’, Expert, Nezavisimoe Voennoe obozrenie*, etc.

Another major requirement is a comparative research paper (20-30 pages long). In this paper, students must systematically compare civilian control
mechanisms (or their absence) across at least two countries. During this work they must use two assessment frameworks (drafted by Maria Rasmussen of the Center for civil-military relations, Monterey) as an important analytical tool in reviewing CMR in a variety of settings, from authoritarianism to democracy, from military supremacy over the civilian population to military subordination to the civilian rule, from civil-military conflict to civil-military cooperation.

Course schedule

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**Lecture 1. General Issues I**


Lecture 2. Modern theories of CMR


3. The United States


4. Latin America and Africa


5. Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. History and theory of CMR


7. Problems of Regional CMR in Russia (1991-2008)

