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SYLLABUS--ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES IN MILITARY POLICY

September 2008

This course will cover several approaches for evaluating military issues. Methodologies range from simple quantitative tools for understanding combat to structured use of military history to defense budget calculations to simple assessments of military technology. The course will address four main subjects, spending roughly comparable time on each:

- the defense budget and decisions on defense resource allocations;
- modeling and simulating combat;
- understanding issues in military technology such as missile defense and the hypothesis that a revolution in military affairs is underway;
- military transport, supply, and logistics including airlift, sealift, and ground transport

In the interest of keeping the amount of material manageable and digestible, and avoiding overlap with other courses, this course will not devote extensive time to counterterrorism, the Iraq war, or the scientific fundamentals of weapons of mass destruction. Nor will it emphasize the current policy debate; the focus, rather, will be on methodologies of more general application. That said, case studies where possible will examine contemporary issues as case studies, primarily but not exclusively those involving the United States.

Grading will be based on a mid-term and a take-home final exam that will require synthesizing and analytically applying a substantial fraction of the course readings, as well as on class participation. (Given the nature of the subject matter, however, there is typically less extensive discussion/debate in this course than in most seminars.) Each three-hour period will typically be divided into roughly equal halves, the first being devoted to a presentation by the professor and the second to Q&A/discussion.

There will be a main textbook for the course, a forthcoming Princeton University Press book by the course professor (distributed in draft or page proof form to students). There will be a modest number of supplemental readings as well.

BOOK LIST

Trevor N. Dupuy, *Attrition: Forecasting Battle Casualties and Equipment Losses in Modern War* (Fairfax, Va.: HERO Books, 1990)

Andrew F. Krepinevich, *The Army and Vietnam* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986)

Michael O'Hanlon, *The Science of War* (forthcoming, Princeton Press, 2009)

Bob Preston et.al., *Space Weapons Earth Wars* (RAND, 2002)

Article List

Stephen Biddle, *Afghanistan and the Future of Warfare*, at www.carlisle.army.mil/usassi/welcome.htm

CBO, *Options for Strategic Military Transportation Systems* (2005), www.cbo.gov.

CBO, *Replacing and Repairing Equipment Used in Iraq and Afghanistan* (2007)

CBO, *Analysis of the Growth in Funding for Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and Elsewhere* (2008)

Andrew Krepinevich, "From Cavalry to Computer," *National Interest* (Fall 1994)

Christopher J. Bowie, *The Anti-Access Threat and Theater Air Bases* (D.C.: Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, 2002)

Schedule

Tuesday Sept. 16, Budget I
Tuesday Sept. 23, Budget II
Tuesday Sept. 30, Budget III
Tuesday, Oct.7: Budget IV
Tuesday Oct. 14, Combat Modeling I
Tuesday Oct. 21, Combat Modeling II
Tuesday Nov. 4 Combat Modeling III
Tuesday Nov. 11, Science and Tech: Midterm Due (no reading)
Tuesday Nov. 18, Science and Tech II
Tuesday Nov. 25, Science and Tech III
Tuesday Dec. 2, Logistics
Tuesday Dec. 9, Logistics