The course aims to facilitate discussions that are currently taking place in the burgeoning field of Critical Military Studies (CMS). The field uses an interdisciplinary approach in order to better understand the ways that military power works, both inside military institutions and in everyday civilian life.

**Course Objectives**

The course is divided into eight themes that are integral to CMS: militarism, masculinity, how military power works, embodiment, military vs. civilian, art & culture, veterans, and protest/dissent/resistance. Each of these themes will help to build a better understanding of CMS as well as help us to build our own critiques and frameworks of understanding military power. Furthermore, because of the scope of CMS, we will be able to understand a variety of techniques to connect military power to our individual lives, our communities, our nation, as well as a global context.

**Aims**

The course’s main aim is to provide students with a strong understanding of:

- The field of Critical Military Studies, and how it fits into a variety of academic fields.
- Provide tools and concepts for the student to implement in their own research.
- Begin to form a critique & framework of understanding for military power
- Exploration of different critical lenses essential to Critical International Relations.

**Course Standards**

Every student at CEU has the ability to succeed in my course. The difference between success and failure in my class is a matter of attitude, effort, and initiative. There is a difference between passively listening to lectures and critically engaging with complex texts. There is a difference between regurgitating facts and actively applying new concepts, just as there is a difference between taking multiple-choice tests and writing sophisticated papers. In this sense, successful students will be those who embrace growth and hard work. They will overcome self-defeating behavior (i.e. skipping class, not reading, writing half-baked papers), make use of available resources, and turn freely to others for help.
The course will demand that its members read critically, participate actively, and write effectively. Most of all, it will ask students work with their fellow members to create an environment where ideas and arguments matter. On a more mundane note:

- Students are expected to attend every class, please let me know if you are going to miss class.
- Students should expect to be involved in each class. I will work hard to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard. In this regard, more than just showing up, you will need to offer meaningful contributions.
- Papers must be submitted via email to me as a Word document on the specified dates specified. Work submitted after that time will be penalized 10% per day.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner (i.e., respect your classmates, turn off cell phones, no outside work or reading, etc.). Those who fail to adhere to these basic guidelines will be removed from class.

**Reading Materials**

All texts will be available on-line. You will need to have a well-marked hard or electronic copy in front of you to succeed in class.

**Grading Criteria**

- 20% Weekly Critical Engagements (200 points)
- 30% Critical Engagement Papers (300 points)
- 10% Active Participation (100 Points)
- 30% Final Paper (300 Points)
- 10% Final Paper Presentation (100 Points)

Total of 1000 points

**Assignment: Weekly Critical Engagement:** Every week students will come with at least one “real world” example of something that was recently in the news and connect it to the readings. This presentation will be no more than 5 minutes and you will discuss not only what you found interesting and how it connects to the reading, but also try to figure out ways in which you can apply what you read to your own research. Each week it will be worth 20 points. You will be able to miss one presentation. Thus, it is worth a total of 200 points.

**Assignment: Critical Engagement Papers:** Throughout the semester, you have to write 3, 1-2 page (approx. 750 words) papers. Similar to the weekly critical engagement, I hope that you are able to break down what is being said and show how it relates to your own work. These can be done at any point throughout the semester, HOWEVER, they must be turned in within a week of the readings that you
cover in the paper. So for example, if you write a 1 page essay on Cynthia Enloe who we cover in week 6, your paper must be turned in by the end of week 7. It would be wise to get these done earlier in the semester rather than later. Each paper is worth 100 points. You will be graded on content more than anything else, however, do need to work on writing grammatically sound academic papers, so they must be cited properly as well. This is worth a total of 300 points.

**Assignment: Active Participation:** Beyond your weekly critical engagement, you are to also be active in discussion weekly. That means asking questions, answering questions, and participating in group discussions. This is a very subjective grade, as it is based on my perception of how engaged you are, so it would be best to be active. This is worth 100 points.

**Assignment: Final Paper:** This paper is to be a proper academic paper. Approximately 5,000-7,500 words. Times New Roman font, double spaced. As for formatting, you can use either APA or Chicago Style, as they are the two most used in our field of study. In this paper, you will use at least 3 of the authors we covered, break down what they are saying, and make an argument. Since we are trying to relate the concepts here to our own work, I am flexible in working with you to make what you write here usable for your MA thesis, however there should be a vein of CMS throughout, but please talk with me about what you hope to write about. Again, while you will be graded primarily on your argument and the representation of what you are breaking down, you do need to make sure that your writing is grammatically sound and properly cited, as these will be graded too. This is worth 400 points.

**Assignment: Final Paper Presentation:** In the final week we will have conference style presentations, where each student will have 10-15 minutes to present their final papers.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are required to be respectful of their classmates and refrain from disruptive behavior in the classroom and on campus. If you engage in cheating or plagiarism, you will receive an F (0.0) grade for the course and I will be forced to report you for academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student's language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved. If you can find it online, so can I. If you have questions regarding what does and does not constitute plagiarism, please ask me.

**THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A TOY SOLDIER**
With that said, many people who plagiarize often do so out of desperation. Please come talk with me if you are feeling stressed or having problems with the assignments and we can work together in order to get you the resources in order to be successful.

**COURSE CONTENT NOTE:** Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Victim Blaming, Stalking, and Retaliation toward other students will not be tolerated in my course.

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**Course Breakdown**

**Week 1 – Sept 4:** What is Critical Military Studies


**Week 2—Sept 10:** No Class, I am away for a conference

No class, I am away for the EISA conference

**Week 3—Sept 17:** What is Militarism


**Week 4—Sept 24:** Masculinity


Week 5—Oct 2: How Military Power Works (Part 1)


Week 6—Oct 8: No Class Fall Break

No Class Fall Break

Week 7—Oct 15: How Military Power Works (Part 2)


The war in Afghanistan has decimated populations of some of the rarest creatures in the world.
Week 8—Oct 22: Embodiment


Week 9—Oct 29: Military vs. Civilian


Week 10—Nov 5: Art & Culture


Week 11—Nov 12: Veterans


Week 12—Nov 19: Protest, Dissent, & Resistance


*Body of War* (Documentary)

Week 13—Nov 26: Protest, Dissent, & Resistance (Part 2)


Week 14—Dec 4: Critical Military Studies in Action

Speakers Panel

Week 15—Dec 11: Final Presentations (Panel A & B)
Week 16—Dec 18: Final Presentations (Panel C & D)

FINAL PAPER DUE DECEMBER 20TH BY MIDNIGHT