

Department of Political Science
Benue State University, Makurdi
Course: POL 401: MILITARY AND POLITICS (3 CREDIT UNITS)
Course Outline for 2025/2026 Session

Course Instructor:

Dr. John Tor Tsuwa

B.Sc (BSU), M.Sc (BSU), PhD (BSU), PhD (NDA).

Google Scholar link: <https://bit.ly/3TUAewA>

ORCID: 0000-0002-7090-5556

jtsuwa@bsum.edu.ng

Course Objectives:

The main objective of the course is to examine the nature, character and the evolution of the military. The course will introduce the students to military history, the traditional roles of the military, the intervention of the military into politics, as well as the theories of military intervention into politics. At the end of the course, students are expected to have a full understanding of the military and industrialization, the military and democratization, human rights and the rule of law as well as the role of the military in conflict resolution and internal stability. Students are expected to have a full understanding of the role of the military in a globalizing world. At the end, students are to be able to compare the role of the military in developed and developing countries and to decide if the military is still relevant in today's world.

a. Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- a. Understand the concept and meaning of military science and practice
- b. Understand the Major theoretical and philosophical evolution of the military.
- c. Understand and explain theoretical and practical reasons for military intervention in politics
- d. Understand the military and democratization, socio-economic and security management
- e. Understand the dynamics of military intervention in Nigerian politics and its implications.
- f. Understand the military-civil relationship.

c. Course Requirements include:

(a) Compulsory class attendance	-	10 marks
(b) Group class presentation on a selected topic	-	20 marks
(c) Mid-Semester Test	-	10 marks
(d) End of Semester Examination	-	60 marks

c. Course Content

Topic 1: The Military

- The Concept of the Military
- Classification of the Military

- Differentiating the Military and Para-military
- Characteristics of the Military
- Functions of the Military

Topic 2: History Evolution of the Military (case studies of Developed and Developing Countries)

- The Military in Developed Countries
- The Military in Pre-Colonial Africa
- The Military in Colonial African
- The Military at Independence in African State

Topic 3: Theories of Military Intervention in Politics

- The Janowitz School of Thought
- The Marxist School of Thought
- The Modernist School of Thought
- The Dependency school of thought

Topic 4: The Military in Post-Colonial Africa (selected case studies)

- The Military and Democratization in Africa
- The Military and National interest
- The Military and Internal Instability

Topic 5: The Military and Conflict Management

- The Military Internal Conflict Management
- The Military and External Conflict Resolution
- The Military and Peace Keeping
- The Military and Peace Enforcement
- The Military and Preventive Diplomacy (case studies of regional and sub-regional organizations)

Topic 6: The Military and the Economy

- The Military and Economic Governance
- The Military and Industrialization
- The Military and Privatization
- The Military and Foreign Aid
- The Military and World Economic Order

Topic 7: The Military and the International System/Globalization

- The Military and the Theory of external destabilization
- The Military and MNC
- The Military and Piracy
- The Military and Terrorism

Topic 8: The Military and Civilian Relationship

- The Military and the Rule of Law
- The Military and Human Rights

- The Military and Civil Unrest
- Colonized Military Argument
- Militarized Civilian Argument (can the military in Africa be Africanized?)

Reading List

Adedeji. A.G and Zabadi, I.S (ed) (2005) The Military and Management of internal Conflicts in Nigeria. Abuja National Institute press

Atim, Tyodzua (2011) The Military and Integration Politics in Nigeria. Makurdi. AT-MISHAD publishers

Briak, K (1978) Soldiers and Oil: The transportation of Nigeria. London: Frank CASS and Company ltd

Elaiggw, VA (2003) The Military and the m management of Civil Crisis in Nigeria 1960-1993. Kaduna: Nigerian Defence Academy press.

Gbor, J.W.T (2004) Miliraty History: Nigeria from Pre-colonial Era to the Present. (ed)Lagos: LongmMan

Imobighe T.A and Zabadi L.S (2003) The African Crisis Response Initiative: issues and perspectives. Abuja: national War College.

Madiebo, A.A (1980) The Nigerian Revolution and the Biafran War. Enugu: fourth Dimension publishing co. ltd

Mearsheimer, J.J (2001) The Tragedy of Great power politics Chicago; university of Chicago press

Nnoli, O. (2006) National Security in Africa: A Radical New Perspective. Enugu: SNAAP press ltd

Nwankwo, A.A (1972) Nigeria: The Challenge of Biafra London: Rex Collins publishers Panter

Onyerfuru, G. (2008) To Save Nigeria: The Revolutionary Coup and The civil War, Enugu

RABBON, publishers International

Saighal V. (2003) Dealing with Global Terrorism: The Way Forward. New Delhi: STERLINE publisher private ltd

Spanier, J (1972) Games Nations play, London: Praeger publishers

Wakin, M.M (1981) War, Morality, and the Military profession. London: Westview Publishers

Note: The reading list is not conclusive as books in the area may be found at any time during the programm.