

NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN WORLD POLITICS
GOVT-270

Spring
Tuesday/Thursday, 5:00-6:15pm
ICC 107

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Course Objectives

This course has three objectives. First, the course provides an introduction to the major theories related to the causes and consequences of nuclear weapons in international politics. We begin by reviewing major theories of international relations. Then, we engage scholarly questions related to nuclear weapons: Why do nuclear weapons spread? Why do countries try to stop nuclear proliferation? Do nuclear weapons deter conflict? How much is enough for deterrence? What are the broader ramifications of nuclear weapons on international politics?

Second, the class provides a history of nuclear weapons in international politics. This history will be interwoven through the topical lectures to detail the development of nuclear issues over time. Not only is this history intrinsically important, but it also provides empirical evidence with which to evaluate the validity of different theoretical approaches and as a basis for policy analysis.

Finally, this class evaluates the most important contemporary policy debates, including those related to: the nonproliferation regime, arms control, global zero, nuclear deterrence, nuclear warfighting, and nuclear-armed powers, including Russia, China, and North Korea, and potential proliferant states, such as Iran.

Requirements

Attendance

Attendance at all class lectures is required.

Readings

Required readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. The exams and review essay will require you to have a strong comprehension of the material covered in both the readings and the lectures.

Examinations

There will be an in-class midterm examination on **February 26** and a final examination on **Tuesday, May 5, from 4:00-6:00pm** in a location to be announced.

Essay Assignment/Debate

Students will have a choice between writing a short essay and participating in an in-class debate. There will be one 2000-word essay. The essay is due **in hard copy** at the beginning of class on **April 7**. More details on these assignment will be distributed in class.

Procedures

Office Hours

The professor will hold office hours each week.

Late Essays

Deadlines are strict. No extensions will be granted in the absence of a genuine emergency or documented illness. Predictable events, such as a heavy workload or extracurricular activities, are not grounds for an extension. All appeals for extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day they are late.

Grading

Grades will be based on the absolute merit of your work, not in relation to others. In other words, there is no grading “curve” employed in this class. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterm Examination	30%
Paper/Debate	30%
Final Examination	30%
Participation	10%

Grade Disputes

All written material in this class will be graded initially by your teaching assistant. Grades will then be reviewed by the professor. All submitted material will be returned to you within two weeks of its submission. Any questions regarding your grades should first be directed to your teaching assistant after a 48-hour waiting period. You are entitled to a satisfactory explanation for why you received the grade you received. If you are not satisfied with the explanation provided by your teaching assistant, you may submit a written explanation for why you believe that your work was misgraded. The work will then be regraded by the teaching assistant with the understanding that the teaching assistant may ultimately issue a grade that is better, the same, or worse than the original grade. If you still believe that the work was misgraded, as a final appeal, the work will be regarded by the professor with the understanding that the professor may issue a grade that is better, the same, or worse than the original.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. As defined by the Georgetown University Honor Council, plagiarism is “the act of passing off as one's own the ideas or writings of another.”

Blackboard

A Blackboard site has been created for this class. You can access the site at <http://campus.georgetown.edu>. On the site, you will find announcements, the syllabus, pdf copies of the readings, lecture slides, and information about assignments.

Reading Assignments

In addition to the books and articles below, you should read the international affairs section of a major national newspaper, such as the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*, on a daily basis. You might also consider reading the *Economist*, which is generally considered the best weekly news magazine available. Lectures will often include references to contemporary events, so it is critical that you are aware of important developments in international affairs.

The following required texts are available at the Georgetown University Bookstore:

Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1969).

Matthew Kroenig, *A Time to Attack: The Looming Iranian Nuclear Threat* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2014).

All readings for this class are either located in the assigned texts or available on Blackboard in the “Readings” section.

Introduction

January 14 Introduction

Nuclear Physics 101

January 19 How to Make Nuclear Weapons

Joseph Cirincione, Jon Wolfstahl, and Miriam Rajkumar, “Nuclear Weapons and Materials,” *Deadly Arsenals*, available online.

January 21 Nuclear Weapon Effects

The Atomic Archive, “The Effects of Nuclear Weapons,” pp. 1-24, available online at <http://www.atomicarchive.com/Effects/index.shtml>

January 26 Nuclear Arsenals around the World

Joseph Cirincione, Jon Wolfstahl, and Miriam Rajkumar, *Deadly Arsenals*. Skim chapters 6-14. Available online.

Theories and Concepts

January 28 The Nuclear Revolution and Nuclear Deterrence

Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, Chapters 1-4.

February 2 Nuclear Strategy and Warfighting

Thomas Schelling, Chapter 5

February 4 Nuclear Compellence and Crisis Outcomes

Matthew Kroenig, “Think Again: American Nuclear Disarmament,” *Foreign Policy*

February 9 Extended Deterrence, Assurance, and Strategic Stability

Thomas Schelling, Reread Chapter 2

February 11 Arms Races and Arms Control

***Debate**

Schelling, Chapter 7

The New START Treaty. Available online

February 16 Nuclear Proliferation

Scott D. Sagan, "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons: Three Models in Search of A Bomb," *International Security*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (Winter 1996/1997), pp. 54-86. (Bb)

February 18 Nonproliferation and Counterproliferation

***Debate**

The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (available online)

February 23 Abolition and Global Zero

***Debate**

George P. Schultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger, and Sam Nunn, "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 4, 2007. Available online.

Matthew Kroenig, "Nuclear Zero? Why Not Nuclear Infinity?" *The Wall Street Journal*, July 30, 2011. Available online.

February 25 Midterm Examination

Simulations

March 1 Simulation: Day 1

March 3 Simulation: Day 2

SPRING BREAK

Contemporary Nuclear Policy Issues

March 15 Iran

***Debate**

Matthew Kroenig, *A Time to Attack*, entire book.

March 17 India/Pakistan (ISA)

March 22 NATO/Russia

***Debate**

Matthew Kroenig, "Facing Reality: Getting NATO Ready for a New Cold War," *Survival*, Vol. 57, No. 1 (February/March 2015), pp. 49-70.

Matthew Kroenig et al. "NATO-Russia Forum," *Survival*, Vol. 57, No. 2 (April/May 2015), pp. 119-144.

EASTER BREAK

March 29 China

Elbridge Colby, "Welcome to China and America's Nuclear Nightmare," *The National Interest* (January/February 2015).

March 31 North Korea

Victor Cha, "What Do They Really Want? Obama's North Korea Conundrum." *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (2009), pp. 119-138.

April 5 Nuclear Terrorism

Graham Allison, "How to Stop Nuclear Terror," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2004).

April 7 Paper Due at Beginning of Class Screening of Dr. Strangelove

April 12 Finish Screening of Dr. Strangelove

April 14 US Nuclear Policy and Posture

2010 Nuclear Posture Review of the United States of America. available online.

April 19 Guest Lecture on U.S. Nuclear Policy

April 21 Guest Lecture on U.S. Nuclear Policy

April 26 Guest Lecture on U.S. Nuclear Policy

April 28 Guest Lecture on U.S. Nuclear Policy

May 3 **Conclusion: The Future of Nuclear Weapons**

Matthew Kroenig and Tristan Volpe, "Printing the Bomb: 3-D Printing and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Challenge." *The Washington Quarterly* (September/October 2015).