Nuclear Weapons and International Security
GOVT-320

Spring 2016
Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-4:45pm
Reiss 103

Professor: Matthew Kroenig
Office: ICC 656
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 5-6pm

Teaching Assistant:
Haillie Lee

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. We structure the historical review through the lens of U.S. presidential administrations to examine the major developments and U.S. policy for managing 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*
There will be one 2000-word essay. The essay is due in **hard copy** at the beginning of class on **April 9**. The essay will ask you to apply theory to a contemporary nuclear policy question. More details on this 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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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:


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

**Introduction**

January 8  
Introduction

January 13  
**Nuclear Physics 101**


January 15  
**IR Theory Refresher**

*Theories of Nuclear Weapons in International Politics*

January 20  
**Deterrence Theory I**

January 22  
**Deterrence Theory II**

January 27  
**Theories of Nuclear Proliferation**


January 29  
**Guest Lecture. TBD.**

*History of Nuclear Issues*

February 3  
**FDR and Truman: The Manhattan Project, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Stalin’s Bomb**

**February 5**  
**Eisenhower: Massive Retaliation, Crises in Berlin and Korea, and Allied Proliferation**  

**February 10**  
**Kennedy and LBJ: Flexible Response, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and China Builds the Bomb**  

**February 12**  
**Nixon and Ford: Détente and the Birth of the NPT**  

**February 17**  
**Carter and Reagan: INF, SDI, and Proliferation in the Global South**  

**February 19**  
**Bush and Clinton: The End of History, the Agreed Framework, and AQ Khan**  

**February 24**  
**Bush and Obama: Preemption, the Prague Agenda, and Iran**  
Remarks by President Barack Obama (Prague Speech), Hradcany Square, Czech Republic, 2009.

**February 26**  
**Midterm Examination**

**Contemporary Nuclear Policy Issues**

**March 3**  
**Russia**  

March 5  China

SPRING BREAK

March 17  Iran
Matthew Kroenig, A Time to Attack, entire book.

March 19  North Korea

March 24  Nuclear Terrorism

March 26  Nuclear Targeting

March 31  Nuclear Posture
2002 Nuclear Posture Review of the United States of America (available online)
2010 Nuclear Posture Review of the United States of America (available online)

EASTER BREAK

April 7  The Nonproliferation Regime
The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (available online)

April 9 Screening of Dr. Strangelove (Paper Due at the Beginning of Class)

April 14  Arms Control
The New START Treaty. Available online


**April 16. Global Zero**


**April 21** TBD

**April 23** Conclusion: The Future of Nuclear Weapons