

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
GOVT-320

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 5-6pm

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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. 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:

Midterm Examination	30%
Paper	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:

Frank Gavin, *Nuclear Statecraft: History and Strategy in America's Atomic Age* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2012).

Matthew Kroenig, *A Time to Attack: The Looming Iranian Nuclear Threat* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan 2014).

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

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

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

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

January 15 IR Theory Refresher

Jack Synder, “One World, Rival Theories,” *Foreign Policy*, October 26, 2009.

Theories of Nuclear Weapons in International Politics

January 20 Deterrence Theory I

Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, entire book.

January 22 Deterrence Theory II

Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, entire book.

January 27 Theories of 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)

Matthew Kroenig, “Exporting the Bomb: Technology Transfer and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 103, No. 1 (February 2009), pp. 113-133.

January 29 Guest Lecture. TBD.

History of Nuclear Issues

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

Barton Bernstein, "The Atomic Bombings Reconsidered," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 74, No. 1 (1995), p. 135-152.

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

David Allen Rosenberg, "The Origins of Overkill: Nuclear Weapons and American Strategy, 1945-1960," *International Security*, Vol. 7, No. 4 (Spring 1983), pp. 3-71.

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

Gavin, "The Myth of Flexible Response," Chapter 2.

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

Gavin, "Nuclear Nixon," Chapter 5.

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

Keith B. Payne and Colin S. Gray, "The Star Wars Debate: Nuclear Policy and the Defensive Transition," *Foreign Affairs* (Spring 1984).

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

William Langeweische, "The Wrath of Khan," *The Atlantic* (November 2005).

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

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.

March 5 China

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

SPRING BREAK

March 17 Iran

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

March 19 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.

March 24 Nuclear Terrorism

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

March 26 Nuclear Targeting

Keir A. Lieber and Daryl G. Press, "The End of MAD: The Nuclear Dimension of U.S. Primacy," *International Security* (Spring 2006), pp. 7-44.

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)

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

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

April 14 Arms Control

The New START Treaty. Available online

Matthew Kroenig. "Think Again: American Nuclear Disarmament." *Foreign Policy* (September/October 2013), pp. 46-49.

April 16. Global Zero

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.

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

April 21 TBD

April 23 Conclusion: The Future of Nuclear Weapons