

*NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN WORLD POLITICS*  
*GOVT-270*

*Spring 2020*  
*Monday/Wednesday, 5:00-6:15pm*  
*Intercultural Center 107*

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**Office Hours:** Friday 3-5pm

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2-4pm (Lauinger Library, Floor 2 outside the café) or by appointment

**Course Objectives**

This course has three objectives. First, the course provides an introduction to the major theories and issue areas 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; disarmament; nuclear strategy; and nuclear-armed powers, including Russia, China, and North Korea; and potential proliferant states, such as Iran.

### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance is mandatory. Assigned readings must be completed *before* class. Active participation in discussion at the end of lectures is expected. Laptops are permitted, but accessing the internet is prohibited and will be punished. The grading proportions are as follows: midterm exam (30 percent); attendance and participation (10 percent); final exam (30 percent); term paper (30 percent). Plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty will result in failing the course and referral to the Georgetown Honor Council. All readings are available on Blackboard.

### *Readings*

Required readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. The exams and essay will require you to have a strong comprehension of the material covered in both the readings and the lectures. 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 Wall Street Journal*, 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 on Amazon or your local bookstore.

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

Matthew Kroenig, *The Logic of American Nuclear Strategy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Matthew Kroenig, *The Return of Great Power Rivalry: Democracy versus Autocracy from the Ancient World to the US and China* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020).

All readings for this class are available in the assigned texts or online.

### *Essay Assignment*

Students will have a choice between writing a short essay and participating in an in-class debate. The essay is due **in hard copy** on April 1. The essays should be ~ 2,000 words in length. More details on these assignment will be distributed in class.

### *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.

### *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.”

### **Introduction**

**January 8                      Introduction**

### **Nuclear Physics 101**

**January 13                      How to Make Nuclear Weapons**

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

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/georgetown/reader.action?docID=1076115>

**January 15                      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 20                      Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**January 22                      Nuclear Arsenals around the World**

Joseph Cirincione, Jon Wolfstahl, and Miriam Rajkumar, *Deadly Arsenals*. Skim chapters 6-14, available at: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/georgetown/reader.action?docID=1076115>

### **Theories and Issue Areas**

**January 27                      The Nuclear Revolution and Nuclear Deterrence**

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

**January 29                      Nuclear Strategy and Warfighting**

Matthew Kroenig, *The Logic of American Nuclear Strategy*, Chapter 2

**February 3                      Nuclear Compellence and Crisis Outcomes**

Matthew Kroenig, *The Logic of American Nuclear Strategy*, Introduction, and Ch. 1, 3, 4, and 5

**February 5                      Extended Deterrence and Assurance**

Matthew Kroenig, *The Logic of American Nuclear Strategy*, Introduction, and Ch. 1, 3, 4, and 5

**February 10                    Strategic Stability**

Kroenig, Chapter 6

**February 12                    Arms Control & Arms Races**

Schelling, Chapter 7

Kroenig, The Logic, Chapter 7

The New START Treaty. Available online

**February 17                    President's Day. (Class will be held on Tuesday)**

**February 18                    Nuclear Proliferation**

Kroenig, Chapter 8

**February 19                    Nonproliferation**

The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, available at

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/text>

**February 24                    Counterproliferation**

Matthew Kroenig, "Time to Attack Iran: Why a Strike is the Least Bad Option," *Foreign Affairs*

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/2012-01-01/time-attack-iran>

**February 26                    The Nuclear Budget**

Kroenig, Chapter 9

**March 2                        Abolition and 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, available at:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB116787515251566636>

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

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424053111903554904576464571545999158>

**March 4**                      **Midterm Examination**

**March 9, 11**                **Spring Break**

**Country Studies**

**March 16**                      **US Nuclear Posture**

2018 Nuclear Posture Review of the United States of America, available at

<https://media.defense.gov/2018/Feb/02/2001872886/-1/-1/1/2018-NUCLEAR-POSTURE-REVIEW-FINAL-REPORT.PDF>

**March 18**                      **Europe & Russia**

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

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00396338.2015.1008295>

**March 23**                      **India and Pakistan**

Sumit Ganguly, “Why the India-Pakistan Crisis Isn’t Likely to Turn Nuclear”, *Foreign Affairs*, March 5, 2019, available at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/articles/india/2019-03-05/why-india-pakistan-crisis-isnt-likely-turn-nuclear>

Eleanor Albert, “Southern Asia’s Nuclear Powers”, *Council on Foreign Relations*, November 9, 2015, available at <https://www.cfr.org/background/southern-asias-nuclear-powers>

**March 25**                      **The Middle East**

Matthew Kroenig, “How to Unwind the Iran Nuclear Deal,” *The American Interest*, February 11, 2016, available at <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/02/11/how-to-unwind-the-iran-nuclear-deal/>

**March 30**                      **China**

Matthew Kroenig, *The Return of Great Power Rivalry: Democracy versus Autocracy from the Ancient World to the US and China* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

**April 1**                        **Paper Due**

**April 6                      Nuclear Terrorism**

Graham Allison, "How to Stop Nuclear Terror," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2004), available at: [https://www.jstor.org/stable/20033829?seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/20033829?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

**April 8                      Guest Lecture # 1**

**April 13                     Easter Break**

**April 15                     Guest Lecture # 2**

**April 20                     Simulation, Day 1**

**April 22                     Simulation, Day 2**

**April 27                     Conclusion: The Future of Nuclear Weapons/ Paper Due in Class**

Matthew Kroenig and Tristan Volpe, "Printing the Bomb: 3-D Printing and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Challenge." *The Washington Quarterly* (September/October 2015), available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0163660X.2015.1099022>.

**May 6                        Final Exam. 4-6PM**