Course Overview

This course will introduce students to the politics of nuclear weapons. The course will cover the origins of nuclear weapons, the reasons states seek them, the strategies developed for their use, the consequences of their development, and efforts to control and reverse their spread. In addressing these issues, we will study a variety of countries, including North Korea, India, Pakistan, Israel, Iraq and Iran.

The course will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. I will typically present theories and background information in lecture format. We will use discussion format to consider which theories or arguments have the most explanatory power in general and in particular cases. We will also occasionally engage in participatory review of certain concepts so that I can gauge the level of understanding. Whether a class session will consist primarily of lecture or discussion is marked on the syllabus, but there may often be a little of both. I expect everyone to participate when we engage in discussion, and I also encourage you to raise your hand with any questions when I am lecturing.

When I use PowerPoint slides, I will post outlines based on the slides on Learn@UW in advance to assist with note-taking. However, I will generally not use PowerPoint when we are engaged in discussion, and the explanations and analysis which will be raised in discussions are the most important part of the course. Even when I do use PowerPoint, the outlines will not include everything in the lecture. Therefore, the outlines are a very poor substitute for attending class.

Course Grade

Your course grade will be based on a midterm exam (20%), a final exam (45%), a paper (30%), and class participation (5%).

- **Exams (20% and 45%)**: The midterm exam will be held on March 16 during our regular class meeting. The final exam will be held on May 14, 7:25pm – 9:25pm in a room to be announced. Both exams will consist of short answer questions. Please make sure that you are available to take the exams on these days. I will only allow you to take a make-up exam in case of serious illness or another genuine emergency.

- **Paper (30%)**: The final paper will be due on May 9 by e-mail before the start of class (12:05). The paper assignment is to take one of the debates we cover in class, present both sides, and then argue which side is correct with respect to a specific case. For instance, the question could be, “Is nuclear proliferation stabilizing or destabilizing?” applied to the case of India and Pakistan. You are encouraged to consult with me on your paper topic, either in
person or by e-mail. The paper should be 3,500 to 4,000 words long. More details on grading criteria for the final paper will be provided in a separate document.

- **Participation (5%)**: Participation will be graded on a 5-point scale based on the quality and frequency of your participation in class discussions. Generally, top contributors can expect to earn 5 points, regular contributors can expect 3-4 points, infrequent contributors can expect 1-2 points, and those who never speak can expect 0 points. I will not take attendance for this course, but obviously being present is a prerequisite for participating.
  - Everyone has the opportunity to earn 1 extra credit point toward your participation grade by providing me with a picture of yourself within the first 3 weeks of class, since this will assist me in learning your name.

### Readings

The following two books are **required**:


The following one book is **recommended**. Material that is covered solely in this book and not elsewhere in the course will not be tested on the exams. However, the readings in this book may deepen your understanding and provide reinforcement of concepts from my lectures. The book may also be useful in writing your final paper.


Any readings which are not found in these three books will be available online at the Learn@UW website for the course. Go to https://learnuw.wisc.edu/ and log in. The course should be visible there, click on it and then go to the content section.

### Contacting Me

I encourage you to visit me during my office hours (Tuesdays 9:15am-11:15am in 410 North Hall), and I am also happy to make other appointments with 2 days’ notice. If your question is quick, you may also talk to me after class. In addition, you are always welcome to contact me by e-mail (rmcmanus@wisc.edu).

### McBurney Center

Students utilizing the McBurney Disability Resource Center must present their Verified Individualized Service and Accommodation plan to me within the first two weeks of class.
Course Outline

Note: Topics may sometimes spill over slightly between classes. I also reserve the right to make changes to this outline, but I will always notify you of this in advance.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

January 23  Course Overview

Required reading: None

January 25  Lecture: Basic Science of Nuclear Weapons

Required reading: None

Recommended reading: Deadly Arsenals, Chapter 3

PART II: CAUSES OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

January 27  Lecture: Primary Models Explaining Proliferation


January 30  Lecture: India and Pakistan Proliferation Causes

Required reading:

Recommended Reading: Deadly Arsenals, Chapters 11 and 12

February 1  Discussion: Which of Sagan's Models Best Explains India and Pakistan's Nuclear Proliferation?

Required reading: None

February 3  Lecture: The Spiral Model vs. the Deterrence Model


February 6  Lecture: North Korea

Recommended reading: *Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 14.

**February 8**  
Discussion: Does the Spiral or Deterrence Model Better Explain North Korean Nuclear Proliferation?

Required reading: None

**February 10**  
Lecture: Domestic and Psychological Perspectives

Required reading:

**February 13:**  
Lecture: Argentina and Brazil

Required reading: None

Recommended reading: *Deadly Arsenals*, Chapters 19 and 20.

**February 15**  
Discussion: Why Did Brazil and Argentina Reverse Course on Nuclear Proliferation/Technology?

Required reading: None

**February 17**  
Lecture and Discussion: Is Iran Pursuing Nuclear Weapons?

Required reading: IAEA Board Report on Iran, 18 November 2011. On Learn@UW.

Recommended reading: *Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 15

**February 20**  
Lecture: How States Get Nuclear Weapons  
Discussion: Should We Focus Non-Proliferation Efforts on Supply or Demand?

Required readings:

**PART III: CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION**
### February 22
**Lecture: Have Arms Races Caused War?**


### February 24
**Lecture: Is Nuclear Proliferation Good or Bad? Or Irrelevant?**

Required readings:

### February 27
**Discussion: Is Nuclear Proliferation Good or Bad? Or Irrelevant?**

Required reading: None

### February 29
**Lecture: India and Pakistan Proliferation Consequences**

Required readings:

### March 2
**Discussion: Have Nuclear Weapons Been Stabilizing or Destabilizing for India and Pakistan?**

Required reading: None

### March 5
**Lecture: Preventive War in Iraq**


Recommended reading: *Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 17
March 7  Lecture: Preventive War Considered in China


Recommended reading: *Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 7

March 9  Discussion: When, If Ever, Is Preventive War a Good Idea?

Required reading: None

March 12  Lecture: Nuclear Terrorism


March 14  Exam Review

Bring any questions you have about the course material.

March 16  MIDTERM EXAM

PART IV: NUCLEAR STRATEGY

March 19  Overview of Paper Expectations and Topic Brainstorming

Required reading: None

March 21  Lecture: The First Use


March 23  Discussion: Were Nuclear Weapons Effective in Ending WWII? When Is the Use of Nuclear Weapons Justified?

Required reading: None

March 26  Lecture: Nuclear Strategy Concepts


March 28  Lecture: Nuclear Strategy Concepts Continued
March 30  Lecture:  US Nuclear Primacy  
   Return and Go over Exams


April 2-6  Spring Break

April 9  Lecture:  National Missile Defense

Required readings:

Recommended reading:  *Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 5

April 11  Discussion:  Should the US Pursue Nuclear Primacy and NMD?

Required readings:  None

April 13  Lecture:  The Nuclear Taboo


April 16  Discussion:  Is the Nuclear Taboo Valid?  Should We Preserve It?

Required readings:  None

PART V: ARMS CONTROL AND GIVING UP THE BOMB

April 18  Lecture:  Arms Control Theory

Required reading:  Schelling, Thomas. 1985. "What Went Wrong with Arms Control?" *Foreign Affairs* 64(2): 219-33. On Learn@UW.

April 20  Lecture:  Superpower Arms Control

April 23  Lecture:  The NPT and CTBT


Recommended reading:  Deadly Arsenals, Chapter 2, Appendices A, E

April 25  Discussion:  What is the Effect of Arms Control?  Should We Pursue It?

Required reading:  None

April 27  Lecture:  FSU, South Africa

Required readings:

Recommended reading:  Deadly Arsenals, Chapters 18, 21

April 30  Lecture:  Libya
Discussion:  What to Do about Iran?

Required reading:

Recommended reading:  Deadly Arsenals, Chapter 16

May 2  Lecture:  Worldwide Nuclear Abolition

Required readings:

May 4  Discussion:  Is It Feasible to Abolish Nuclear Weapons?  Should We Do It?

Required reading:  None
May 7  Movie:  *Dr. Strangelove*

Required reading:  None

May 9  Movie Continued and Movie Discussion

No reading, but FINAL PAPER IS DUE TODAY

May 11  Final Review

Bring any questions you have about the course material

May 14  FINAL EXAM, 7:25pm – 9:25pm, room TBA