Political Science 377  
Nuclear Weapons and World Politics  
Summer 2013  
Online Version

Personnel

Professor: Andrew Kydd  
TAs: Mert Kartal, Roseanne McManus

Overview

This course will introduce the student 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 and Pakistan, Israel, Iraq and Iran.

This course will be held entirely online through the Learn@UW website, go to https://learnuw.wisc.edu/ for the login screen. Lectures, readings, discussion groups, office hours chats, quizzes and a drop box for written work can all be found there.

Readings

The readings are all available on-line at the Learn@UW website for the course.

A good encyclopedic source of information on weapons of mass destruction and related issues around the world is:


Discussions

There are discussion topics under the Discussion Groups menu tab for each lecture grouped into forums by the overall part of the course, as well as one for course administrative matters. We strongly encourage you to come up with questions and comments on the lectures and readings and post them to the relevant lecture topic as well as respond to the questions and comments of other students. In this way we hope to establish and perhaps even improve on the kind of dialog found in discussion sections in regular classes. TAs will usually check in once a day to make sure questions get answered. Feel free to respond to questions from other students and participate in the
general conversation. Please be civil and respectful in your discussions; it’s the right thing to do and, unlike on the web more generally, you are not anonymous in the context of this course.

**Office Hours and Contact Information**

If your last name begins with A through K, your TA is Roseanne McManus. If your last name begins with L through Z, your TA is Mert Kartal.

Our office hours are listed below. At these times we will be monitoring chats under the Office Hours menu tab that you can log into and participate in. Feel free to ask any course related questions about lectures, readings, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Hours (CDT)</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Kydd</td>
<td>Tuesday 2-3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mert Kartal</td>
<td>Monday 2-4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roseanne McManus</td>
<td>Thursday 8-10 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kydd@wisc.edu">kydd@wisc.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kartal@wisc.edu">kartal@wisc.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmcmanus@wisc.edu">rmcmanus@wisc.edu</a></td>
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In addition, you may send us questions via email. Turnaround time will usually not exceed 24 hours. While we are happy to respond to email, if your question is general and potentially of interest to other students, consider asking it in an office hours chat or posting it in a discussion topic.

**Weekly Quizzes**

In order to provide steady feedback on your progress, there will be a short multiple choice quiz each week, covering the lectures and readings from that week. There will be four questions on each quiz. The quizzes will become available at the end of each week on Friday at noon, and must be completed by noon on Monday. You will have ten minutes to do the quiz once you begin.

**Papers**

The writing component of the class consists of three papers of 600 words each (plus or minus 100 words). Each paper will be a response to the readings and lectures of the preceding section of the course. You can think of the papers as policy memos or briefs to interested and intelligent decision makers on the relevant topics. The papers must contain the following elements.

1) Identifying Information. A title, your name, the date, the name of the class, and the writing assignment (Paper #1, etc). Although the assignment will be turned in electronically so this information will be known, in the real world these need to be at the top of every document you write.

2) An argument. The paper must take a stand on the question.

3) Discussion of the literature. The argument must be grounded in an understanding of the literature on the topic. Citation to the literature must use the APSA system: [http://www.writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html](http://www.writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html).
Make sure to cite specific page numbers so the reader can easily find the source for what you are saying. The last page in the paper must be a reference list that contains the works cited. The reference list does not count against the word total (nor does the identifying information on the first page).

4) Consideration of counterarguments. The paper must consider counterarguments against the favored position, and why they are not as convincing or important in the end.

Contact the Writing Center for help in writing and guidance on citation style and academic integrity: [http://www.writing.wisc.edu/](http://www.writing.wisc.edu/).

The topics for the three papers are as follows.

Paper #1: Assuming Iran is developing nuclear weapons, what is the best explanation for this? Compare Sagan’s three models with the unit-level explanations by Solingen and Hymans.

Paper #2: Should US policy be to attempt to prevent nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, or should we allow it to happen if the states in the region want to develop nuclear weapons? Discuss with reference to the Sagan-Waltz debate and the history of South Asia.

Paper #3: Should US nuclear strategy be that nuclear weapons are weapons of last resort, the main purpose of which is to deter other countries from using them, or should we seek nuclear primacy, the ability to engage in nuclear first strikes without fear of retaliation?

The papers will be due in the appropriate Learn@UW dropbox on the following dates.
First Paper: Monday, July 8, at noon.
Second Paper: Monday, July 22, at noon.
Third Paper: Monday, August 5, at noon.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will consist of eight questions that require written answers of a few hundred words each. The final will cover the entire course. Students will have three hours to complete the exam. The exam will be made available at noon on Friday, August 9, and must be completed no later than noon the following Monday, August 12.

**Grading**

The final grade will be based on the following elements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Quizzes</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>Noon (CDT) Every Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Short Papers</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>Noon (CDT) Mondays of week 4, 6, and 8</td>
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Final Exam  35%  
Total  100%

Noon (CDT) August 12

Each item will be turned in at the Learn@UW site. The site will not accept late work, and neither will we.

The grade scheme is the following.

A  93-100
AB  88-92
B  83-87
BC  78-82
C  70-77
D  60-69
F  0-59

Numerical scores will be rounded to integers using the usual convention, so that 87.5 will be rounded up to 88 and therefore get an AB, whereas 87.4999 will be rounded down to 87 and get a B.

Graduate Students

Instead of writing the three short papers, graduate students will write a research paper of around 5,000 words. The paper should take a question or topic we cover in class, present the relevant theoretical arguments, and then consider a specific empirical case in light of these arguments. For instance, the question could be, “does nuclear proliferation make war more or less likely?” and the case could be the relationship between India and Pakistan. Another example could be, “will any more countries voluntarily give up nuclear weapons?” and the cases could be France and Great Britain. The papers need to start with a topic from the course and the readings related to that topic, but must then make use of at least three substantial sources not on the syllabus.

You should start thinking about your research paper as soon as possible. Scan down the syllabus to look for topics that are interesting and do a little advance reading to investigate them. In order to make sure that your paper is off to a good start, a one page summary of your project is due at noon (CDT) on Friday, July 19 (This will count for 10% of the paper grade). This should identify the topic and question you wish to ask, the readings from the syllabus that are relevant, and some ideas on additional sources to look at. Your TA will provide feedback on the summary that will help refine your research plan.

The papers will be due on at noon (CDT) on Wednesday, August 14th, the week after class ends. Details on the grading criteria can be found in a separate document called Final Paper Grading Standards.
Course Outline:

Part I: Why States Build Nuclear Weapons

Week 1

Lecture 1  June 17  Nuclear Weapons
(no readings)

Lecture 2  June 19  Three Models of Proliferation


Lecture 3  June 21  India and Pakistan


Week 2

Lecture 4  June 24  The Spiral Model vs. the Deterrence Model


Lecture 5  June 26  Case: North Korea


Lecture 6  June 28  Unit Level Perspectives

**Week 3**

**Lecture 7**  July 1  **Cases: Argentina and Brazil**


**Lecture 8**  July 3  **How States Get Nuclear Weapons**


**Part II: The Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation**

**Lecture 9**  July 5  **Have Arms Races Caused War?**


**Week 4**

**First Paper Due, Monday, July 8 at Noon**

**Lecture 10**  July 8  **Is Nuclear Proliferation Good or Bad?**


**Lecture 11**  July 10  **India and Pakistan**


Lecture 12  July 12  Preventive War I: Iraq


Week 5

Lecture 13  July 15  Preventive War II: China


Lecture 14  July 17  Terrorism


Part III: Nuclear Strategy

Lecture 14  July 19  The First Use


Week 6

Second Paper Due: Monday, July 22 at noon.

Lecture 15  July 22  Nuclear Strategy


Lecture 16  July 24  National Missile Defense


**Lecture 21  July 26  Taboo or Not Taboo?**


**Part IV: Arms Control**

**Week 7**

**Lecture 17  July 29  Arms Control Theory**


**Lecture 18  July 31  Superpower Arms Control**


**Lecture 19  August 2  The NPT and CTBT**


**Week 8**

**Third Paper Due, Monday, August 5, at Noon**

**Lecture 20  August 5  Libya and Iran**


Lecture 21 August 7 Nuclear Abolition


The Final Exam will be available at noon on Friday, August 9th and will be due at noon on Monday, August 12th. (The final quiz will also be due on Monday.)