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.

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. Our TA 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

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>Name</th>
<th>Office Hours (CDT)</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Kydd</td>
<td>Tuesday 2-3 pm</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kydd@wisc.edu">kydd@wisc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Anderson</td>
<td>Wednesday 9-11 am</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ao.anderson033@gmail.com">ao.anderson033@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, with the exception of the last quiz which will be available on a Wednesday and due the following Friday. You will have ten minutes to do the quiz once you begin. The quizzes will be accessible under the Quiz tab on the Learn@UW site.

**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 module 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, for information on this system see the Writing Center’s website: [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: Why did North Korea develop nuclear weapons? Compare Sagan’s security model 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 submitted in the appropriate dropbox on Learn@UW.

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. The test will be available to work on over a two day window and you will have three hours to complete the exam. It will be accessible under the Quiz menu heading at the Learn@UW site.

Grading

The final grade will be based on the following elements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Quizzes</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Short Papers</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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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
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. Discuss your topic with me or the TA no later than the middle of the term.

Details on the paper grading criteria can be found in a separate document called *Final Paper Grading Standards.*
**Important Dates**

All the important dates, including due dates for all course requirements, are listed in the following table. All assignments are due at noon on the listed day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Structure</th>
<th>Quiz Due Dates</th>
<th>Paper Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 16</td>
<td>The Course Begins</td>
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<td>Friday, June 20</td>
<td>Module 1 Begins</td>
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<td>Monday, June 23</td>
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<td>Quiz #1</td>
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<td>Monday, June 30</td>
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<td>Quiz #2</td>
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<td>Friday, July 4</td>
<td>Module 2 Begins</td>
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<td>Monday, July 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz #3</td>
<td>Paper #1</td>
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<td>Monday, July 14</td>
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<td>Quiz #4</td>
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<td>Friday, July 18</td>
<td>Module 3 Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 21</td>
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<td>Quiz #5</td>
<td>Paper #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 28</td>
<td>Module 4 Begins</td>
<td>Quiz #6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz #7</td>
<td>Paper #3</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 6</td>
<td>The Last Lecture</td>
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<td>Friday, August 8</td>
<td>Final Available</td>
<td>Quiz #8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 11</td>
<td>Final Exam Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 13</td>
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<td>Graduate Paper</td>
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</table>
Course Outline:

Module 1: Nuclear Weapons and What it Takes to Get Them

Lecture 1  The Origin and Science of Nuclear Weapons


Lecture 2  Scientific Cooperation and Bureaucratic Competence


Module 2: Why States Build Nuclear Weapons

Lecture 1  Three Models of Proliferation


Lecture 2  Cases: India and Pakistan


Lecture 3  The Spiral Model vs. the Deterrence Model


Lecture 4  Case: North Korea


Lecture 5  Unit Level Perspectives


Lecture 6  Cases: Argentina and Brazil

Module 3: The Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation

Lecture 1 Have Arms Races Caused War?


Lecture 2 Is Nuclear Proliferation Good or Bad?


Lecture 3 India and Pakistan


Lecture 4 Preventive War I: Iraq


Lecture 5 Preventive War II: China


Lecture 6 Terrorism

Module 4: Nuclear Strategy

Lecture 1  The First Use


Lecture 2  Nuclear Strategy


Lecture 3  National Missile Defense


Lecture 4  Taboo or Not Taboo?

Module 5: Arms Control

Lecture 1  Arms Control Theory


Lecture 2  Superpower Arms Control


Lecture 3  The NPT and CTBT


Lecture 4  Libya and Iran


Lecture 5  Nuclear Abolition


