Course Description and Goals

Full course for one quarter. This course investigates the origins and effects of the spread of nuclear weapons at international and domestic levels. It begins with a discussion of the morality of nuclear weapons, the motives different states have for obtaining them, and the problems with intelligence on states’ progress. It continues with asking what nuclear strategies have been and should be used, then moves to social constructivist critiques of conventional understandings of nuclear weapons as well as debates over the safety of such weapons. The latter half of the class concentrates on case studies of a variety of programs, including Iran and North Korea as well as proliferation networks and terrorism.

Requirements

Class Participation
Students will have the opportunity participate in the class both during and outside of classroom hours. Each student will be assigned to two to three days during the semester in which they will co-author a short memo (500 or so words) comparing and contrasting that day’s readings and posing questions for discussion. These memos should be emailed to the class mailing list by 8 PM the day before the readings are to be discussed. Students are encouraged to respond to the memos as part of their participation. Students who miss class will be expected to post a 500-word response to the memo for the day that they missed.

Readings
Three books are available from the bookstore (Solingen, Hymans, and Paul); for those who have not read it, the Sagan and Waltz debate is also available and recommended. Additional readings for the course will be available directly from the links on the PDF and HTML versions of this syllabus, which are located on my homepage. All students are expected to have an understanding of all of the readings. The syllabus will be updated frequently.

Assignments
There is one assignment for this course, a lengthy (2500-5000 word) essay analyzing anything related to nuclear politics; it is due on Friday, March 13 at 1 PM. Initial proposals for the essay will be due by Friday, February 20th at 1 PM. All assignments should be emailed to me.

Citation and Plagiarism
A major goal of this course is to encourage good reading, research, and citation habits. Good research requires good documentation of sources and the ability to put one’s own analysis and thoughts into a paper rather than relying on others. When in doubt as to whether you should cite something, always do it with as specific a citation as possible; if an author discusses an idea in one section or one page, cite the specific section or page instead of the full article or book. I usually recommend that students use in-text author-date citation with full Chicago Manual of Style citations; see their Citation Quick Guide: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html>.

However, style is less important than the cites being present. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of academic integrity. For the purposes of this class, plagiarism is submitting a piece of work which in part or in whole is not entirely the student’s own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source. For examples of plagiarism and how to avoid it, see <http://www.csub.edu/ssric-trd/howto/plagiarism.htm>.

Accommodations
If you’d like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please let me know so we can discuss those accommodations.
1/7/09: 01.2. Technology: How do you make a nuclear weapon? What can they do? (161 Pages)

  <http://www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/nuclearcan1.html> EReading

Further


1/12/09: 02.1. The Bomb, Dread, + Eternity: The Atomic Cafe (film) (21 Pages)

  <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2538442> EReading

1/14/09: 02.2. Hiroshima: Why did we use the bomb? Should we have? (118 Pages)

  <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1149003>, ISSN 00157228 EReading
  <http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?direct=true&an=9501254895>, ISSN 00157120 EReading

Further


1/19/09: 03.1. No class: MLK Day

1/21/09: 03.2. Motives: Why do states seek the bomb? How do we know? (195 Pages)

• Etel Solingen (2007) Alternative Logics on Denuclearization. In Solingen Nuclear Logics: Contrasting Paths in East Asia and the Middle East, 23–54

Further

1/26/09: 04.1. Intel: Can we really know who is seeking the bomb? (130 Pages)
• National Intelligence Council (2007) Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities. Office of the Director of National Intelligence National Intelligence Estimate, 9 pages EReading

1/28/09: 04.2. Strategy: What should we do with it? (117 Pages)
• Richard Pipes (1977) Why the Soviet-Union Thinks It Could Fight and Win a Nuclear War. Commentary. 64, 21–34 EReading

Further


2/2/09: 05.1. SCOT (Social Construction of Technology): What does the bomb mean? (141 Pages)


Further


2/4/09: 05.2. Safety: How safe are we or others in making the bomb? (96 Pages)


Further


• Scott D. Sagan (1993) *The Limits of Safety*. In Sagan *The Limits of Safety*, 250–279 EReading
2/9/09: 06.1. Iran: Determined or Deterrable? (92 Pages)


2/11/09: 06.2. North Korea: Pariah or Persuadable? (102 Pages)


Further

2/16/09: 07.1. No class: Presidents’ Day

2/18/09: 07.2. Nuclear Networks: The Wrath of Khan? (123 Pages)


Further


2/23/09: 08.1. India, Pakistan, and Israel: Renegades or the future of Proliferation? (116 Pages)


Further


2/25/09: 08.2. South Korea, Ukraine, Belarus, and South Africa: Success Stories? (114 Pages)


3/2/09: 09.1. Argentina and Brazil: Did they or didn’t they? (129 Pages)


3/4/09: 09.2. Australia, Germany, and Japan: Why didn’t they? (119 Pages)

Further

3/9/09: 10.1. Terrorists: Should we worry about them? (89 Pages)

Further

3/11/09: 10.2. Conclusions (91 Pages)