National Security in the Nuclear Age

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Precis
This course examines the security problems of sovereign states since the invention of nuclear weapons. It focuses on United States nuclear weapons policies during and after the Cold War, but it will also study the national security concerns of other nuclear weapons states (NWS) and of non-NWS since 1945. The course is divide into two roughly equal parts. In the first part, we study the evolution of nuclear strategy and nuclear deterrence theory during the Cold War. In the second part, we examine contemporary issues in nuclear security, including the proliferation of nuclear weapons, national missile defense and prospects for arms control and disarmament.

Requirements:
All students are expected to attend and be prepared to participate in class. In addition to course readings, students should stay abreast of current events in international affairs. The New York Times, The Washington Post and National Public Radio (NPR) news broadcasts on WEAA 88.9 FM or WJHU 88.1 FM are excellent daily news sources. The Economist provides a good weekly analysis of world affairs, although with a pro-market slant. The periodicals Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and World Policy Journal, among others, publish articles that mix advocacy and analysis on a variety of topics in international affairs. They are useful sources for keeping up with international issues during and after this course. There are numerous on-line news sources. Many are listed at the course website: http://jhcourse.jhu.edu/~as191340

Class Participation:
All students should participate in class discussions. I may call on individual students to answer questions. I reserve the right to distribute unannounced in-class quizzes on the assigned readings. Students are not expected to perform Periclean orations, but everyone should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings, current events, and issues raised in lecture. Criticism of points made in readings and lectures is welcome, and debates may emerge among students. Students are expected to respect their classmates' contributions, and refrain from partisan or parochial phillipics. The purpose of class discussion is not to win imaginary debating points, but to learn beyond solitary reading and unexamined listening.

Written Work:
There will be three take-home written assignments, including the final exam. Detailed instructions will be distributed in advance. The take-home assignments must be typed or machine-printed. The assignments will be essays of 1400-1600 words in length. The specific questions will be issued a week prior to the due date. The assignment due dates are:
"18 October: First essay due in class
"15 November: Second essay due in class
"18 December: Final exam essay due by 10 am at my office

**Penalties:**
Students must submit take-home assignments on time. No late papers will be accepted. The only exceptions will be for medical excuses or deaths in the family. In both cases, you must provide a means of verifying the claimed excuse (a doctor's note, a funeral director's phone number, or a note from the dean of students).

A computer mishap will not excuse a late paper. You should make frequent and multiple back-ups of your work (to at least 2 separate floppy disks or other removable media), so that you never lose more than one hour's worth of work. Even if you have your own computer, be sure you familiarize yourself with the Johns Hopkins University computer lab system in case your system breaks down.

**Grade Components:**
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:
"Participation: 10%
"Essays: first essay 15%; second essay 30%; final essay 45%

I do not accept make-up assignments, re-writing of papers, or extra-credit work. The grading is progressive, so if you get a B on the first paper, it is still possible to get an A for the course. And if you do not get an A or A- for the course, it is not a tragedy.

**Academic Honesty:**
Johns Hopkins University regulations regarding academic honesty will be enforced. If you are recently matriculated, you should consult the university guidelines. I will pursue any violation of these rules with Starr-like intensity! The penalty for plagiarism is failure for the course.

**Readings:**
There are four books available for purchase for this course at Johns Hopkins University Book Center, located on the lower level of Gilman Hall (410.516.8317):


The boldface abbreviations after each book are used for the titles in the syllabus after the first reference.
Another 20 required readings are available on reserves at MSE Library, on-line via MSE full-text services, online via the MSE digital reserves system, or on-line at public off campus sites.

Accessing On-line Readings
When an article is available publicly on-line the URL is next to the article. For example:


If the article is available via MSE full-text services, the name of the service (usually "Academic Search Elite" or "JSTOR") that has the article is noted in boldface next to the article. For example:

Susan Moller Okin, "Taking the Bishops Seriously?" World Politics 36:4 (July 1984), pp.527-554 (28) JSTOR

The on-line version of the syllabus has hyperlinks to the article or the service that provides it. Some of the articles may be available by multiple services

If you are connecting to the JHU domain via a third party internet service provider (e.g, AOL, Earthlink), you will need to establish a RAUL account. Otherwise, you will be denied access to the articles. Attention: RAUL accounts take 48 hours to activate, so I encourage you to do this as soon as possible.

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6 Sep.
1945 and the Nuclear Revolution: Changing Ideas of Security
Schelling, Arms and Influence, "Chap.1: Diplomacy of Violence" pp.1-34 (35)
Freedman, Evolution of Nuclear Strategy, "Chap.1: Arrival of the Bomb" pp.3-21 (19)

Recommended:
Arnold Wolfers, "'National security' as an Ambiguous Symbol" Political Science Quarterly 67:4 (Dec. 1952), pp. 481-502 (22) JSTOR
John Hersey, Hiroshima (New York: Bantam, 1986)

Nuclear Strategy during the Cold War

12 & 13 Sep.
Theory of Nuclear Strategy
Jervis, MNR, "Chap.2: Strategic Theory," pp.46-73 (28)
Schelling, AI, "Chap.3: The Manipulation of Risk," pp.92-125 (34)
19 & 20 Sep.  
Nuclear Strategy in Practice  
Freedman, ENS, "Chap.3: Aggression and Defense," pp.34-44 (11)  
Freedman, ENS, "Chap.5: Strategy for an Atomic Stalemate," pp.63-75 (13)  
Freedman, ENS, "Chap.6: Massive Retaliation," pp.76-90 (15)  
Schelling, AI, "Chap.3: The Art of Commitment," pp.35-91 (57)

26 & 27 Sep.  
The Cuban Missile Crisis  
Selections from The Kennedy Tapes TBA  
Selection from "History and Politics Out Loud" TBA

3 & 4 Oct.  
A World Gone MAD?  
Freedman, ENS, "Chap.15: City Avoidance," pp. (30)  
Freedman, ENS, "Chap.16: Assured Destruction," pp. 245-254 (10)  
Jervis, MNR, "Chap.3: MAD is a Fact, Not a Policy," pp.74-106 (33)  
Schelling, AI, "Chap.5: The Diplomacy of Ultimate Survival," pp.190-220 (31)

10 & 11 Oct. - First Essay Issued 11 Oct  
Crisis Stability, Strategic Stability, and Defense Forgone  
Freedman, ENS, "Sec.8: Restreat from Assured Destruction," pp.333-395 (63)  
Schelling, AI, "Chap.6: The Dynamics of Mutual Alarm," pp.221-259 (39)

17 & 18 Oct. - First Essay Due 18 Oct  
Endgames: INF & the START Process  

The Nuclear Age after the Cold War

Nuclear Ethics  
Susan Moller Okin, "Taking the Bishops Seriously?" World Politics 36:4 (July 1984), pp.527-554 (28) JSTOR

Recommended:

31 Oct.
A New Nuclear Era?
Richard K. Betts, "Universal Deterrence or Conceptual Collapse?" in Utgoff, The Coming Crisis, pp.51-85 (35)

1 Nov.
Theories of Proliferation

Recommended:

7 & 8 Nov. - Second Essay Issued 8 Nov
Underneath the Non-Proliferation Treaty Regime
TBA

14 & 15 Nov. - Second Essay Due 15 Nov
US Force Posture and Nuclear Use
21 Nov
Test Bans and Abolition
Christopher E. Paine, "A Case Against Virtual Nuclear Testing" Scientific American 281:3 (September 1999), pp.74-79 (6) ASE

28 & 29 Nov.
Do we have to fear rogue states?
Barry R. Posen, "U.S. Security Policy in a Nuclear Armed World, or What If Iraq Had Had Nuclear Weapons?" in CC, pp.157-190 (34)

5 & 6 Dec. - Final Exam Issued 6 Dec.
National Missile Defense Debate
FINAL ESSAY DUE: 18 DEC BY 10 AM, 338 Mergenthaler