Course Description: This course explores several dimensions of US national security, including military technology, nuclear strategy, arms control, conventional forces, energy futures, the defense budget, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The course is organized around readings, lectures, and occasional special guest presentations. Students are responsible for any adjustments to the syllabus announced in class. Please confirm office hours in class or by email.

Quizzes: 15 minute quizzes will be offered randomly throughout the quarter. Students can make up one quiz on the comprehensive exam but no more than one. They will be based on the one or two readings of the week marked with a (Q), and/or on the most recent guest presentation. For grading purposes, quizzes count as though they were a question on the exam, so if three to four quizzes are offered over the quarter, and the comprehensive exam has six to eight questions, then quizzes will count around half of the midterm or 25 per cent of the course grade since the midterm will count 50 per cent.

Midterm Exam (comprehensive): An exam covering all lectures and readings not already covered by the quizzes will be offered on Monday, May 24. Students needing special accommodations must submit documentation by the second week of the quarter and must make all arrangements for the exams more than one week in advance. Students who have a legitimate emergency and my approval may do a make-up exam on Friday, June 11. Bring three blue books to the exam; it will probably run around two hours with around eight long paragraph/short essay questions, and it will count 50 per cent of the course grade.

Final Exam (take home): The final exam is a take home paper running around five pages (typed double spaced.) It will require no—or very modest—outside reading and research. It will be assigned no later than Monday night May 24 after the midterm and will be due during a one hour window to be specified in one of three times of your choice on Friday, June 4; Tuesday, June 8; or Friday, June 11. Details forthcoming.

Readings: Students should purchase the Powaski book, Return to Armageddon, and are advised to print out the articles from the UCSD electronic reserve website (unless they are government reports like the nuclear posture review, or the ballistic missile defense review, which can be read on line because they require less page to page scrutiny.) You must complete at least one to two of the readings each week to be prepared for quizzes. Readings are scheduled to provide an even pace of four items per week, they will not always correspond perfectly to the lecture sequence.
**Tentative Schedule: (* means on library electronic reserve; (Q) means quiz relevant)**

**Session One (March 29): Introduction and Nuclear Arms Control (with guest Henry Sokolski)**


*Hafemeister, "CTBT: Effectively Verifiable," Arms Control Today (October 2008.)


**Session Two (April 5): Ballistic Missile Defense**


Department of Defense, "Ballistic Missile Defense Review," (February 2010)(DOD website.)

(Q)*Richard Garwin, "Holes in the Shield," Scientific American (November 2004.)


**Session Three (April 12): Nuclear Strategy and History**


(Q)*Spinardi, "Why the Navy Went for HT Counterforce," International Security (Summer 1990.)


Department of Defense, Nuclear Posture Review (pending, see DOD website.)

**Session Four (April 19): Nuclear Non Proliferation and Nuclear Power**


*Hersh, "A Strike in the Dark," New Yorker (February 11 and 18, 2008.)

*Lester and Rosner, "The Growth of Nuclear Power," Daedalus (Fall 2009.)
**Session Five (April 26): Conventional Overview**

*Max Boot, "War Made New," Chapter 12.


(Q)*Jane Mayer, "Predator War," New Yorker (October 26, 2009.)

(Q)*Daniel Byman, "Do Targeted Killings Work," Foreign Affairs (March/April 2006.)

**Session Six (May 3): Conventional Forces: Dimensions of War (with Guest Michael Dobbs)**

*Pape, "The True Worth of Airpower," Foreign Affairs (March/April 2004.)


(Q) Steve Kosniak, "Analysis of the 2011 Defense Budget Request," (spend around 90 minutes studying the four main subcomponents of the budget at csbaonline.)

**Session Seven (May 10): Conventional Forces: Iraq**

(Q)*Bodansky, "Conclusion," The Secret History of the Iraq War.

*James Fearon, "Iraq's Civil War," Foreign Affairs (March/April 2007.)

*Steve Simon, "The Price of the Surge," Foreign Affairs (May/June 2008.)

(Q)Brookings Iraq Index (spend around 90 minutes on line studying the charts and surveys.)

**Session Eight: (May 17): Middle East and Afghanistan (with guest Aboubakr Jamai)**

*Stevenson, "Martyrs, Nationalism, and Jihad," Survival (Spring 2006.)

*Barak Mendelsohn, "Al Qaeda's Palestinian Problem," Survival (August-September 2009.)

(Q)*Audrey Cronin, "How Al Qaida Ends," International Security (Summer 2006.)


**Session Nine: (May 24): In Class Midterm and Take Home Final Question Distributed**

**Session Ten: (May 31) Memorial Day: No Class**

**Finals Exam: (June 11) Take Home Final Due**