POLITICAL SCIENCE 154: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SPRING 2015
WEDNESDAYS 5-7:50PM, SOLIS 104

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Course Description:
This course provides an overview of the threats posed to national and international security by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons. Students will learn about how these weapons function, why states seek them, and how nations attempt to prevent proliferation. The course will do this in part by delving into the technical and policy challenges related to these weapons. It will further address how CBRN weapons shape states’ national security strategies and regional security dynamics. Efforts at the international level to restrict the use and proliferation of these weapons will be discussed. We will also explore the future of WMD and CBRN terrorism.

Course Requirements:
• **Class Participation** (20% of course grade): Come to class prepared to discuss the readings for the day. You are encouraged to ask questions and to discuss your ideas. There is a **much higher premium** on being willing to question and debate than on being ‘right.’
• **Short papers** (80% of course grade, 40% each): 3–6 pages, **discussed further in class**:
  • **First Short Paper**: Choose a nuclear power from the list at the end of the syllabus and write a short policy paper based on the writings provided and possibly other sources.
  • **Second Short Paper**: Write a paper detailing the policy position of your country. The policy must take into account other nuclear states and your country’s regional context.
• **Final Exam** There is no final exam.

Student Requirements/Standards:
• **Plagiarism** Students are encouraged to study and learn together. All assignments must be the sole product of the person submitting the work. Don’t cheat and don’t plagiarize. If you have **any** questions about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, see me.
• **Disabilities/life issues** It is your responsibility to apprise me of factors that may interfere with your performance in class **well in advance of scheduled assignments**. Appropriate measures for disabilities, acts of God, etc. will be taken in accordance with UC policies.
• **Grading/appeals** All attempts to discuss grading decisions must be made in writing.

Required Readings:
There are three required textbooks. Each is available from the UCSB Bookstore or elsewhere.

DATE | TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT
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**WEEK 1 (March 30): Introduction/Syllabus/Levels, Methods, and Concepts**

**WEEK 2 (April 6): An Overview of Nuclear Policy Dynamics**

**WEEK 3 (April 13): Nuclear Weapons – Nuts and Bolts**

**How Stuff Works**

**Optional reading:**

**WEEK 4 (April 20): Why States Want WMD**

Optional reading:

**WEEK 5 (April 27): Nuclear Strategy: Deterrence/Compellence [FIRST PAPER DUE]**
- Sagan and Waltz. “Chapters 1-2.” *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*
Optional reading:
- Sagan and Waltz. “Chapters 3-5.” *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*

**WEEK 6 (May 4): Chemical and Biological Weapons.**

**Biological Weapons:**

**Chemical Weapons:**

Optional reading:

**WEEK 7 (May 11): Nuclear Proliferation/Counter Proliferation**

**Optional readings:**

**WEEK 8 (May 18): Weapons Platforms (Ballistic & Cruise Missiles)**
- Cirincione. “Missile Proliferation.” *Deadly Arsenals*, 83-117.

**Optional readings:**

**WEEK 9 (May 25): No Class (Memorial Day Holiday).**

**WEEK 10 (June 1): CBRN Terrorism [SECOND PAPER DUE]**
Optional readings:

MINIMUM SOURCES FOR FIRST PAPER

China
Iran

North Korea

Russia
- Cirincione. “Russia.” Deadly Arsenals, 121-162.

United States