POLITICAL SCIENCE 142D: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SPRING 2017
MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS 5-6:20PM, ROBINSON BUILDING AUDITORIUM

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SSB 345, Mondays 3-5PM  
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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 and some non-state actors 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. Finally, some attention will be given to emerging modes of conflict, such as “cyberwar” and growing use of automated systems (“drones”), time permitting.

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.’ Most of class participation will be assessed by your involvement/performance in the simulations.
- **Short papers (80% of course grade, 40% each):** 3-6 pages, discussed further in class:
  - **First Short Paper:** Choose a nuclear power. Write a short paper based on the writings provided at the end of the syllabus and other relevant sources. Your paper should detail the country’s nuclear capabilities, discuss their function/utility in light of the country’s security situation (adversaries, allies) and any other reasoning for these capabilities.
  - **Second Short Paper:** Write a paper detailing at least one recommended change to the nuclear posture or structure of your country. The proposed policy change must take into account the behavior of other nuclear states and your country’s regional context.
- **Final Exam** There is no final exam in this course.

Student Requirements/Standards:
- **Plagiarism/Cheating:** You are encouraged to study and learn together. All assignments submitted for a grade must be the sole product of the person submitting the work. Tests or assignments that are suspected of containing materials that are not the student’s work or not properly referenced/cited will be referred to the academic integrity office. If you have any questions about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please refer to the University’s guidelines (Excel with integrity) and consult with your TA or myself.
- **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

**WEEK 1 (April 2):** Introduction/Syllabus/Levels, Methods, and Concepts

**WEEK 2 (April 9):** An Overview of Nuclear Policy Dynamics

**WEEK 3 (April 16):** Nuclear Weapons – Nuts and Bolts

History

How Stuff Works
Optional reading:

WEEK 4 (April 23): Why States Want WMD
- Barnaby. “What Does It Take to Make a WMD?” How to Build..., 63-88.

Optional reading:

**WEEK 5 (April 30): 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 7): Chemical and Biological Weapons.**

**Biological Weapons:**
Chemical Weapons:
- Barnaby. “Chemical Weapons.” How to Build a Nuclear Bomb, 55-64.

Optional reading:

WEEK 7 (May 14): Nuclear Proliferation/Counter Proliferation

Optional readings:

**WEEK 8 (May 21): Weapons Platforms (Ballistic & Cruise Missiles)**

- Cirincione. “Missile Proliferation.” *Deadly Arsenals*, 83-117.

**Optional readings:**

WEEK 9 (May 28): No Class Monday (Memorial Day Holiday)

Wednesday: *** IN CLASS SIMULATION ***

WEEK 10 (June 5): 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**