Course Description: This course explores the multiple and evolving challenges to US national security and the policies we have adopted in response. Around half the quarter emphasizes nuclear weapons, including missile defense, strategy and arms control, and nonproliferation. Around half the quarter emphasizes conventional and unconventional military issues, including military operations, competition with Russia and China, the defense budget, and the counterterrorism campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq/Syria. We will have several guest lectures from security professionals. Although the workload for the course is not as lethal as the topics, students should avoid enrolling in it if they are uninterested in these morbid subjects and/or unable to attend class consistently.

Exams and Quizzes: Classes typically begin with 12 minute quizzes that ask the student to show command of one of the reading. The quizzes effectively become slow motion exams. There are no make up quizzes and students must attend the entire class period to get quiz credit. There will also be two exam days. Exams and quizzes will account for 75 per cent of the course grade, roughly equally weighted. Exams only test readings that have not already been the subject of quizzes and, of course, lectures and classroom discussions.

Papers: Students write one seven page (double spaced) paper due any class session but no later than May 30. The readings for the paper will come from the syllabus although some light research might be required. Specific guidance will be provided early in the quarter.

Readings: Students read three articles or book chapters per week; no books are required. Copies of the monograph Underestimated will be provided courtesy of the Nonproliferation Education Center, Washington DC (and can be consulted online.) The first item in every weekly section can be found by a simple on line search; the other articles and book chapters can be found in the 142I electronic reserve collection.
Schedule: Week One (April 2 and 4): Overview and Boomers
Lewis and Tertrais, “The Thick Red Line,” Survival (December January 2018.)
Spinardi, “Why the Navy Went for Hard Target Counterforce,” International Security (Fall 1990) (especially the sections on Polaris and Trident II.)

Week Two (April 9 and 11): Ballistic Missile Defense
War and Peace in the Nuclear Age, “Reagan’s Shield,” (youtube.)
Keegan, “Intelligence in War,” Chapter Eight, Secret Weapons.
Roy, “Preparing for a North Korean Missile,” Survival (June July 2016.)

Week Three (April 16 and 18): Arms Control and Russia
Sokolski, Underestimated, Part II.
Fruhling and Lasconjarias, “NATO and Kaliningrad,” Survival (April May 2016.)

Week Four (April 23 and 25): Strategy and Proliferation
Kemp, “Centrifuges: A New Era for Nuclear Proliferation,” NPEC (2012.)
Lavache, “French Proliferation in Comparative Perspective,” (2007.)
Fitzpatrick, Chapter 1, Overcoming Pakistan’s Nuclear Dangers, Adelphi Paper 443 (2014.)

Week Five (April 30 and May 2): Proliferation and China
Sokolski, Underestimated, Parts I and III.
Kaplan, Asia’s Cauldron,
Montgomery, “Contested Primacy in the Western Pacific,” International Security (Spring 2014.)
**Exam (Date TBA)**

**Week Six (May 7 and 9): Conventional Forces**
Tellis, Dogfight, Carnegie Endowment, pages 39 to 118.


Pape, “True Worth of Airpower,” Foreign Affairs (March April 2004.)

**Week Seven (May 14 and 16): Conventional Forces and Counterinsurgency**

Vietnam: A Television History (Episode 8/11, Cambodia and Laos)

Horowitz et al, “Separating Fact from Fiction in the Debate over Drone Proliferation,” International Security (Fall 2016.)


**Week Eight (May 21 and 23): Counterterrorism**

Filkins, “What We Left Behind,” New Yorker

Dobbins and Jones, “The End of a Caliphate,” Survival (June July 2017.)

Boot, Chapter on Afghanistan, War Made New.

Coll, Directorate S, “Epilogue.”

**Week Nine (May 28 and 30): Defense Budget**

Blakeley, “Analysis of the FY 2018 Defense Budget and Trends in Defense Spending,” Briefs 01, 02, 05, and 06.

O’Hanlon, Chapter 4, The 650 Billion Dollar Bargain (2016.)

Singer and Friedman, “Cybersecurity and Cyberwar,” pages 114 to 144.

**Week Ten (June 4 and 6): Review and Exam**