**POLITICAL SCIENCE 142D: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SPRING 2023 (CENTR 101)**
**LECTURE: MONDAY/WEDNESDAY/FRIDAY 11-11:50AM (NOTE: THIS COURSE IS IN PERSON)**

Instructor: **Erik Gartzke** (Professor)  
Email: egartzke@ucsd.edu

Please read this syllabus carefully. It contains the information you need to succeed in the course.

When contacting any instructor, please identify the course (and section if appropriate). We are usually teaching more than one course at any given a time. So make it clear to us which course!

- Course website [Canvas, need UCSD SSO to access]:  [https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/45436](https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/45436)  
- Lecture: 11-11:50AM MW (Location: Center Hall 101 [IN PERSON... yes, really!])

NOTE: There are a few dates during the quarter when I will be traveling. On these days, please use the following zoom link [DO NOT GO TO CLASS]:  [https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/93484283016](https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/93484283016)  

Please Note: these lectures are NOT recorded

- Office hours: 11-11:50AM Fridays: Link:  [https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91765507699](https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91765507699)

Teaching Assistants:

Jorge Olmos Camarillo ([jolmoscamarillo@ucsd.edu](mailto:jolmoscamarillo@ucsd.edu))  
Office hours: Tuesday 10AM-12PM. (Location: Social Sciences Building 349)

June Jung ([j0jung@ucsd.edu](mailto:j0jung@ucsd.edu))  
Office hours: Friday 2-3PM. (Zoom & in-person at SSB 446 upon request)  
Students can sign up for appointments via the following link:  
[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/selfsched?sstoken=UUIwcnNFWFFoV0ZrfGR1ZmF1bHR8Mzk4MjNjZDIxYjNkMjY1YWQzNmQ0ZjQ5ZDBjOTJkYW1](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/selfsched?sstoken=UUIwcnNFWFFoV0ZrfGR1ZmF1bHR8Mzk4MjNjZDIxYjNkMjY1YWQzNmQ0ZjQ5ZDBjOTJkYW1)

Jiannan Zhao ([jiz717@ucsd.edu](mailto:jiz717@ucsd.edu))  
Office hours: Monday 10AM-12PM (Zoom link:  [https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/5899425174](https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/5899425174))  
Students can sign up for appointments via the following link:  [https://shorturl.at/kzQX4](https://shorturl.at/kzQX4)

You deserve the best possible education. The instruction team for POLI142D will do their very best to ensure you receive all possible assistance. In return, please be patient with us.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your GTA first. If this does not work or the situation is not satisfactorily resolved, please email me and I will assist you as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that this is mass education...I am vastly outnumbered. I will do my best.

Your health (physical, mental, social) is always important. Please do not suffer in silence. A variety of resources on and off campus are available to help you get better, or stay better. I list some here in the syllabus. Others are available on the UCSD website. If you have any questions, please ask your GTA or myself. We will attempt to assist you or refer you to someone who can.

Finally, this is a university course and there is work you must do to complete it satisfactorily. If for any reason you do not feel that you can commit the time and effort necessary to do well in the
**Course at this time, do not take this course. All work MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME. Due to logistical issues, late assignments will automatically receive a zero (0) grade. There is no room for flexibility on this policy. A significant amount of accommodation in the timing and pace of assignments exists to allow you flexibility and discretion in getting your work done on time.**

**Course Description:**
This course provides an overview of the threats posed to national and international security by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons. Time permitting, some attention will also be paid to new technologies of warfare (“cyberwar,” automated systems “drones,” “space) and to emerging modes of conflict (gray zone conflict, cross- or multi-domain deterrence).

Students will learn about how these weapons and strategies function, why states and some non-state actors seek them, and how nations seek or attempt to prevent their spread (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:**
You can take the course P/NP or for a grade. Please consider your options and circumstances. Consult with the appropriate advising staff member if you have questions about your options.

* PLEASE TAKE NOTE: **There are no make-up assignments.** If you miss the final exam, your grade for the exam will be calculated by averaging the grades from your previous assignments.

- **Short Papers** ([Three (3)] (30% of course grade, 10% each): Each student taking the course must prepare three short papers of NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES each, comparing/contrasting two or more readings from a given week. Papers of more than two (2) pages length will not be accepted. You may reference any/all of the readings for a given week. Students may choose which weeks in which to complete their short papers. But you must sign up for your preferred weeks ahead of time! A format for sign-ups will be distributed through the Canvas course page. Stay tuned!

All assignments must be submitted electronically and supplied to the GTA grader by Sunday evening (6PM Pacific time) of the week for which an assignment is scheduled. Be succinct, compelling and incisive. What is something interesting, peculiar or discrepant in comparing two or more of the week’s readings? **DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE READINGS!!!!!!!!!!** We already know what they say. Tell us something new. How does some difference between the readings affect the authors' conclusions or your interpretation of what the two (or more) readings imply? How does the difference or omission cause you to doubt the validity of one or more of the author’s argument(s)? How would you know if they are wrong, or if you are wrong? Write these documents expecting the reader/grader to try and disagree with you. Be logical and persuasive!

- **Commentary on Video Documentaries** ([Two (2)] (30% of course grade, 15% each): Each student in the course will individually prepare two short commentaries of NO MORE THAN THREE PAGES each, analyzing and/or comparing one or more of the video documentaries listed in the syllabus. Special attention will be given to analyzing
or criticizing the documentary. I already know what they are about. Tell me what the investigators did wrong, got wrong, forgot to cover, misinterpreted, etc. Focus on the politics/policy aspects of each respective documentary. Where are their errors/biases? In what ways is the documentary misleading? What have you gleaned from the course readings, for example, that might allow you to assess the claims presented in the documentary more critically? What policy implications are recommended by each documentary? Do you accept these recommendations? Why or why not?

- **Final Exam** (40% of course grade): Each student will prepare an essay based on a range of questions. Unlike in the recent past, this is an **“in class” exam**. The questions will be given out a week prior. The exam will take place at the scheduled time (Friday, June 16, 11:30AM-2:29PM). A quality essay will integrate all relevant materials from the course (lecture and readings) in a concise but persuasive analytical answer to the question posed.

- **I am precluded by the Political Science Department's policy from providing any advice to students about grading options or other aspects of your academic schedule or courses. If you have questions, please contact the appropriate advisor in your major department.**

**Required Readings:**

There are three required textbooks. Each is available from the UCSD Bookstore. There are also other outlets where you can purchase (website named after a famous watercourse comes to mind).


**Additional Readings:**

In addition to the three required textbooks, there are a number of other readings available for the course. *All of these materials can be accessed online* via the Canvas course page. I ask that you read at least one (1) of these additional readings each week (you can certainly read more).

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<td>WEEK 1 (April 3 &amp; 5): Introduction/Syllabus/Levels, Methods, and Concepts</td>
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**VIDEO DOCUMENTARY:** “The Bomb” [https://ucsd.kanopy.com/product/bomb](https://ucsd.kanopy.com/product/bomb) (alternate source, YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qrze43Uchm8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qrze43Uchm8)). Also consider “The Day After Trinity” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm5fCxEK7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm5fCxEK7Y)
WEEK 2 (April 10 & 12): An Overview of Nuclear Policy Dynamics


WEEK 3 (April 17 & 19): Nuclear Weapons – History and How Stuff Works

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional readings:


WEEK 4 (April 24 & 26): Why States Want WMD
- Barnaby. “What Does It Take to Make a WMD?” How to Build..., 63-88.

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional reading:


**WEEK 5 (May 1 & 3): Nuclear Strategy: Deterrence**
- Sagan and Waltz. “Chapters 1-2.” *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*
PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:


**Optional reading:**

- Sagan and Waltz. “Chapters 3-5.” The Spread of Nuclear Weapons

**VIDEO DOCUMENTARY:** “Dr. Strangelove, or Why I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Bomb.” [https://archive.org/details/DRStrangelove_20130616](https://archive.org/details/DRStrangelove_20130616), other sources. And “Able Archer: Brink of Apocalypse.” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPit2BGNKwo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPit2BGNKwo).

**WEEK 6 (May 8 & 10): Chemical and Biological Weapons.**

**Biological Weapons:**

**Chemical Weapons:**
- Barnaby. “Chemical Weapons.” How to Build a Nuclear Bomb, 55-64.
PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional reading:

VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES: Watch several of these (they are all short) “100 Years of Chemical Weapons” https://www.bbc.com/news/av/science-environment-43700924.
“Trump's "limited strike" on Syria” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc90l4FrLqM.
“Inside the US Government’s Top Secret Bio weapons Lab” (also short) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1GnYs4LOc0 “Bioterror” (NOTE: may be offensive) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C30ZKprLSkI&has_verified=1&bpctr=1585549991

WEEK 7 (May 15 & 17): Nuclear Proliferation/Counter Proliferation

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:
Optional readings:


WEEK 8 (May 22 & 24): Weapons Platforms (Ballistic/Cruise Missiles)

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:
Optional readings:
- Federation of American Scientists, “Ballistic Missile Basics”

VIDEO DOCUMENTARY: “Command and Control”
[https://archive.org/details/CommandAndControl](https://archive.org/details/CommandAndControl). Also watch “Missileers”
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1tMx27Q4O0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1tMx27Q4O0) and “Rise of the Rockets” (behind PBS pay wall) [https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/rise-of-the-rockets/](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/rise-of-the-rockets/)

WEEK 9 (May 29 & 31): CBRN Terrorism and Nuclear Accidents

*** No Class Monday 29 May (Memorial Day Holiday) ***

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:
- Heritage Foundation. “Terror Trends: 40 Years’ Data on International and Domestic Terrorism.”

Optional readings:

https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/japans-killer-quake/ Also “Pandora’s Promise” (1) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBMj-96hols [the video is in three parts]. (2)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yBePJrKmws (3)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLuKXOVnzhE

WEEK 10 (June 5 & 7): Cyber Conflict and UAVs.

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional readings:
https://ucsd.kanopy.com/video/nova-rise-drones

*** The Final Exam is Scheduled to be Held on Friday 16 June 11:30AM-2:29PM ***
**Intellectual Property**

My lectures and course materials, including syllabi, PowerPoint/Keynote presentations (whether “live” or recorded), tests, quizzes, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by U.S. copyright law and by University policy. I am the exclusive owner of the copyright in any of these materials I create. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may also share those materials with another student who is enrolled in or auditing this course, provided that this does not violate the academic integrity policy of the University or this course.

You may not reproduce, distribute or display (post/upload) lecture notes or recordings or course materials in any other way — whether or not a fee is charged — without my express prior written consent. You also may not allow others to do so.

If you do so, you may be subject to student conduct proceedings under the UC San Diego Student Code of Conduct.

Similarly, you own the copyright for your original papers and exam essays. If I am interested in posting or utilizing your answers or papers in any way, I will ask for your written permission.

**Additional information/resources**

**Academic Integrity:** Submitting any assignment in this course confirms that you agree to abide by UCSD’s policies as listed in the Principles of Community and the Student Code of Conduct. Academic misconduct includes (but is not limited to): using another person’s words as your own, asking someone else to write any part of an assignment you submit as your own, failing to cite material from another source, editing/rephrasing someone else’s words as your own.

The Policy on Integrity of Scholarship lists some of the standards by which you are expected to complete assignments in this course. Students needing assistance may consult with the instructor or the teaching assistants. You are encouraged to use authorized UCSD writing resources, such as the Writing Hub. No other person or resource may be used to assist you in preparing or writing any assignment without express permission from the instructor. Exceptions will be made for a documented disability only. Please consult with the instructor if you have questions about this policy or believe you need the assistance of other persons or online resources. You may not use a tutor. You may not consult or collaborate with other students in preparing, conducting or writing assignments. You may not refer to any other source (EG: Google Translate, Grammarly).

**Student 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 your TA and myself of factors that may interfere with your performance in class well in advance of scheduled due dates for assignments. Appropriate measures will be taken in accordance with UCSD policies.
• **Grading/appeals:** All attempts to discuss grading decisions must begin with your TA. You can of course bring them to my attention if the issues cannot be resolved first with your TA. Appeals to me must be made in writing (a Word document or PDF is fine). Late or incomplete assignments/exams do not constitute the basis for a grade appeal. I do not offer course extensions unless instructed in writing to do so by University authorities.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (https://osd.ucsd.edu/). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department well in advance of any exams or assignments. Please contact the Department of Political Science OSD Liaison if you have any disability needs; please connect with staff via the Virtual Advising Center as soon as possible.

**Academic Advising**
Students who have questions pertaining to Political Science academic advising are asked to reach out the Department's Undergraduate Advisor who can be contacted via the Virtual Advising Center. Academic advising questions include (but are not limited to): add/drop deadlines, course enrollment policies, planning major and minor requirements, quarter-by-quarter plans, department petitions and paperwork, and referrals to campus and student support services.

**Inclusive Classroom Statement**
The TA(s) and I are fully committed to creating a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspectives, experiences, and identities. We urge each of you to contribute your unique perspectives to discussions of course questions, themes, and materials so that we can learn from them, and from each other. If you should ever feel excluded, or unable to fully participate in class for any reason, please let me know, or you may also submit anonymous written feedback to the Department of Political Science's Undergraduate Advisor. A staff member will bring these anonymous comments to my attention. Additional resources to support equity, diversity, and inclusion in our classroom, and beyond, may be found here: Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: 858.822.3542 | diversity@ucsd.edu | https://diversity.ucsd.edu/ https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/diversity/index.html https://regents.ucsd.edu/governance/policies/4400.html

**Classroom Comportment**
Courteous and a respect for different opinions, experiences and backgrounds is a foundational element of a diverse and civilized society. They are a necessary element of genuine education and open debate. UC San Diego is committed to the following "Principles of Community":

https://ucsd.edu/about/principles.html

Those who cannot play nice with others need a rethink. You will address my teaching staff appropriately. Students who cannot treat others politely will be referred to their college deans.

If you feel at any point that you have not been addressed or treated appropriately by myself or my teaching staff, please feel free to raise your concerns directly with me. You may also contact the Political Science Department to discuss the situation with the relevant staff member. You are of course encouraged to consider raising your concerns with OPHD. https://ophd.ucsd.edu