

U.S. Defense and Foreign Policy:
Nonproliferation and Weapons of Mass Destruction
IR 445
Fall Semester 2008
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INTRODUCTION

In the wake of September 11, 2001, fear of annihilation by weapons of mass destruction (WMD) has replaced national nightmares of international nuclear war. During the past decade, U.S. foreign policy and programs have increasingly focused on preventing the spread of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, technology and expertise among both state and non-state actors. A collection of international treaties and cooperative agreements, including the Treaty of Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction [referred to as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)], and the Missile Technology Control Regime serves as the cornerstone to U.S. policies and programs to prevent the spread of the threat of WMD. This course is designed to familiarize students with major issues regarding proliferation, the strengths and weaknesses of international nonproliferation agreements, and U.S. nonproliferation policies and programs. The course will also provide students with insight into the process by which our government (including legislative and executive branch agencies) formulates, debates, and implements nonproliferation policies and programs.

In general the course addresses the following questions which are essential to understanding the threats and challenges posed by proliferation in today's international system:

1. How big of a problem is proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in today's world? What do we really know about the rate and nature of international proliferation? How good is our intelligence?
2. What are weapons of mass destruction? What are they capable of doing? What's their potential effectiveness and what are their limitations?
3. How can weapons of mass destruction be delivered to a target? How can we defend ourselves?
4. Where are weapons of mass destruction and related technology and expertise located?

5. What are the principal elements of today's international cooperative efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction? What are the strengths and weaknesses of treaties and agreements?

6. What are the major nonproliferation problems facing the international community today? What are the possible approaches and solutions to those problems?

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To familiarize students with the key issues and background information regarding the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction and related technology and expertise.

2. To encourage critical thinking and analysis about U.S. and international policies and programs designed to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

3. To foster a "problem solving" approach to the challenges of nonproliferation.

4. To inform students about the structure and functions of various governmental components with oversight responsibility for nonproliferation programs and policies. To familiarize students with the policy process by which policies and programs are formulated, debated, managed, and implemented.

5. To improve students' written and oral skills applicable to the professional policymaking workplace.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Joe Cirincione, ed. "Deadly Arsenals: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Threats", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE WEBSITES

Topics covered in this course may change status on a daily basis. I encourage students to monitor some very useful websites frequently to stay up to date (or even get ahead of the professor) on nonproliferation issues.

Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org

Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute, www.cns.miis.edu

Chemical and Biological Arms Control Institute, www.cbaci.org

Nonproliferation Education Center, www.npec.org

Nuclear Threat Initiative (Ted Turner's nonproliferation organization)

www.nti.org

Russian American Nuclear Security Advisory Council (great for all US Russian nonproliferation programs www.ransac.org
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace----homeland of our textbooks. www.ceip.org
Center for Defense Information----good missile defense segment www.cdi.org
Arms Control Association www.armscontrol.org
Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation:
www.armscontrolcenter.org/cbw

You'll find up to date commentary on all the nonproliferation issues on many of those websites as well as primary resource documents assigned for the class.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Please read the attached Guidelines which summarize my grading criteria. By articulating my grading standards, I hope to minimize the ambiguity inherent in the grading process to our mutual advantage. Students should be able to know exactly what is required to achieve different grade levels of performance. I hope these guidelines will be helpful to you. Application of those standards will be applied in the following proportions to obtain an overall grade for the course.

Short written assignments: 30%
Midterm exam: 20%
Class participation and attendance: 30%
Final exam 20%

CLASS SCHEDULE:

(Except for first week, readings should be completed prior to Tuesday's classes for each week.)

Week of August 26-28. Course Introduction. Syllabus overview. Status and trends of proliferation. What do we really know? Read *Deadly Arsenals*, pp. 3-25 National Intelligence Estimate on Weapons of Mass Destruction. Key Judgements from October 2002 NIE. Related information at CIA webpage at www.cia.gov. Also read pp. 1-32 <http://intelligence.senate.gov/iraqreport2.pdf> and related press briefing.

Week of September 2-4. What are Weapons of Mass Destruction?---Part I: Nuclear. Read *Deadly Arsenals*, pp. 45-55. Also read www.fas.org/nuke/intro/nuke/ (select design, production, testing, effects.)

Week of September 9-11. What are Weapons of Mass Destruction?---Part II: Chemical, Biological, Radiological. Read *Deadly Arsenals*, pp. 57-82. Google and read Congressional Research Service Report by Sharon Squassoni, "Nuclear Biological and Chemical Weapons and Missiles: Status and Trends",

January 2005. Also Google and read Testimony of Dr. Henry Kelly on radiological weapons before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in March 2002.

Week of September 16-18. Means of Delivery. Missile Proliferation and other threats. Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 83-118. Review Squassoni report.

Week of September 23-25. Regional Proliferation Concerns: Russia and China. Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 121-188. Go to www.nti.org, select country profiles for Russia and China.

Week of September 30 - October 2. Regional Proliferation Concerns: India and Pakistan. Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 220-258. www.nti.org, country profiles India and Pakistan. Also, www.armscontrol.org, material on US-India nuclear cooperation deal.

Week of October 7-9. Regional Proliferation Concerns: Israel and Iran. Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 259-275 and 294-313. Read http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Qadeer_Khan. www.nti.org, country profiles, Israel and Iran.

Week of October 14-16. Regional Proliferation Concerns: North Korea. Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 278-293. www.nti.org, country profile North Korea. Access and browse <http://cns.miis.edu/research/korea>. Distribute Mid Term Exam on Tuesday, October 14. Due on Tuesday, October 21 in class.

Week of October 21-23. Nonproliferation Regime----Part I. NPT, CTBT, Moscow Treaty. Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 27-43, 421-426, 451-456. Google Moscow Treaty and Start II Treaty. Read Text.

Week of October 28-30. Nonproliferation Regime----Part II. IAEA, NSG, CTR Programs, NWFZ, Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (<http://cns.miis.edu/research/globalpart/>) Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 443-450. Google IAEA. Read www.ransac.org for CTR program overview.

Week of November 4-6 Nonproliferation Regime----Part III. CWC, BWC, Geneva Protocols. Read Deadly Arsenals, pp. 427-441. www.cwc.gov and wikipedia Geneva Protocols. Also go to <http://disarmament.un.org/wmd/bwc> - read 5th Review Conference Final Document.

Week of November 11-13. Defending Ourselves: PSI, Missile Defense, Homeland Security. Access www.cdi.org, search "missile defense" under "programs", browse. Go to www.state.gov/t/np/ris/other/34726.htm. Also access www.dhs.gov, browse.

Week of November 18-20 and 25. Resource Allocation Priority Exercise.
Thanksgiving Recess.

Week of December 2-4. Current Nonproliferation Issues and Challenges. Access www.ceip.org, search "Universal Compliance: A Strategy for Nuclear Security", read pp. 1-96. Go to www.cns.miis.edu. Review "features". and browse. Final exam will be distributed in class, Thursday, December 4..

Final Exam----Take Home Exam. Guidelines and deadline will be announced in class.