The Politics of Nuclear Weapons

Course Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION
Course Title: Selected Topics in Government & Politics: The Politics of Nuclear Weapons
Course Number and Section: PSCI 4396.501
Class Number: 2843
Term: Fall 2010
Meeting Time: Wednesday, and Friday, 7:00 PM – 9:45 PM
Meeting Location: Founders Building (FO), Room 2.112

INSTRUCTION INFORMATION
Instructor: Christopher Burk
Email: crb012000@utdallas.edu
Office Location: McDermott Library (MC), Room 3.228
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
None.

Course Description
This course is an intermediate level introduction to the history of nuclear weapons and their associated delivery systems. Most of the course will cover their development and use during World War II, the nuclear arms race between the US and the USSR, and efforts to control their proliferation. The course will also cover basic elements of nuclear strategies as well as the political factions influencing nuclear weapons policy in the United States and other countries. A small amount of technical information will also be covered to ensure that students have the background necessary to understand the weapons, the delivery systems, and related technologies.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
At the end of the semester, a successful student should
1. have a basic understanding of the history of the science and scientists who first produced nuclear weapons;
2. be aware of how and why the first nuclear weapons were built and used by the United States in World War II, and of why such weapons were not built by others at that time;
3. know a little bit about the way nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and associated technologies function, about the differences between nuclear and conventional weapons, and about why such technical matters are important when trying to understand the issues created by nuclear weapons and the efforts made since 1945 to control their proliferation;
4. have begun to explore the military and political roles played by nuclear weapons in the Cold War and the changes in those roles between 1945 and 1991;
5. be conscious of governmental and non-governmental efforts to prevent the use and to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
6. be able to describe the processes through which so-called “New Nuclear Nations” have acquired their weapons, and to appreciate the continuing attractiveness of nuclear weapons to powers of all sizes.

Required Textbooks and Materials
There are five required books for this course.

Title: Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons
Author: Joseph Cirincione
Publisher: Columbia University Press (2008)

Title: Hiroshima: The World's Bomb
Author: Andrew J. Rotter
Binding: Paperback
Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA (2009)
The Politics of Nuclear Weapons
Burk
Fall 2010

Course Syllabus

Title: Atomic Obsession: Nuclear Alarmism from Hiroshima to Al-Qaeda
Author: John E. Mueller
Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA (2009)

Title: Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis
Authors: Graham T. Allison and Philip Zelikow
Publisher: Longman; 2nd edition (1999)

Title: The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and its Dangerous Legacy
Author: David E. Hoffman
Publisher: Doubleday (2009)

The book by Joseph Cirincione is available electronically to registered students through the UT Dallas library as an e-book. The first four books are also available on reserve at the circulation book at the UT Dallas library. Please note that the second edition of the Allison & Zelikow book should be used. It substantially differs from the first edition.

Students will also be required to read a few selected articles from various journals and magazines. These articles will be available at the McDermott Library and/or online. The instructor will provide specific guidance on how to acquire access to the articles when necessary.

Online resources for useful material & news related to this course:

WMD 411 http://www.nti.org/f_wmd411/f_index.html
Arms Control Association http://www.armscontrol.org
Australia Group www.australiagroup.net
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists http://www.bullatomsci.org/
Center for Defense Information http://www.cdi.org/
Center for Strategic and International Studies http://www.csis.org/
Federation of American Scientists http://www.fas.org/
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) http://cns.miis.edu/index.htm
Nuclear Threat Initiative http://www.nti.org
Nuclear Suppliers Group http://www.nsg-online.org
Ploughshares Fund http://www.ploughshares.org/
Stimson Center http://www.stimson.org
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) http://www.sipri.se
Union of Concerned Scientists http://www.ucsusa.org/index.html
Grading Policy

The core requirements are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Four Quizzes, Best four scores on six quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Movie Analysis Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class. The course will meet just once a week. It is therefore in the best interest of each and every student to attend each class. Attendance will be taken in each class with a sign-in sheet. The determination of a student’s final course grade may be influenced by class attendance. While occasional absences are unavoidable, a pattern of poor class attendance will count against a student in determining the overall grade for the course unless the absences have been excused by the instructor.

Quizzes: Twenty (20) percent of the course grade will be determined by the grade earned on quizzes. Six (6) quizzes will be given during the course of the semester and the best four (4) scores of each individual student will determine the quiz score for the student. The lowest two quiz scores of each student will not be counted when determining student’s overall course grade. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced in advance. The quizzes will cover topics related to the course and will focus heavily on the assigned readings. Students are expected to stay current with the assigned readings. No make-up quizzes will be given. A student missing a quiz will receive a grade of zero for any missed quiz.

Quizzes and Exam Policies: Students are expected to complete the quizzes and tests individually and submit the results at the end of the allotted time. Students may not utilize any reading, books, notes, or electronic device while completing a quiz or an exam.

Make-up Exams: NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. No exceptions will be granted. All students are expected to take the final exam when it is offered (Monday, December 13). A student who misses the mid-term exam or the final exam will receive a zero for the exam(s) missed. If a student misses the mid-term exam, that student may elect to replace the grade on the mid-term exam with the optional research paper. For more details on the optional research paper, please see below. The research paper may not replace the grade of the final exam.

Papers: Papers are due at the beginning of the class period on the designated due date. The paper should be presented in 12 point Times New Roman font, be doubled spaced, and have margins of 1.00 inch on all sides. The paper must also include page numbers and proper citations. Students should provide proper footnote or endnotes as well as a corresponding full bibliography at the end of every paper submitted. Students should avoid using parenthetical referencing. Any student need assistance with formatting proper citations and/or a bibliography should seek assistance from a librarian or at the Learning Resource Center. Each student should submit both an electronic version of his or her paper via email as attached document (.doc) in Microsoft Word as well as a printed copy (stapled) of the paper. Any paper submitted after the specified time will be penalized one letter grade for every 24 hours (or portion thereof) between the original submission deadline and the instructor’s reception of the student’s paper.

Movie Analysis Paper: Each student will submit a paper analyzing one full-length motion picture. Each student will select one movie from a list distributed by the instructor of the course and analyze it according to the directions provided by the instructor. The length of the paper should be 3-5 pages, excluding the bibliography. Students should draw on the readings and lectures of the course as well as outside materials when crafting this paper. Students should utilize high quality sources and provide the appropriate citations and a full biography covering all sources used.

Optional Research Paper: A student may elect to replace the grade on the mid-term exam with a research paper. The research paper may not replace the grade on the final exam. The length of the paper should be 10-15 pages, excluding the bibliography. A student electing to exercise this option must submit a one page proposal describing the topic and the arguments of the paper to the instructor via email on or before November 17 and gain the instructor’s official approval of the paper topic. Any and all concerns or questions regarding the research paper and revisions of the paper topic should be presented to the instructor by November 24. The research paper topic must be approved by the instructor in advance or the paper will not be accepted. The final version of the research paper is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, December 1. Only if a student’s grade on the optional research paper is higher than the grade earned by the student on the mid-term will the student’s mid-term exam grade be replaced by the grade on the optional research paper. In other words, a student’s course grade can only be improved by completing the optional research paper. This paper is a research intensive project. Students should utilize high quality sources and provide the appropriate citations and a full biography covering all sources used.

Incomplete Grade Policy
As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester’s end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

**Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UT Dallas publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V. Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university’s Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents’ Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

**Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one’s own work or material that is not one’s own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the internet, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university’s policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

**Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student’s UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UT Dallas student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at UT Dallas provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

**Field Trip Policies, Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course. No required travel is currently associated with this particular course.
Withdrawal from Class
The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level course. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Resources to Help You Succeed
The University offers assistance to students in many areas. Please do not feel stigmatized by using these resources. Good students become better students by using them. Learning Resource Center offers a variety of programs to help you, ranging from individual tutoring to review classes for the GRE, GMAT, etc. They are located in MC2.402 and can be reached at (972) 883-6707.

Student Grievance Procedures
Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university’s Handbook of Operating Procedures. In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called “the respondent”). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent’s School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean’s decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the deal will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Disability Services
The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days
The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and
The Politics of Nuclear Weapons

Fall 2010

completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

**These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the course instructor.**

**Assignments & Academic Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS &amp; READINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td><strong>Course Introduction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td><strong>TOPIC: Modern Warfare, Atomic Physics, the Race for the Atomic Bomb, and Use at Hiroshima &amp; Nagasaki</strong>&lt;br&gt;Readings:&lt;br&gt;● Rotter: Introduction &amp; Chapters 1-6&lt;br&gt;● Cirincione: Introduction &amp; Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td><strong>TOPIC: Cuban Missile Crisis, Part II.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Readings:&lt;br&gt;● Allison &amp; Zelikow, Introduction &amp; Chapters 3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Politics of Nuclear Weapons
Burk
Fall 2010

DATE TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS & READINGS

10/13 TOPIC: Nuclear Arsenals & Nuclear Strategy from Johnson to Reagan
Readings:
- Hoffman: Prologue, Introduction, Chapters 1-3 and 6-10

10/20 TOPICS: End of the Cold War and collapse of the Soviet Union: Reagan & Bush 41 & Clinton
Readings:
- Hoffman: Chapters 11-12, 14, 16-19, 21, and Epilogue

11/07 TOPIC: Nuclear Proliferation
Readings:
- Cirincione: Chapters 4-8
- Rotter: Chapter 8
- Mueller: Chapters 6-11

11/10 SHORT ESSAY DUE
TOPIC: Nuclear Developments during the Administrations of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush
Readings:
PROPOSAL DUE FOR OPTIONAL PAPER  

TOPIC: Nuclear Terrorism  
Readings:  
- Mueller, Chapters 12-15

NO CLASS.  
LAST DAY FOR QUESTIONS & PROPOSAL REVISIONS FOR OPTIONAL PAPER (VIA EMAIL)

OPTIONAL PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS  
TOPICS: The Obama’s Administrations Nuclear Weapons Policy and Future Paths  
Course Review and Class Evaluations  
Readings:  
- Jan Lodel et al., “Second Strike,” Foreign Affairs, Volume 89, Number 2 (March/April 2010), pages 146-152.  

FINAL EXAM

**These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the course instructor.**