The Politics of Nuclear Weapons (Online)
Political Science 340
Section 201

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University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Summer 2016
Prerequisite: Junior Standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We will focus on the nuclear rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and on how this rivalry transformed the nature and conduct of world politics. We will discuss nuclear arsenals and force structure, nuclear jargon, nuclear ethics and psychology, arms control, strategic and civil defense, and the effects of a possible nuclear exchange. In addition, we will also address strategies of deterrence and nuclear weapons decision making. We will also examine the implications stemming from both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. Finally, we will discuss the role nuclear weapons play in world politics in the post-Cold War era.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


There will also be extra readings available through the D2L web site in the “Course Overheads and Extra Readings” section under the “Content” heading.

The required texts are available in the university bookstore or from a number of online vendors. I have included links below to the publishers of the texts and to Amazon. You can buy your textbooks through any source you choose, but be sure you get the right books. Let me know if you have any problems finding the books. Also, be aware that sometimes online vendors are unreliable in shipping books in a timely manner—depending on the vendor and the mode of shipping you choose. You will need the textbook for the online quizzes and “I haven’t received my textbook yet’ won’t work as an excuse.

http://www.sloanpublishing.com/beckman (Beckman)
www.Amazon.com

You are expected to keep up with the reading. Getting an A or B in this class is highly contingent on reading the assigned chapters and keeping up with what's going on in and out of class. I also highly recommend reading a quality newspaper. Most are available on-line via the
Internet. If nothing else, at least access the various news sites on the Internet so you know what is going on in the world from day to day.

FLOW OF THE CLASS: For our purposes in this short Summer semester, a class day will start at 12:00 AM and end at 11:59 PM. Each day, I will post lecture outline notes for the topic that day. These materials, combined with the reading from the textbook and other sources, will constitute the materials for that day. You are to read the assigned chapters, and access the lecture notes. On the day when you are taking an exam, I will temporarily take down the lecture notes from the course web site.

GRADES: Your grade will be based on two exams, and five quizzes. The calculation of your grade will be determined as follows:

MIDTERM EXAM: 35% (Saturday, June 11)
FINAL EXAM: 45% (Saturday, June 25)
QUIZZES: 20%

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94%-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>87%-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>77%-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>67%-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>0%-59%</td>
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EXAMS: Both of the exams will cover material included in the assigned readings and class notes. The midterm exam will include material covered up to that exam date. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive. Both exams may include true/false statements, multiple choice questions, matching sections, identifications, short answers, and essay questions. Both the midterm and final exam will be administered online in the Quizzes section of the D2L site on the dates indicated above.

You can take the midterm and final exam at any time during the time it is available. But you will only have one opportunity to take it – once you begin the exam, you must finish it. You cannot start an exam, and then enter again at a later time to finish it. You should also make sure you have a secure connection before you begin. You will have 90 minutes to complete the midterm and final exams so be sure to set aside the whole time allotted to take the exam once you begin. Also, since you have a limited amount of time to take the exam, you cannot look up answers as you do the exam. Do not fall prey to this temptation, thinking that since you are not in a proctored classroom that you can simply “look up” the correct answers. You should study and prepare for these exams in the same way you would any closed-book exam. Also, be sure to complete the exam on your own, i.e., academic dishonesty in any form will result in a failing grade in the course and appropriate disciplinary action. Moreover, all answers for the test should be in your own words. Do not simply cut and paste or copy answers from the course notes, text or any other source, including the internet. A word of warning: I know what internet answers look like. To facilitate answers in your own words, I will temporarily close off access to the course notes on the course web site on the day of the exams.

Absolutely no makeup exams will be given without a university-approved excuse. If you have a university-approved excuse and miss an exam, get in touch with me immediately,
beforehand if possible. If you miss an exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam to schedule a make-up or you will not be allowed to take a make-up under any circumstances.

QUIZZES: I will administer five quizzes designed to help you focus on the assigned reading—specifically, the Beckman et al. text. All questions in the quizzes will come solely from the assigned reading, i.e., NOT from the lecture notes. These quizzes will not be difficult (unless you have not read) and are designed to help you prepare for the exams. The quizzes will be available on the course web site and will each be worth 20 points. The quizzes will each contain ten multiple-choice questions. You can take a quiz at any time on the day it is available. However, you will only have one opportunity to take it—once you begin the quiz, you will have 10 minutes to complete it and you must finish it. You cannot start a quiz and then enter again at a later time to finish it. Moreover, you must take the assigned quiz on the assigned date—take the practice quiz first to familiarize yourself with how it’s done. Again, since you have a limited amount of time to take the quiz, you cannot look up answers as you take the quiz. You should read and prepare for these quizzes in the same way you would any closed-book in-class quiz and be prepared to complete the quiz on your own. The schedule of quizzes is as follows:

Quiz #1: Thursday, June 2 – Beckman chapter 2
Quiz #2: Wednesday, June 8 – Beckman chapter 1
Quiz #3: Tuesday, June 14 – Beckman chapters 4, 5
Quiz #4: Tuesday, June 21 – Beckman chapters 8, 9
Quiz #5: Thursday, June 23 – Beckman chapters 10, 11

DISCUSSION FORUM: I will also routinely post discussion questions or statements as a way to get everyone thinking about some of the material in the course. The discussion questions are simply a way to help get everyone involved in the class, and to encourage more in-depth thinking about various topics.

Keep in mind that all responses and postings on the Discussion forum should follow the rules of behavior we would observe in the face-to-face classroom. Your responses to the discussion questions should address the question itself. When you respond to someone else’s post, do so with respect and thought. Personal attacks or excessive opinion-spouting will not be tolerated. You should engage each other’s ideas and respond in a thoughtful, informed manner.

A NOTE ON POSTING: When writing your answers to discussion questions or responses to other students’ postings, it is generally easier to write in your regular word-processing program and then copy/paste the text into the discussion forum rather than writing directly on the screen in the discussion. This procedure protects you from losing what you have written if your connection is interrupted.

General Course Information: 1) Please remember that I will be sending everything to your UWM email accounts. If you do not regularly use that account, make sure you check it or forward it to an account you do use regularly. 2) When you need to email a personal question to me, send it to sredd@uwm.edu.
UWM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has several policies concerning students with disabilities, accommodations for religious observances, students called to active military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, academic misconduct, and so forth available for you to read using the following link: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf. I strongly encourage you to access this link and familiarize yourself with these policies and procedures.

TOPICS, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAM SCHEDULE: (The following is a tentative outline for Summer, including topics, reading assignments, and exams. Students should have read the assigned material by the date shown)

Tuesday, 5/31:
• Class Introduction and getting to know each other

Wednesday, 6/1:
Part I: Nuclear Basics
• Chronology and Jargon of the Nuclear Arms Race
  o Beckman

Thursday, 6/2:
• Chronology and Jargon of the Nuclear Arms Race (cont.)

Friday, 6/3:
• Chronology and Jargon of the Nuclear Arms Race (cont.)

Monday, 6/6:
Part II: Who Had/Has What and What Did/Do They Have?
• Force Structures (Past, Present, and Future?)

Tuesday, 6/7:
• Force Structures (Past, Present, and Future?) (cont.)
Wednesday, 6/8:

Part III: Truth and Consequences

- Effects of Nuclear Weapons
  - Beckman 1

Thursday, 6/9:

- Effects of Nuclear Weapons (cont.)

Friday, 6/10:

- Effects of Nuclear Weapons (cont.)

Saturday, 6/11:

- MIDTERM EXAM

Monday, 6/13:

Part IV: Nuclear Weapons and National Security

- Strategies of Deterrence (Including Scenarios and Targeting)
  - Beckman 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Tuesday, 6/14:

- Strategies of Deterrence (Including Scenarios and Targeting) (cont.)

Wednesday, 6/15:

- Strategic and Civil Defense

Thursday, 6/16:

- Arms Control and Disarmament
  - Reread Beckman, pp. 141-146, and 195-199


Friday, 6/17:
- Arms Control and Disarmament (cont.)

Monday, 6/20:
- Nuclear Proliferation and Nonproliferation—The Trouble with Tribbles
  o Beckman 8, 9
  o S&W 1-7

Tuesday, 6/21:
- Nuclear Proliferation and Nonproliferation—The Trouble with Tribbles (cont.)

Wednesday, 6/22:
Part V: A Moral Dilemma
- Nuclear Ethics and Psychology
  o Beckman 10, 11

Thursday, 6/23:
- Nuclear Ethics and Psychology (cont.)

Friday, 6/24:
- Nuclear Futures
  o Beckman 12, 13, 14

Saturday, 6/25:
- **FINAL EXAM**