Political Science 377  
Nuclear Weapons and World Politics  
Andrew Kydd  
Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Course Description

This course will introduce the student to the politics of nuclear weapons. The course will cover the origins of nuclear weapons, the reasons states seek them, the strategies developed for their use, the consequences of their development, and efforts to control and reverse their spread. In addressing these issues we will study a variety of countries, including North Korea, India and Pakistan, Israel, Iraq and Iran.

Contact Information

Professor: Andrew Kydd  
Email: kydd@wisc.edu  
Office: 322c North Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Teaching Assistant: Timothy Williams  
Email: tvwilliams3@wisc.edu  
Office: 122 North Hall  
Office Hours: Monday, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Readings

There will be three books available at the bookstore for the course.


The rest of the readings are available on-line at the learn@uw website for the course.
Discussion Sections

Class participation will be structured around weekly debates on topics that are related to the readings for the week. Participation will be graded on a scale from zero to four, with two points for attendance, one point for contribution to the discussion and an additional point for particularly active or constructive participation.

The Research Paper

Each student will write a research paper of around 4,000 words. The paper should take a question or topic we cover in class, present the relevant theoretical arguments, and then consider a specific empirical case in light of these arguments. For instance, the question could be, “does nuclear proliferation make war more or less likely?” and the case could be the relationship between India and Pakistan. Another example could be, “will any more countries voluntarily give up nuclear weapons?” and the cases could be France and Great Britain. The papers need to start with a topic from the course and the readings related to that topic, but must then make use of at least three substantial sources not on the syllabus.

You should start thinking about your research paper as soon as possible. Scan down the syllabus to look for topics that are interesting and do a little advance reading to investigate them. In order to make sure that your paper is off to a good start, a one page summary of your project is due at the time noted on the course schedule. This should identify the topic and question you wish to ask, the readings from the syllabus that are relevant, and some ideas on additional sources to look at. Your TA will provide feedback on the summary that will help refine your research plan.

All written work must have a title page including the title of the document (your project title), your name, the date, the name of the class, the professor and TA’s names, and the type of assignment it is, (one page prospectus, or final paper). The pages must be numbered. References are to be done with American Political Science Association (APSA) system. Check out the writing center for information: http://www.writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html. Make sure to cite specific page numbers so the reader can easily find the source for what you are saying. The last page in the document should be the reference list. For information on writing and formatting references, see the UW Writing Center website, particularly, their writer’s handbook, where you can find information about proper citing.


All documents must be submitted to the appropriate dropbox on the learn@uw site for the course. The name of the document must be your last name, followed by 1 for the paper proposal and 2 for the final draft, followed by the relevant document suffix. For instance, Smith’s proposal would be named Smith1.docx.
The papers will be due at the end of the semester at the time noted on the course schedule. Details on the grading criteria can be found in a separate document called *Final Paper Grading Standards*.

**Exams**

The exams will consist of a number of questions that require written answers of a few paragraphs. There will be more questions on the final exam than on the midterm, and the final will be cumulative, in that the first half of the course will receive some coverage as well as the second half.

The exams will be closed book.

The midterm will be in the usual classroom at the usual class time, on the date in the course schedule.

The final exam location has not yet been scheduled, an announcement will be made in class when we find out.

**Grading**

The final grade will be based on the following five elements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Paper Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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The grading scheme is the following.

- A 93-100
- AB 88-92
- B 83-87
- BC 78-82
- C 70-77
- D 60-69
- F 0-59

Numerical scores will be rounded to integers using the usual convention, so that 87.5 will be rounded up to 88 and therefore get an AB, whereas 87.4 will be rounded down to 87 and get a B.
**Academic Integrity**

The papers and exams in this course must be the student’s work alone. Information on how to properly cite sources and avoid plagiarism can be found on the UW Writing Center website. Exams are closed book. Any suspected cases of plagiarism or cheating on exams will be referred to the Dean of Students office.

**Learning Disabilities**

Students with learning disabilities should contact the McBurney Center for guidance.

[http://mcburney.wisc.edu](http://mcburney.wisc.edu)
## Course Schedule: Fall Semester 2015

Classroom: Ingraham 222

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module 1:</strong> Nuclear Weapons and How to Get Them</td>
<td>Lecture 1.1 Introduction</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>September</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No Class (Labor Day)</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lecture 1.2 Physics</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Lecture 1.3 Aid and Bureaucracy</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module 2:</strong> Why States Build Nuclear Weapons</td>
<td>Lecture 2.1 Three Models</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Lecture 2.2 India Pakistan</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Lecture 2.3 Spiral vs. Deterrence</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Lecture 2.4 North Korea</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Lecture 2.5 Unit Level Theories</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Lecture 2.6 Argentina and Brazil</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module 3:</strong> The Consequences Of Nuclear Proliferation</td>
<td>Lecture 3.1 Arms Races and War</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>October</td>
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<td>Lecture 3.2 Sagan/Waltz Debate Paper Topic Due</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Lecture 3.3 India and Pakistan</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Lecture 3.4 Iraq</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Lecture 3.5 China</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Lecture 3.6 Nuclear Terrorism</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong> (In Class)</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module 4:</strong> Nuclear Strategy</td>
<td>Lecture 4.1 The First Use</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>November</td>
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<td>Lecture 4.2 Dr. Strangelove</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Lecture 4.3 Nuclear Strategy</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Lecture 4.4 Primacy/New States</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Lecture 4.5 Missile Defense</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Lecture 4.6 The Nuclear Taboo</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Lecture 5.1 Arms Control Theory</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td><strong>Module 5:</strong> Arms Control</td>
<td>No Class (Thanksgiving)</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>December</td>
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<td>Lecture 5.2 Superpower AC</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Lecture 5.3 NPT and the CTBT</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Lecture 5.4 FSU and South Africa</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lecture 5.5 Libya and Iran</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lecture 5.6 Nuclear Abolition</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Paper Due</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>Time: Noon</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Time: 5:05 pm to 7:05 pm</td>
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<td>Location: TBA</td>
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Lectures and Readings:

Module 1: Nuclear Weapons and How to Get Them

Lecture 1.1 Introduction

Lecture 1.2 Nuclear Weapons

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 3

Lecture 1.3 Scientific Cooperation and Bureaucratic Competence


Module 2: Why States Build Nuclear Weapons

Lecture 2.1 Three Models


Lecture 2.2 Case: India and Pakistan

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 11, 12

Ganguly, Sumit. 1999. *India's Pathways to Pokhran II: The Prospects and Sources of New Delhi's Nuclear Weapons Program*. In Brown et al.

Lecture 2.3  The Spiral Model vs. the Deterrence Model


Lecture 2.4  Case: North Korea

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 14.


Lecture 2.5  The Unit Level Perspective


Lecture 2.6  Cases: Argentina and Brazil

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapters 19 and 20.


Module 3: The Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation

Lecture 3.1  Have Arms Races Caused War?

Lecture 3.2  Is Nuclear Proliferation Good or Bad?


Lecture 3.3  India and Pakistan

Sagan and Waltz, Chapters 3-5.


Lecture 3.4  Preventive War I: Iraq

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 17


Lecture 3.5  Preventive War II: China

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 7


Lecture 3.6  Terrorism


Module 4: Nuclear Strategy: Use, Non-Use, Deterrence and Defense

Lecture 4.1  The First Use


Lecture 4.2  Dr. Strangelove and Nuclear Deterrence

Movie: Dr. Strangelove

Lecture 4.3  Classical Nuclear Strategy


Lecture 4.4  Nuclear Primacy, New Nuclear States


Lecture 4.5  National Missile Defense

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 5


Lecture 4.6  Taboo or Not Taboo?

Module 5: Arms Control

Lecture 5.1  Arms Control Theory


Lecture 5.2  Superpower Arms Control


Lecture 5.3  The NPT and CTBT

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 2, Appendices A, H


Lecture 5.4  Giving up the Bomb: FSU, South Africa

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapters 18, 21


Lecture 5.5  Libya and Iran

*Deadly Arsenals*, Chapter 15, 16


Lecture 5.6  Nuclear Abolition


