ARMS CONTROL AND NONPROLIFERATION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES
BIOD 709-001
Schar School of Policy and Government
Biodefense Program
George Mason University
Time: Tuesdays, 4:30 – 7:20pm
Room: ARLVM 313, Arlington Campus

Instructor contact information:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
The United States and many other countries have identified the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as the gravest threat to international peace and national security, but the international efforts to slow, halt, or reverse the spread of these weapons and their means of delivery have been under intense strain in recent years. The course explores these nonproliferation regimes and the many challenges they face. To bring the real world into the classroom, the class will develop recommendations for a comprehensive review of one of the newer initiatives, i.e., United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), that the instructor will share with representatives from several national governments and the United Nations as they plan the 3rd Comprehensive Review of the resolution in 2020.

Sequentially, after a brief consideration of the current crises facing the regimes and getting started on the class project, we will review traditional approaches to arms control and nonproliferation that, in the next part of the course, we will contrast with several new multilateral initiatives, born out of the increasing skepticism related to implementation and enforcement of various treaty regimes in the aftermath of the Cold War, including efforts by the Bush, Obama and Trump administrations. The final part of the course will concentrate on the challenges that remain in spite of these new approaches.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course is designed to help students become:
- Familiar with the important differences between Cold War and post-Cold War approaches to arms control and nonproliferation policy initiatives;
- Appreciate the critical differences between theory and practice in combating proliferation challenges;
• Critically appraise post-Cold War initiatives to stanch the spread of WMD and their means of delivery; and
• Be better prepared to communicate policy formulations related to course content both in writing and orally.

STUDENT COURSE REQUIREMENTS

• Participate regularly in class discussions while demonstrating that they have completed required readings in advance of each session, including preparing and delivering at least two oral briefings for the class on a reading selection, for 20% of the final grade.
• Participate in the group project designed to produce a group policy memo and briefing on recommendations for conducting the 3rd Comprehensive Review of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Starting in Week 3, part of each week’s class time will be used to discuss the group project, including the development of a group project contract.
  o In Week 9, each student will submit a talking points memo for their agency, accounting for 20% of the final grade.
  o The final group policy memo presentation will be delivered in class on Week 13 and account for 20% of the final grade, of which half (10%) will come from peer evaluations.
• Write a final research paper, due December 13, 2019 before midnight for 40% of final grade. Students will write a research paper on a topic related to the course. Guidelines on topic selection will be posted on Blackboard on week 3. Papers must be prepared in proper scholarly style with clear lines of argumentation, supporting analysis, and the use of citations to support the argument. Research topics require extensive research. It is therefore advised to start as early as possible.

GRADING POLICY

Students can accumulate up to 200 points.
• Class and Blackboard discussions and assignments: 40 points (20%)
• Individual Agency Talking Points Memo: 40 points (20%)
• Group Memo and Briefing: 40 points (20%)
• Final research paper: 80 points (40%)

Late submissions of assignments will decrease grade by 10% per day, unless a prior agreement has been made for exceptional circumstances.

GRADING SCHEMA

A+ = 200 points; A = 175 – 199; A- = 150 – 174; B+ = 135 – 149; B = 115 – 134; B- = 100 – 114; C = 75 – 99; F = < 75 points
LIBRARIAN
Should you need help to find course material or sources for your research assignments, Kimberly MacVaugh (kmacvaugh@gmu.edu) is the Schar School librarian and she has put together a very useful Biodefense infoguide for our students: https://infoguides.gmu.edu/biodefense

BLACKBOARD
We will make regular use of Blackboard during this course, including its group conferencing features, for much of the course content, including the syllabus, readings, and assignments. In addition, I have created an “Ask the Instructor” discussion thread for any questions you may have about the course. IT Services has several tools for using Blackboard if you need them [See https://its.gmu.edu/service/blackboard-courses/]

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & INFORMATION

Academic Integrity and the Honor Code
Students must be responsible for their own work, and students and faculty must take on the responsibility of dealing explicitly with violations. This tenet is a foundation of university culture. Faculty in the Schar School have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty and will strictly enforce Mason’s Honor Code. The Honor Code requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. Examples of plagiarism include quoting a source word for word without using quotation marks and proper citations or copy-pasting extracts from various sources without quotation marks and proper citations. You can find the Honor Code and get Academic Integrity training at https://oai.gmu.edu/.

Academic Inclusivity and Student Conduct
This course embodies the perspective that we all have differing perspectives and ideas and we each deserve the opportunity to share our thoughts. Therefore, we will conduct our discussions with respect for those differences. That means, we each have the freedom to express our ideas, but we should also do so keeping in mind that our colleagues deserve to hear differing thoughts in a respectful manner, i.e. we may disagree without being disagreeable. See http://diversity.gmu.edu/. In addition, all students are expected to abide by the 2019-2020 Code of Student Conduct.

Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me at the start of the semester and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. [See http://ds.gmu.edu]. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

Writing Center
The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they
work to construct and share knowledge through writing. [See https://writingcenter.gmu.edu]. You can now sign up for an Online Writing Lab (OWL) session just like you sign up for a face-to-face session in the Writing Center, which means YOU set the date and time of the appointment!

*Counseling and Psychological Services*

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. [See https://caps.gmu.edu/].

*Diversity, Religious Holidays*

Please refer to George Mason University’s calendar of religious holidays and observations. [See https://ulife.gmu.edu/religious-holiday-calendar/]. It is the student’s responsibility to speak to the instructor in advance should their religious observances impact their participation in class activities and assignments.

**GENERAL CLASS POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Please turn off cell phones, pagers, and other communicative devices stow them away and out of sight during class. You may use laptops or tablets (e.g., iPads) for the purpose of taking notes or working on a current classroom assignment. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g., gaming, email, chat, etc.) will result in a significant deduction to your participation grade.

**BOOKS AND ADDITIONAL COURSE MATERIAL**

Required books:


In addition to this book, the course will use a range of academic and policy articles, and other online sources:

- All academic journal articles are available on the library E-Journal collection: http://library.gmu.edu/.
- Other reading materials are available online (links provided), or on blackboard. If you have any issues finding the materials, please let me know as soon as you can.

Given the dynamic nature of this subject, additional readings may be assigned during the semester. I can give supplemental reading recommendations if requested.
CLASS SCHEDULE, READINGS AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (8/27/19)  
Course Overview, Introductions and a Little History  
Required Readings: Get started on next week’s readings  
Other Assignments (Read and review in class):  

Week 2 (9/3/19)  
Required Readings:  
Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following (no more than five minutes, covering the key takeaways and overall impressions):  

Other Assignments: DISCUSS YOUR INITIAL IDEA FOR A FINAL PAPER TOPIC WITH ME THIS WEEK.

PART I: COLD WAR COOPERATIVE APPROACHES

Week 3 (9/10/19) Nuclear Arms Control and Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime
Required Readings:
• Text of the NPT: http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt/text

Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:
• Read either Michael Hamel-Green, “Cooperating Regionally, Denuclearizing Globally: Multilateral Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Initiatives,” pp. 206-228 in Knopf, op. cit. or

Other Assignments: Review the 1540 Committee Website at https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/

Week 4 (9/17/19) The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
Required Readings:
• United Nations Office at Geneva, “About the Biological Weapons Convention,” including the text of the Convention, online at


Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:


Other Assignments: DUE DATE FOR FINAL PAPER TOPIC

Week 5 (9/24/19)  

Multilateral Export Control Regimes and WMD Black Markets

Required Readings:


Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:

- Review the website of the Australia Group at https://australiagroup.net/en/ or
- the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) at https://www.nuclearsuppliersgroup.org/en/ or
- the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) at https://mtcr.info/

**Week 6 (10/1/19)**  
The Chemical Weapons Convention  
Required Readings:
- Chemical Weapons Convention (read the introduction and the 24 articles of the treaty) at http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/cwc/text.

Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:

**PART II: POST COLD-WAR INITIATIVES**

**Week 7 (10/8/19)**  
UNSCR 1540 and PSI  
Required Readings:

Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:
• Review the PSI website at https://www.psi-online.info/ or
• Review the 1540 Committee website at https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/

Other Assignments: DUE DATE FOR FINAL PAPER INITIAL OUTLINE

Week 8 (10/15/19)  No class, Fall Break

Week 9 (10/22/19)  GICNT, ICSANT, A/CPPNM, and the Nuclear Security Summits

Required Readings:

Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:
• The website of the GICNT (http://www.gicnt.org/) or
• The website 2016 Nuclear Security Summit (http://www.nss2016.org/) or
• The unofficial consolidated text of the A/CPPNM, starting a page 11, online at https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/infcirc274r1m1.pdf or the ICSANT text or the text of the CTBT, either of which can be found online at http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ctbt/text or

Other Assignments: AGENCY TALKING POINTS MEMO DUE DATE

PART III: CONTINUING CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES
Week 10 (10/29/19) Means of Delivery – The Neglected Domain

Required Readings:


Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:

- Read and Review the Hague Code of Conduct website at https://www.hcoc.at/

Week 11 (11/5/19) State Challenges to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime: Iran and the DPRK

Required Readings:


Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:


Week 12 (11/12/19)  State and Non-State Challenges to the Biological and Chemical Weapons Nonproliferation Regimes

Required Readings:


Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:

• Daniel Horner (2016), “OPCW Pressing Syria on Declaration Gaps,” Arms Control Today, April, online at
Week 13 (11/19/19) Using Financial Sanctions

Required Readings:


Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:


Other Assignments:  CLASS PROJECT COMPLETION DATE
Week 14 (11/26/19)  Assistance, Cooperative Threat Reduction, and the Global Partnership

Required Readings:

Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:
- Review the 1540 Assistance Support Initiative Database at [https://1540assistance.stimson.org/](https://1540assistance.stimson.org/)

Week 15 (12/3/19)  Leadership and Governance in Nonproliferation

Required Readings:

Read and Brief the Class: Selected students will brief the class on one of the following:

Final (12/13/19) FINAL PAPER DUE DATE (before midnight)