**SEMESTER ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NONPROLIFERATION, AND COUNTERPROLIFERATION – NS 4280**

Naval Postgraduate School - Summer Quarter 2000
Tues. & Thurs. 8-10am – 387 Glasgow Hall

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**Seminar Overview**

This advanced research seminar examines the origins of nuclear weapons proliferation and its impact on U.S. national and international security. Its objective is to familiarize students with central debates and key cases, to think analytically and critically about the causes and consequences of nuclear proliferation, and to evaluate policy responses to impede, dissuade, and cope with the spread of nuclear weapons.

The seminar presumes familiarity with U.S. national security policy making, and requires as a prerequisite either prior participation in NS 3280 or permission of the instructor. Contrary to the description in the department catalogue, this course is neither classified nor does it directly address nuclear strategy and deterrence, which are covered in NS 3280.

The seminar is divided into four sections. The first introduces key issues, concepts, and the objectives of the course. It provides background on nuclear energy, materials, and weapons, and on the history of proliferation and nonproliferation. Section two presents the debate between deterrence optimists and proliferation pessimists regarding the strategic consequences of the spread of nuclear weapons. It engages this debate through a case study of the security and political effects of nuclear proliferation in South Asia. The third section examines the causes of nuclear proliferation. It begins with an overview of theoretical accounts for the phenomenon, and assesses their usefulness through historical and contemporary case studies of nuclear proliferation and restraint.

The fourth section surveys policy instruments available to impede and respond to nuclear proliferation, including both multilateral approaches and U.S. measures. These include international regimes and nuclear-weapon-free-zones, export controls, safeguards, security assurances, and counterproliferation measures. This section outlines the contradictory implications of different policy measures aimed at meeting challenges posed by proliferation, and the sometimes sharp trade-offs between nonproliferation and other international and U.S. foreign policy objectives. The seminar concludes with a case study of nuclear development on the Korean peninsula, which exemplifies these contradictions.

**Evaluation**

Your final grade will be based on four assignments: research paper 60%; paper briefing 15%; seminar introduction and discussion questions 15%; and seminar participation 10%. Extensions beyond the deadlines will be considered only for reasons that are beyond your control, such as family or other emergencies. Inform me in advance by email or telephone if for any reason you believe that you may require an extension.
Assignments

**Paper proposal and annotated bibliography.** Although it will not be included in the seminar grade, you are required to submit a two-page proposal in class on 27 July. It must present the research question to be addressed in your paper, and explain both the general argument that you will make and how you intend to support it. The annotated bibliography must include at least six sources other than class assignments and indicate how each will be used to support your argument.

**Research paper.** The core assignment for this seminar is a 20 to 25 page research paper on a topic germane to those examined in the seminar. Your paper will be evaluated against a high academic standard, in terms of its structure, argumentation, and references. You are expected to incorporate a wide range of sources beyond those required for the seminar. The text of the paper may be used for – but cannot be drawn from – a departmental thesis. The research paper is due the beginning of class on 21 September.

**Paper briefing.** Each student will present the executive summary of their research paper for discussion by seminar participants. The briefing will not exceed 15 minutes, and will be evaluated for clarity, conciseness, and professionalism. The briefing schedule will be designed collaboratively, so that student presentations may coincide with complementary topics in the course readings. For guidance on preparing effective briefings, it may be useful to review: Communications Consulting Group and Publications Department, RAND, *Guidelines for Preparing Briefings*, (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 1996) ([http://www.rand.org/publications/CP/CP269/CP269.pdf](http://www.rand.org/publications/CP/CP269/CP269.pdf)).

**Seminar introduction and discussion questions.** Each student will prepare and present introductory comments on a topic drawn from the course outline. This introduction will not exceed 10 minutes, and will be evaluated for clarity, conciseness, and professionalism. It should summarize the key themes examined in the readings, and must include a written set of 5 to 7 questions that will serve to guide the discussion for that seminar. These should formulate key questions, identify any important omissions, and highlight differences in analysis or interpretation among the readings.

**Seminar participation.** You are expected to participate actively in the seminar discussions, and to demonstrate that you have read and reflected upon the course readings.

**Required Materials**

You will receive an electronic copy of this syllabus by email to facilitate access to online materials. Two copies of all articles and book chapters are on reserve in Dudley Knox library. The seminar also requires four books available at the Navy Exchange bookstore:


Online Resources – Nuclear Proliferation

Many resources on the Internet may be useful in your research for the seminar paper. Most of the following provide links to additional sites relevant to proliferation studies.

Acronym Institute
http://www.acronym.org.uk/

Air War College – U.S. Air Force Counterproliferation Center

Arms Control Today
http://www.armscontrol.org/ACT/act.html

British American Security Information Council
http://www.basicint.org/

Brookings Institution – U.S. Nuclear Weapons Cost Study Project
http://www.brook.edu/FP/PROJECTS/NUCWCOST/RELATED.HTM

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – Non-Proliferation Project

Defense Threat Reduction Agency
http://www.dtra.mil/

DoD Counterproliferation Network
http://www.acq.osd.mil/cp/

Federation of American Scientists
http://www.fas.org/

Henry L. Stimson Center
http://www.stimson.org/

International Atomic Energy Agency
http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/

Institute for Science and International Security
http://www.isis-online.org/

International Relations and Security Network
http://www.isn.ethz.ch/

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory – Center for Global Security Research
http://cgsr.llnl.gov/

Monterey Institute of International Studies – Center for Nonproliferation Studies
http://cns.miis.edu/

National Defense University – Center for Counter Proliferation and Research
http://www.ndu.edu/inss/cecp/ccphp.html

National Security Archives
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/

Natural Resources Defense Council – "The Internet and the Bomb: A Research Guide"
http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear/nuguide/guinx.asp

Nonproliferation Policy Education Center
http://www.wizard.net/~npec/

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation – Nuclear Files
http://www.nuclearfiles.org/

Rhodes College – Security, Intelligence, and Military Links
http://www.rhodes.edu/ishmls/1Secure.html

Stanford University – Center for International Security and Cooperation
http://cisac.stanford.edu/

University of Georgia – Center for International Trade and Security,
http://www.uga.edu/~cits/

U.S. Department of State – formerly the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
http://www.acda.gov/
Section I: OVERVIEW

Week 1 (11 July; no seminar on 13 July)

Introduction


Nonproliferation Progress and Prospects


Week 2 (18 & 20 July)

Nuclear Technology and Forms of Nuclear Proliferation


History of Proliferation and Nonproliferation

Section II: STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

Week 3 (25 & 27 July)
*Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography due 27 July*

Deterrence Optimism and Proliferation Pessimism

Week 4 (1 & 3 August)
Strategic Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation in South Asia
Section III: CAUSES OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

**Week 5 (8 & 10 August)**

**Security, Technology, Politics, Ideas, and Economics**


**Section III: CASES OF NUCLEAR RESTRAINT AND PROLIFERATION**

**Nuclear Restraint and Rollback:**

**Australia**


**Indonesia**


**Sweden**


Argentina and Brazil

South Africa

Week 7 (22 & 24 August)
Contemporary Proliferation Challenges:
Israel

Iraq
Week 8 (29 & 31 August)

Iran


Soviet Nuclear Legacies


Section IV: POLICY RESPONSES

Week 9 (5 & 7 September)

Cooperative Threat Reduction


Multilateral Regimes and Export Controls


Week 10 (12 & 14 September)

Intelligence


Counterproliferation


**Week 11 (19 & 21 September)**  
**Research Paper due 21 September**

**Nuclear Precedents on the Korean Peninsula**


