Government 50—Nuclear Weapons
Summer 2006
Dartmouth College
Instructor: Professor Dan Reiter
MWF 10:00-11:05, X Hour Th 12:00-12:50 pm; Silsby 213
Email: Dan.Reiter@dartmouth.edu (after August 28, use dreiter@emory.edu)
Office: Silsby 210
Office hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30, or by appointment
Office Phone: (603) 646-3337

This class is a survey of nuclear weapons. Topics covered include the history of the development of the atomic bomb, the decisions to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the political effects of nuclear weapons, nuclear crises during the Cold War, norms and nuclear weapons, nuclear deterrence, nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism, current American nuclear strategy, and counterproliferation policies such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Bush Doctrine.

The class has a mixed lecture/discussion format. There is reading assigned for each class meeting. Each student must do the reading assigned for that day. All of the books listed below are available for purchase.

Books available for purchase:


Other readings are available either through Blackboard, can be downloaded from a publicly available website, or can be downloaded from the online library catalog.

Each student’s semester grade consists of the following:

Midterm exam: 20%
Final exam: 35%
Class participation/attendance: 10%
15-20 page research paper: 35%

Attendance Policies
Students are expected to be in class every day. Per the Dartmouth student handbook (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~deancoll/documents/handbook/rules-regs/class-absence.html), there are no excused absences for college sanctioned events like athletic competitions. However, if a student informs the instructor well in advance of an expected absence because of a college-sanctioned event, the instructor will likely count it as excused. Absences due to illness or extraordinary circumstances such as family crisis are likely to be excused, although if a student expects such an absence to be excused, he or she needs to contact the instructor immediately before or after the absence. If a student has eight or more unexcused absences, he or she will receive a 0 for his/her participation grade.

Other Issues

Do not bring cell phones to class. If you do bring a cell phone to class, turn it off. If a student’s cell phone rings during class, that student may be ejected from class for the remainder of that day. I will be leaving Hanover on August 28, but will be reachable via email after that date at dreiter@emory.edu. When I have finished grading final exams and papers, I will mail them back to Lisa Wallace of the Department of Government office staff. If you wish, you can pick up your final exam or paper from her in September.

*book available for purchase

June 23—Overview of Course

June 26—The Science of a Nuclear Weapon


June 28—Conventional Bombing in World War II


June 30, July 3—Hiroshima and Nagasaki


**July 5—Arms Races**


**July 7—Preventive Nuclear War During the Early Cold War**


**July 10—No Class**

**July 12-13—MAD (July 13 is Special X Hour Class)**


**July 14—Credibility of Commitments**


**July 17—Berlin**


**July 19— Cuban Missile Crisis**

**July 21— Nuclear Weapons and the Long Peace and Review for Midterm**


**July 24— Midterm**

**July 26— Norms Against Nuclear Weapons**


**July 28— Nuclear Weapons and the United States Today**


**July 31— Nuclear Proliferation, Causes**


**August 2-4— Nuclear Proliferation, Consequences**

August 7—No Class

August 9-10—Counterproliferation Diplomacy (August 10 is Special X Hour Class)


August 11-14—Nuclear Terrorism


Rough Draft of Paper Due in Class August 14

August 16, 17, 18—Bush Doctrine (August 17 is Special X Hour Class)


**Final Drafts of Paper Due in Class August 18**

**August 21 (No Class)**

**August 23—Review for Final Exam, Catchup**

**August 27, 11:30 am-2:30 pm—Final Exam**