Nuclear Nonproliferation and Security in the 21st Century
Spring Semester 2021
Dr. Azriel Bermant

Tel: 0506 507920
azrielb@tauex.tau.ac.il
Office Hours: Wednesday, 16:00-17:00

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

Course Description (Summary)
This course will examine the major international security challenges facing the world today. It will use both empirical and theoretical materials to study the evolution of these challenges, from the cold war to the present day. The course will analyze in depth the historical role played by nuclear deterrence and its contemporary relevance. The course will discuss the challenge that ballistic missile and nuclear proliferation poses to the stability of the international system and will include an analysis of Israel’s nuclear policy, the Iran nuclear weapons program, the tensions between Russia and the West, the rise of China, the conflict between India and Pakistan and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The course will include the screening of films to illustrate the themes under examination, guest lecturers and interactive class discussions.

Learning Outcomes
The course is designed to enable students to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the fast-paced developments in the field of international security.

Evaluation Criteria
**Full attendance is required**
25% - Course participation
25% - Mid-term multiple choice examination
50% - Final paper (1500-2500 words in length)

Absence Policy
Please note the TAU International Absence Policy as outlined on the next page.

Course Schedule

Week Beginning 21 February
Introduction: Course Overview: Nuclear Nonproliferation and Security
Nuclear Deterrence – Lessons from the Cold War (Part 1)
Week Beginning 28 February
Nuclear Deterrence – (Part 2)
The Changing International System and its Impact on Nuclear Proliferation

Week Beginning 7 March
The United States, NATO and Russia
Nuclear Deterrence and the Cuban Missile Crisis (Role-Playing Game)

Week Beginning 14 March
The Prospect of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East – The Case of Iran
Israel’s Deterrence Strategy

Week Beginning 21 March
Nuclear Weapons Proliferation - South Asia (India and Pakistan)
**********Mid-Term Multiple Choice Examination**********

Week Beginning 4 April
Nuclear Weapons Proliferation - The case of North Korea
Arms Control Negotiations in the Middle East

Week Beginning 11 April
Class Discussion: Is A Nuclear Iran Inevitable?

Week Beginning 18 April
Arms Control Regimes – Successes and Failures
Nuclear Disarmament

Week Beginning 25 April
The Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat
Missile Defence – A Threat to Strategic Stability?

Week Beginning 2 May
Missile Defence: The Case of Israel (Iron Dome, David’s Sling and the Arrow)
Guest Speaker: Uzi Rubin (To be confirmed)
Class Discussion: The Greatest Threats to International Security in the Coming Decade

Week Beginning 9 May
Nuclear Terrorism
The Future of Deterrence / Conclusions
Course Readings and/or Required Materials

Introduction: Course Overview: Nuclear Nonproliferation and Security

Nuclear Deterrence – Lessons from the Cold War (Part 1)

Nuclear Deterrence – (Part 2)
  • John Mueller, “Nuclear Weapons Don’t Matter But Nuclear Hysteresia Does”, Foreign Affairs, October 2018

The Changing International System and its Impact on Nuclear Proliferation
  • John Mearsheimer, “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War”, The Atlantic, August 1990 (optional)

The United States, NATO and Russia
  • Strobe Talbott, “U.S.-Russia arms control was possible once—is it possible still?”, Brookings Institution, December 12, 2017
  • https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/12/12/u-s-russia-arms-control-was-possible-once-is-it-possible-still/

Nuclear Deterrence and the Cuban Missile Crisis (Role-Playing Game)
  • Graham Allison, “The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50”, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2012.

The Prospect of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East – The Case of Iran

Tel Aviv University International
Carte Building, Room 108, Tel Aviv 6997801, Israel
Tel: +972-3-640-8118  Fax: +972-3-6409582
www.international.tau.ac.il

Israel’s Deterrence Strategy
Avner Cohen and Marvin Miller, “Bringing Israel’s Bomb out of the Basement: Has Nuclear Ambiguity Outlived its Shelf Life?” Foreign Affairs, September-October 2010.

Nuclear Weapons Proliferation - South Asia
Azriel Bermant, “Pakistan: Reducing the Risks of a Nuclear Disaster” in Emily B. Landau and Anat Kurz (eds) and National Security: Arms Control New Horizons (Tel Aviv: Institute for National Security Studies, April 2014), pp.31-42 (optional)

Mid-Term Multiple Choice Examination

Nuclear Weapons Proliferation - The case of North Korea

Arms Control Negotiations in the Middle East
Emily Landau, “ACRS: what worked, what didn't, and what could be relevant for the region today”, Disarmament Forum, no. 2 (Arms Control in the Middle East), 2008, pp.13-20
Peter Jones, “Negotiating regional security and arms control in the Middle East: the ACRS experience and beyond”, Journal of Strategic Studies, 26:3, 2003, 137-154
Patricia Lewis, “A Middle East free of nuclear weapons: possible, probable or pipe-dream?” International Affairs 89: 2 (2013) 433–450 (Optional)
Class Discussion: Is A Nuclear Iran Inevitable?

**Arms Control Regimes – Successes and Failures**
- Nina Tannenwald, “The Vanishing Nuclear Taboo? How Disarmament Fell Apart”, *Foreign Affairs*, October 2018

**Nuclear Disarmament**
- Tom Sauer, “Whether you like it or not, the Nuclear Ban Treaty is here to stay”, *European Leadership Network*, March 2018 *(optional)*.

**The Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat**

**Missile Defence – A Threat to Strategic Stability?**

Azriel Bermant & Igor Sutyagin, ‘Moving Forward with THAAD: Why Unpopular Deterrence is Still Necessary’, Foreign Affairs, 21 August 2017 (Optional)


Missile Defence: The Case of Israel (Iron Dome, David’s Sling and the Arrow)


Class Discussion: The Greatest Threats to International Security in the Coming Decade


William Perry, ‘My Journey to the Nuclear Brink’ (Stanford; California, 2015), pp.91-102.

Nuclear Terrorism


The Future of Deterrence / Conclusions

William Perry, ‘My Journey to the Nuclear Brink’ (Stanford; California, 2015), pp.192-197.


Instructor Biography

Dr. Azriel Bermant is a historian and an international relations scholar. He is a lecturer in International Relations at Tel Aviv University and at the Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was a research fellow in security studies at the University of Nottingham between 2018 and 2019, and a research fellow in the arms control and regional security program at the Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv University, between 2012 and 2015. He is the author of “Margaret Thatcher and the Middle East” (2016, Cambridge
University Press). His work has been published in distinguished journals such as *The International History Review* and in leading publications, including *Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, Haaretz, Prospect Magazine* and *Standpoint*. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

**TAU International Academic Guidelines**

Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

**Learning Accommodations**

In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student’s home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

**In-Class Exams**

TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student’s responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility
to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

**TAU International Absence Policy**

Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor’s note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor’s note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

**Grade Appeals**

Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook posted here.