Nuclear Nonproliferation and Security in the 21st Century

Dr. Azriel Bermant
Tel: 0506 507920
azrielb@tauex.tau.ac.il

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 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 conflict between India and Pakistan and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. There will also be an examination of arms control efforts in the Middle East. The course is designed to enable students to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the fast-paced developments in the field of international security. The course will include guest lecturers, the screening of films to illustrate the themes under examination and interactive class discussions.

Grade Composition:

Full attendance is required

25% - Course participation

25% - Mid-term multiple choice examination

50% - Final paper

Course Outline and Reading List

Lesson One - Introduction: Course Overview: Nuclear Nonproliferation and Security

Readings:

Lesson Two: Nuclear Deterrence – Lessons from the Cold War

Readings:


Lesson Three: The Changing International System and its Impact on Nuclear Proliferation

Readings:


* John Mearsheimer, “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War”, The Atlantic, August 1990


Lesson Four: The United States, NATO and Russia

Readings:


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/


Lesson Five: The United States, NATO and Russia

Film Screening: Thirteen Days
Readings:

Lesson Six: Nuclear Weapons Proliferation - South Asia

Readings:

Lesson Seven: Nuclear Weapons Proliferation - The case of North Korea

Readings:

Lesson Eight: The Prospect of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East

Readings:
Kenneth Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb”, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2012, Volume. 91, No. 4, pp.2-6
Lesson Nine: Israel’s Policy

Readings:
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.

Lesson Ten:

Class Discussion: Is A Nuclear Iran Inevitable?

Readings:

Lesson Eleven: Arms Control Regimes – Successes and Failures

Readings:
* Carlo Masala, “Don’t Beat a Dead Horse: The Past, Present, and Future Failures of the NPT”, The Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime at a Crossroads, Emily B. Landau and Azriel Bermant (eds), 2014, INSS Memorandum No.137, pp.45-54

Lesson Twelve: Nuclear Disarmament

Readings:
* Brad Roberts, “Ban the Bomb or Bomb the Ban? Next Steps on the Ban Treaty”, European Leadership Network, March 2018
Lecture Thirteen: Arms Control Negotiations in the Middle East

Readings:


Patricia Lewis, “A Middle East free of nuclear weapons: possible, probable or pipe-dream?”, International Affairs 89: 2 (2013) 433–450

* 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

Lesson Fourteen: The Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat

Readings:


Lesson Fifteen: Missile Defence – A Threat to Strategic Stability?

Readings:


Lesson Sixteen - Missle Defence: Iron Dome, David’s Sling and the Arrow

Readings:

Lesson Seventeen – Missle Defence: The Case of Israel

Guest Speaker: Uzi Rubin (TBC)

Reading:

Lesson Eighteen

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

Readings:

Lesson Nineteen - The Future of Nuclear Deterrence

Film Screening: Dr. Strangelove (TBC)

Readings:
Steven Pifer, ‘A Realist’s Rationale for a World without Nuclear Weapons’ in “The War that Must Never be Fought” James Goodby and George P. Shultz (eds), Hoover Press, 2015, pp. 81-107
Lesson Twenty – Ongoing and Future Challenges/The Future of Nuclear Deterrence

*Optional