SECURITY IN A NUCLEAR ARMED WORLD

Teacher: Benoit PELOPIDAS
Academic year 2017/2018: Paris School of International Affairs – Spring Semester

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1. Defining Nuclear Weapons

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

Video
- White Light, Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagazaki, a documentary by Steven Okazaki (2007)

Session 2. Defining nuclearities: weapons, energy and technopolitics

Keep in mind from last week


Required readings:
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Recommended readings:


Session 3. An Epochal Change: the Nuclear Revolution?

Required readings:


Recommended readings:

• Campbell Craig and Sergei Radchenko, “MAD not Marx: Khrushchev and the nuclear revolution”, Journal of Strategic Studies, online preview
• John Lewis Gaddis et alli (eds.) (1999), Cold War statesmen confront the bomb, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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Video
- The Day after Trinity, a documentary directed by John Else (1981)

Session 4. Situating present security or bounding future possibilities

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

Session 5. Deterrence and Nuclear Deterrence as Practices of (In)security

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

Debate in class
The students will form two groups and present a 10 minute argument about the role of nuclear deterrence today as a factor increasing or decreasing security. Beyond the readings for this session, they should look at the debate between Paul Kapur and Sumit Ganguly on nuclear stability in South Asia, India, Pakistan, and the Bomb: Debating Nuclear Stability in South Asia, New York: Columbia University Press, 2010

Suggested review

Session 6. The non-use of nuclear weapons in anger since 1945

Required readings (these texts should be read in the following order):

Recommended readings:
Session 7: The problem of the spread 1: horizontal (nuclear proliferation to states and non-state actors) and nuclear desire

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Debate in class:

The students will use the readings above to form two teams discussing the consequences of nuclear proliferation. Each team will make a ten minute presentation and should be ready to defend its case in front of the class. Each team is expected to give policy recommendations.
Suggested Review of


Session 8: The problem of the spread 2: vertical (the arms race)

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Suggested review of any of the books in the recommended readings.

Session 9: Security as controllability and sustainability

Required readings:


Recommended readings:

• Barton J. Bernstein (2012). “Reconsidering the Perilous Cuban Missile Crisis 50 Years Later”, Arms Control Today, October.
• Benoit Pelopidas (2014). “Remembering the Cuban Missile Crisis, with Humility”, European Leadership Network, November 11.
• Eric Schlosser, Command and Control. New York: Allen Lane, 2013

Videos:
• Command and Control by Robert Kenner (2016) based on Eric Schlosser’s book
• Doctor Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb, directed by Stanley Kubrick (1962)

Suggested review of
• Sheldon M. Stern, The Cuban Missile Crisis in American Memory, Stanford, Stanford University Press, 2012 or
• Eric Schlosser, Command and Control, New York, Allen Lane, 2013.

Session 10: (In)security and the limits of nuclear accountability

Required readings:

Recommended readings:
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Suggested review of


Session 11: Security and morality

Required readings:


Recommended reading:


Session 12: Security through change? (Non)-Nuclear Futures and recent initiatives

Required readings:


And have a second look at


Recommended readings:


Debate in class on the desirability and feasibility of a world without nuclear weapons: the students will use the readings above to form two groups of two teams, one with me and one with the TA. Each team will make a ten-minute presentation and should be ready to defend its case in front of the class. The two camps have to come up with a practical proposition to advance their goal today.

Review of

Video:
• Interview with Lawrence Wittner, April 3, 2010