Are we entering a dangerous new age of nuclear proliferation? A world in which the use of nuclear weapons is truly imaginable or even likely? And do the democratic nations of the world have a strategy to preserve order and protect themselves in this brave new world?

This one-week course will explore the ways nuclear weapons transformed the world we inhabit today, the effects of nuclear weapons on the conduct of international politics, and the challenges that multipolar nuclear competition and the rise of new technologies present for nuclear deterrence. Through background readings and discussion of case studies, students will gain the historical, strategic, and theoretical background necessary to allow them to understand and assess the key debates and policies regarding nuclear weapons that the United States will likely face in the coming decades.

Monday, June 11, 2018

9:00 a.m. to Noon  Introduction: Nuclear Deterrence & Extended Deterrence in the First Nuclear Age

Readings:


Discussion Questions:

1. What is deterrence, and what is necessary for it to work?
2. How much is enough for effective deterrence?
3. What is extended deterrence, and how do alliance commitments complicate credible deterrent threats?
4. How does the “Second Nuclear Age” differ from the first? What new (and old) challenges does the U.S. face?
5. Is the current U.S. approach to extended nuclear deterrence likely to remain adequate? If not, how might the U.S. adapt its extended nuclear deterrence posture to preserve stability across the regions that concern it most?

Noon to 1:00 p.m.  Group Lunch
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  Guest Speaker

**Hal Brands**, professor, Johns Hopkins SAIS and Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

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**Tuesday, June 12, 2018**

9:00 a.m. to Noon  The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime & US Grand Strategy since 1945

**Readings:**

- Memorandum for President Kennedy, February 16, 1963

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why does the U.S. have a strong national interest in preventing nuclear proliferation?
2. Does nuclear proliferation produce stability or instability in the international system?
3. What is the relationship between proliferation and arms control?
4. Should states try to eliminate nuclear weapons or control their spread? What would be the best strategy to prevent nuclear proliferation?

Noon to 1:00 p.m.  Group Lunch

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  Guest Speaker

**Matthew Kroenig**, professor, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University

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**Wednesday, June 13, 2018**

9:00 a.m. to Noon  Multipolar Nuclear Competition & Scenarios for Nuclear Weapons Use in the Second Nuclear Age

**Readings:**


**Recommended Reading:**

• Narang, “What Does it Take to Deter?: Regional Power, Nuclear Postures and International Conflict,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 57:3, pp. 478–508

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What are the distinctive security challenges of nuclear multipolarity?
2. What does “strategic stability” mean in a multipolar nuclear world?
3. Can a state deter, and if necessary fight, nuclear wars with multiple nuclear-armed adversaries?
4. How and why do nuclear weapons spread? What strategies can we expect emerging nuclear powers to adopt (Iran, North Korea)?

**Noon to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Group Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Guest Speaker**  
*Ray Takeyh, senior fellow, Council on Foreign Relations*

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**Thursday, June 14, 2018**

**9:00 a.m. to Noon**  
**Disruptive Technologies & the Renewed Prospects for “Limited” Nuclear War**

**Readings:**


Discussion Questions:

1. What are the implications of new technologies—e.g., precision and hypersonic weapons, antimissile defense, cyber-attack capabilities, and artificial intelligence—for nuclear deterrence?
2. Is nuclear deterrence more stable if human beings are in or out of the decision-making loop?
3. What is “limited” nuclear war? What are the different scenarios under which a limited nuclear strike might occur?
4. What can the U.S. do to deter limited nuclear attacks by adversaries?

Noon to 1:00 p.m. Group Lunch

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Guest Speaker
Amb. Robert Joseph, senior scholar, National Institute for Public Policy

Friday, June 15, 2018

9:00 a.m. to Noon Crisis Simulation

Simulation Leaders: Christopher Griffin, U.S. Army National Guard
Evan Montgomery, senior fellow, CSBA

Noon to 3:00 p.m. Group Lunch & Closing Discussion
**Suggested Background Reading**
*(Available electronically and in hard copy upon request)*

**General**


2) Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Opening Statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee, January 25, 2018


5) Paul Bracken, *The Second Nuclear Age*, 2012

6) Edward Geist and Andrew Lohn, *How Might Artificial Intelligence Affect the Risk of Nuclear War?*, RAND Corp., April 2018