Course Syllabus
POLI 379R:2 – Weapons of Mass Destruction and International Security

Liz (Elizabeta) Jevtic-Somlai                                           Winter 2016
Office: 783 SWKT                                                      Classroom: 108 MARB
Office hours: TTH 9:30-10:30am                                                          TTH 3:00-4:15pm
W    10:00-13:00 or by appointment

Course Objective and Overview

Decades since the Cold War ended, we are still fascinated by a trailer and a movie that brings us closer to
that taboo word - *Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)*. How did this composite word develop? What do
we consider as weapons of mass destruction, and why does bare mention of it in the news send shiver
down our spine? Even more importantly, how have this phrase and therewith associated topics embedded
themselves in the international politics to affect the world in which we live and the overall topic of
international security as a whole with such force?

The aim of this course will be learn what weapons of mass destruction are and what they are not. To this
end, we will explore the three branches of what is often lumped into that term *Weapons of Mass
Destruction*: biological, chemical and nuclear warfare. In our exploration, we will examine their scientific
but also political relevance in the world today, and therewith associated key actors, (non-/counter-)
proliferation, disarmament efforts, and regimes that exist to support such efforts. This will be achieved
by analyzing the theoretical concepts and their practical application, as well as by appraising tools,
resources and policies utilized to achieve and sustain peace in international settings through reading and
writing assignments, as well as class discussion. Finally, while discussing the chosen topics in the field of
biological, chemical and nuclear warfare, the aim of this class will also be to scrutinize the approaches
taken, ethics applied or lack thereof, and to assess the work of the international community in the race
for greater international stability. Personal goal for this class is to give you as a student, knowledge to
critically assess the dilemmas existing in the fight against weapons of mass destruction and a confidence
to utilize it in pursuit for solutions towards creating a safer world now and in the future.

Department Learning Outcomes

The course is designed in such a way to reach the following learning outcomes for the Political Science
Department:

1) Demonstrate advanced understanding of the discipline of political science, including familiarity
   with each of the four major subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international
   relations, and political philosophy.

2) Think critically and analytically about government, political processes, and political theories,
   including the components of a good society.
   3) Write and speak with originality and clarity, providing reasons and evidence to support claims
      using proper citation of source material.

4) Collaborate effectively with others, including participation in political processes and
   engagement on issues of political importance.
**Requirements**

Department strongly encourages that students taking this course have already taken or are currently enrolled in POLI 200 or equivalent.

**Books Used**


**Assessment of Work and Grading**

*Note: Instructor reserves the right to make changes to reading assignments and to the assessment of work, as agreed by and in discussion with the class.*

Regular attendance at class, active participation, and the reading of assigned materials is expected.

The grade breakdown will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symposium/Poster</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Informal Writing/Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country-specific Presentations (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Participation/Informal Writing/Debates/Quizzes (15%)**

Participation during the class is highly encouraged and will make 10% of your grade.

During the course, occasional informal writing will be requested, in response to a certain topic, news or video clip posted through digital dialogue (Learning Suite). These written responses will be due on Thursdays by 10pm for that week. Each response should include concise and original comments on or critique of the readings. During the semester, each student is expected to respond to at least 5 posts, and to comment on at least 10 other students’ posts. Comments should be provided by each Friday 10pm. Each Tuesday, we will do a ‘chat and crunch’ and take up to 10 min at the beginning of the class to discuss the posting and your comments.

Finally, as part of preparation, verbal/written 5-min quizzes will be conducted in class. Verbal quizzes will be based on the questions distributed by the instructor prior to the class, to help guide the reading assignments. Written quizzes will be announced and implemented occasionally (as needed).

**Country-specific Presentations (10%)**

Since we will not be able to cover all of the countries currently engaged in (non-)proliferation in depth, each student will be asked to choose a country to follow during the course of the semester, and to prepare two 10-15 min presentations on country’s chemical/biological and nuclear politics (past, present and
future). This presentation should include slides or visual aids and is expected to be a brief descriptive account, including Q/A time. List of possible countries is as follows (required presentations in bold, other countries are optional):

**CBW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Libya</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Syria</th>
<th>United States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>N Korea</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Albania</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Nuclear**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Vietnam</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>North Korea</th>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>Germany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Myanmar (Burma)</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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**Midterm Paper (15%) and Final Paper (20%)**
Both the midterm and the final paper should be research based. The midterm paper should be 7-9 pages, provide at least 7 sources, while the final paper should be 12-15 pages, and provide at least 12 sources.

Please adhere to the guidelines on writing a research paper in social sciences, such as formatting and citation rules, as well as the thesis and content. Provide a clear argument, question or statement you plan to answer, and provide support through literature for your argument. Should you have questions, do not hesitate to approach me, or any of the writing labs.

**Symposium/Poster Presentation (15%)**
Towards the end of the course, on March 25th, BYU will be hosting a Symposium commemorating 30 years since the Chernobyl accident and Reykjavik Summit. Students are expected to participate in at least one panel during that day and to watch the Reykjavik Play. In addition, the students will be asked to prepare posters for the event on any nuclear topic of their choosing, and as in discussion with the instructor. Students can submit their poster topics individually or in groups of up to 3 students.

**Final Exam (25%)**
Final Exam will be open book and cover major topics discussed during the course.

**Late policy:** All late papers will be penalized for each hour and day that they are late. No papers will be accepted after the final exam.

**Class Rules and Conduct**

When discussing, debating and participating in the class, always first and foremost remember that as BYU students, we strive to emulate the Savior. Accordingly, please refrain from derogative speech and terminology, and treat your fellow students, yourself and the topics discussed with respect and dignity.
Should you notice any student in the class in need of additional assistance, due to disability or otherwise, be alert and helpful (bring it to my attention should I not be aware of it – thank you).

Be honest in your academic work, and when presenting an idea that is not your own, provide proper citations. Please do not plagiarize – it is not only uncomfortable for you and me, but also unnecessary – you are not graded on amount of ‘original’ ideas, but rather how you can support and build them into other already existing ideas and express yourself.

I welcome most fashion styles (after all, I am European!). Come to class dressed comfortably and expressing your individualism, but please always in adherence to the BYU Honor Code Dress and Grooming Standards.

Should any issues arise, which need further guidance or resolution, please feel free to approach me, and/or to contact following offices:

**BYU Honor Code Standards**
Honor Code Office at 422-2847

**Sexual Discrimination and Harassment**
Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or BYU Honor Code Office

**Students with Disabilities**
Services for Students with Disabilities Office at 422-2767 or Equal Employment Office
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics to Discuss</th>
<th>Prepare Before Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(T) 5 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction to the class; Setting the Expectations</td>
<td><strong>Graham Jr</strong>, “Poison Gas and Microbes: Chemical and Biological Weapons”, pp 117-124</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>(T) 19 Jan</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD Warfare and Disarmament</strong> - Chemical and Biological Weapons</td>
<td><strong>Axelrod</strong>, “Effective Choice in the Prisoner’s Dilemma”, pp 3-25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Th) 21 Jan</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD Warfare and Disarmament</strong> - Chemical and Biological Weapons</td>
<td><strong>Montgomery</strong>, “Breaking Out of the Security Dilemma: Realism, Reassurance, and the Problem of Uncertainty”, pp 151-185</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>(T) 26 Jan</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD Warfare and Disarmament</strong> - Chemical and Biological Weapons: Military/Despots Use</td>
<td><strong>Pearson, Chevrier and Wheelis</strong>, “Nonconsensual Manipulation of Human Physiology Using Biochemicals”, pp 1-15</td>
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<td>(Th) 28 Jan</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD Warfare and Disarmament</strong> - CBWs and Terrorism</td>
<td><strong>Chevrier</strong>, “Strengthening the International Arms Control Regime” pp 149-171</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>(T) 2 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD and Disarmament</strong> - CBW Regime and Institutions</td>
<td><strong>Spiers</strong>, chapter 6, “CB Terrorism”, pp 126-150</td>
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<td>(Th) 4 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD and Disarmament</strong> - CBW Regime and Institutions</td>
<td><strong>Busch &amp; Joyner</strong>, chapter 2: “WMD Terrorism”, pp 24-41</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>(T) 9 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD Warfare and Disarmament</strong> - Nonproliferation and Counterproliferation</td>
<td><strong>Carus</strong>, “Prevention through Counter-proliferation” pp 193-205</td>
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<td>(Th) 11 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD Warfare and Disarmament</strong> - (Non) proliferation Challenges</td>
<td><strong>Roberts and Moodie</strong>, “Biological Weapons: Toward a Threat Reduction Strategy”, pp 1-8</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>(T) 16 Feb</td>
<td><strong>MONDAY INSTRUCTION</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spiers</strong>, chapter 5, “Iraq’s CBW programmes”, pp 102-125</td>
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<td>(Th) 18 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Understanding WMD Warfare and Disarmament</strong> - (Non) proliferation Challenges</td>
<td><strong>Presentations: Iraq, Syria, India</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>(T) 23 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Part III: Nuclear (Non) Proliferation</strong> - Background and key political players</td>
<td><strong>Going Nuclear</strong>, chapter 1, “Why do States Build Nuclear Weapons”, pp 3-35</td>
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<td>(Th) 25 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Part III: Nuclear (Non) Proliferation</strong> - Background and key political players</td>
<td><strong>Burns and Coyle</strong>, “The Nuclear Weapon States”, pp 1-21</td>
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<td><strong>Going Nuclear</strong>, chapter 3, “Divining Nuclear Intentions”, pp 78-108</td>
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| 9    | (T) 1 Mar | Part III: Nuclear (Non) Proliferation  
- Deterrence/Collective Security  
- Nuclear Free Zone, EU | Midterm Paper Due 25 February by midnight  
Cimbala, “Deterrence in a Multipolar World”, pp 51-62  
Kelleher & Reppy, “Nuclear Deterrence, Disarmament and Nonproliferation”, pp 91-101  
|      | (Th) 3 Mar | Part III: Nuclear (Non) Proliferation  
- NPT Regime and Institutions | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcOFV4y5z8c  
Burns and Coyle, “Nuclear Test Bans to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty”, pp 69-93 |
| 10   | (T) 8 Mar | Part III: Nuclear (Non) Proliferation  
*Guest Presenter - John P. Colton*  
*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcOFV4y5z8c*  
Burns and Coyle, “Nuclear Test Bans to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty”, pp 69-93 |
|      | (Th) 10 Mar | Part III: Nuclear Verification, Control and Monitoring  
- NPT Regime | Mearsheimer, “Back to the Future”, pp 3-55 |
| 11   | (T) 15 Mar | Part IV: WMD (Non) Proliferation and Regional Issues  
- Regional Issues and Approaches | Going Nuclear, chapter 4, “Spreading Temptation”, pp 109-143 |
|      | (Th) 17 Mar | Part IV: WMD (Non) Proliferation and Regional Issues  
- Regional Issues and Approaches | Going Nuclear, chapter 9, “Rise and Fall of SA Bomb”, pp 255-297  
| 12   | (T) 22 Mar | Part IV: WMD (Non) Proliferation and Regional Issues  
- Regional Issues and Approaches | Going Nuclear, chapter 10, “Never Say Never Again…”, pp 297-329 |
|      | (Th) 24 Mar | Part IV: WMD (Non) Proliferation and Regional Issues  
- Regional Issues and Approaches | Going Nuclear, chapter 8, “Ten Years of Instability in a Nuclear South Asia”, pp 229-255  
Edwardes, “India, Pakistan and Nuclear Weapons”, pp 655-663 |
|      | (Fr) 25 Mar | 30 Years After | Attend Conference |
| 13   | (T) 29 Mar | Part IV: WMD (Non) Proliferation and Regional Issues  
- Regional Issues and Approaches | Ogilvie-White, “Defiant States: North Korea and Iran”, pp 249-267  
Plant & Rhode, “China, North Korea and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons”, pp 61-80  
Presentations |
|      | (Th) 31 Mar | Part IV: WMD (Non) Proliferation and Regional Issues  
- Regional Issues and Approaches | Sagan, “How to Keep the Bomb from Iran”, pp 45-59  
Going Nuclear, chapter 14, “Osirak Redux?..”, pp 448-472  
Presentations |
| 14   | (T) 5 Apr | Part IV: WMD (Non) Proliferation and Regional Issues  
- Regional Issues and Approaches | Going Nuclear, chapter 12, “Proliferation Rings…”, pp 368-413  
Presentations |
|      | (Th) 7 Apr | Part V: Way Forward  
Going Nuclear, chapter 13, “Ringing in Proliferation”, pp 413-448 |
| 15   | (T) 12 Apr | Review and Discussion | Final Paper Due 11 April by midnight |
|      | (Fr) 15 Apr | Final Exam | Final Exam |