The course will review the basic foundations of strategic thinking, the shifting role and understanding of nuclear weapons and the application of strategy and negotiations during the Cold War and in the post-Cold War era, known as the “Second Nuclear Age”. Following a discussion on Israel's strategy in this realm, the course will conclude with a discussion on emerging challenges – the return of great-power competition and new technologies.

Introduction
Strategy, Game Theory, and Negotiations in the Nuclear Realm
Why do states develop nuclear weapons? Is Game Theory enough?

The Cold War – The First Nuclear Age

- The Cold War and the Advent of Nuclear Weapons
- Nuclear Weapons and Strategy: Nuclear Strategies, Deterrence, and Arms Control
- Preventing Proliferation: The Case of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Second Nuclear Age: Dealing with Proliferation

- What's the Difference? Comparing “First” with “Second” – Pakistan as an Example
- North Korea: Crossing the Threshold
- Iran: The Making of a Deal
- Israel: Bombs in the Basement

Towards a Third Nuclear Age?

- The Return of Great-Power Competition: Nuclear Deterrence & Arms Control
- New Technologies and Nuclear Stability

Course Goals

The objective of this course in International Relations is to examine the evolution of nuclear strategy and its implications for world and regional orders since World War II – during the Cold War and in its aftermath, known as the “Second Nuclear Age”.

Grading

The course encourages active student participation, which would benefit from paying ongoing attention to current events.

Attendance in all sessions is mandatory. According to IDC regulations, students are entitled to three unexcused absences from class. Students with eligible and documented excuses (military service, illness, etc.) must alert the lecturer. Students who will not meet the attendance requirement will be ineligible to receive a final grade in the course.

The final exam (100% of final grade) will assess the knowledge of students with regards to the course discussions and readings and analytical skills. In the final exam, students will answer two of four essay questions (1,200-1,500 words each). Exemplary questions will be published on the course website.

Reading List

COURSE STRUCTURE AND READINGS
The following bibliography is listed according to the course structure and themes. Most of the readings are available on the course website.

As the course deals with current events, readings are subject to updating during the course of the term.

Introduction

Strategy, Game Theory, and Negotiations in the Nuclear Realm

Why do states develop nuclear weapons? Is Game Theory enough?


The Cold War Era – The First Nuclear Age

The Cold War and the Advent of Nuclear Weapons


Nuclear Weapons and Strategy: Nuclear Strategies, Deterrence, and Arms Control


Preventing Proliferation: The Case of the Non-Proliferation Treaty


The Second Nuclear Age: Dealing with Proliferation
What’s the Difference? Comparing “First” with “Second” – Pakistan as an Example


North Korea: Crossing the Threshold


Iran: The Making of a Deal


Wendy R. Sherman, “How We Got the Iran Deal: And Why We’ll Miss It,” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 97, September/October 2018.


Israel: Bombs in the Basement


Towards a Third Nuclear Age?

The Return of Great-Power Competition: Nuclear Deterrence & Arms Control


**New Technologies and Nuclear Stability**
