INTRODUCTION

In the wake of September 11, 2001, fear of annihilation by weapons of mass destruction (wmd) has replaced the nightmares of the Cold War. During the past decade, U.S. foreign policy and programs have focused increasingly on preventing the spread of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological weapons, materials, technology, and expertise among both state and non-state actors. A collection of international treaties and cooperative agreements constitute the "nonproliferation regime" which guides and governs policies and programs of the U.S. and other participating nations. Many believe, however, that the regime is teetering on collapse, and that the world may be facing unrestrained international proliferation of wmd. The failure of the Review Conference on the Nonproliferation Treaty in 2005 and recent events in North Korea, Iran, and India suggest that international efforts to control proliferation are failing. Without international controls, weapons of mass destruction could quickly spread among state and nonstate actors and severely endanger global security even beyond the nuclear danger posed during the Cold War. It is incumbent upon scholars and citizens, therefore, to understand the issues underlying recent events in order to participate effectively in future dialogues about alternative methods to control the spread of weapons of mass destruction. This course is designed to familiarize students with the major international nonproliferation policy and program issues, with specific information about the international nonproliferation regime, and with major US nonproliferation policies and programs. A second, but equally important goal is to familiarize students with the structure and process of U.S. government components which participate in initiating and managing nonproliferation policies and programs.

In general, the course addresses the following questions:

1. How big of a problem is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in today's world? What do we really know about the rate and nature of international proliferation? How good is our "intelligence" on nonproliferation activities?

2. What are weapons of mass destruction? What are they capable of doing? What are their limitations?

3. How can weapons of mass destruction be delivered to a target? How can we defend against and protect ourselves from their delivery?

4. Where are weapons of mass destruction and their related technology and
expertise located?

5. What are the principal elements of today's international cooperative efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction? What are the strengths and weaknesses of those cooperative efforts?

6. What are the major nonproliferation problems facing the international community today? What are possible approaches and solutions to those problems?

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To familiarize students with the key issues and background information regarding the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction and related technology and expertise.

2. To encourage critical thinking and analysis about U.S. and international policies and programs designed to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

3. To foster a "problem solving" approach in response to the challenges of nonproliferation.

4. To inform the students about the structure and functions of the various U.S. governmental components with oversight responsibility for nonproliferation policies and programs. To inform students about non-governmental organizations active in nonproliferation matters. To familiarize students with the process by which policies and programs are formulated, debated, managed, and implemented.

5. To inform and improve students' written and oral communications skills pertinent to the policy making workplace.

COURSE TEXTBOOK


RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation www.armscontrolcenter.org
Federation of American Scientists www.fas.org
Stimson Center www.stimson.org
Chemical and Biological Arms Control Institute www.cbaci.org
Nonproliferation Policy Education Center www.npec-web.org
Nuclear Threat Initiative www.nti.org
Russian American Nuclear Security Advisory Council www.ransac.org
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace www.ceip.org
Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute, http://cns.miis.edu
Center for Defense Information www.cdi.org
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Students will be graded on three elements of the class. There will be a written midterm exam which must be completed and submitted before meetings in Washington commence. The second element is based on student performance while in Washington. Student performance includes attendance, timeliness, participation, and cooperation essential to the success of the numerous meetings that will take place. The third element, or "final exam" will be a group presentation (briefing) on a major nonproliferation topic.

Credit for the three elements will be weighted equally, i.e., each element will count for a third of the overall grade.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Phase I. USC (Week 1)
2. What are WMD? pp 45-82
4. Major regional proliferation issues. pp. 121-313
7. Take Home Mid Term exam.

Phase II. Washington DC (Weeks 2-5)
Generally, 2-3 briefings or meetings will be scheduled each day. Those meetings will occur to the extent possible in three segments: non-governmental organizations and think tanks, executive branch components (DoD, State, Intel, DOE), and legislative branch components (armed services, defense, and foreign relations committees and members office). Maximum flexibility is needed to schedule meetings to accommodate the professional staff members we will meet. The meeting schedule will be announced each day for the next and subsequent days. Students will be expected to attend all meetings, be on time, and participate. (Note: unexcused absences for whatever reason will reduce your grade for this segment of the course.)

Phase III Team Briefings (Week 6)
Class will meet Monday afternoon to discuss guidelines for student briefings. Briefings will take place on Thursday and Friday. Possible topics: NKorea, Iran, Russia, Pakistan, India, Israel, START, CTBT, NPT