

The Politics of Nuclear Weapons

Professor Armstrong

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I. Introduction

Students will enroll in 6 credits: a common core and an elective. The core class is GOVT 398 *The Politics of Nuclear Weapons*. Students will also choose from one of three elective courses:

GLOA 480 – Global Affairs Study Abroad

CONF 385 – International Field Experience

HIST 387 – Topics in Global History

Nuclear weapons are the defining security challenge in modern history. From their first use in WWII, through the Cold War arms race, to contemporary proliferation debates, atomic weapons have played a central role in the international arena. Studying in South Korea provides unique perspective into the historical and contemporary debates surrounding international security and nuclear weapons.

The program has three broad goals. The first is to provide a solid foundation into the central concepts of nuclear deterrence and proliferation. Central topics include 1). the logic of Mutually Assured Destruction, and 2). the calculus of nuclear acquisition and disarmament, and 3). contemporary debates in deterrence.

The second goal is to move beyond theory to understand the practical challenges of nuclear politics in today's world. We will not only focus on broad issues of proliferation, but also on broader issue of strategic deterrence and international security. Moreover, this course brings the discussion beyond the ivory tower of academia. Class discussions will be led by members of the US military and consular team, security NGO professionals, and Korean government officials. The schedule at the end of the syllabus details site visits and related course activities.

The final goal is to have an amazing/fantastic/memorable time. Studying abroad is about more than just the class work; it is about experiencing and exploring a new part of the world. It is a real privilege to study in Korea, a country with a vibrant culture and rich history. We will be based in one of the most spectacular cities in the world, Seoul. In addition to our scheduled trips, weekends are left open to allow participants to explore the city and Korea as a whole. While the course is four weeks, the memories, knowledge, and friends will last long after your return to Mason.

II. Course Format & Process

The course is equal parts intense and exciting. Six credits of class work are distilled into four weeks, Monday through Friday. A typical day begins with a morning class, break for lunch, and afternoon session. This will be complimented with smaller breakout discussion sections based on elective.

Discussions will be led either by Professor Armstrong, or from a series of notable guest lecturers. The contributors come from diverse government, academic, and professional background; each providing firsthand insight into their area of expertise. All the site visits and guided tours will be lead by professional guides, and we will end each visit with a group discussion of the day's events.

Weekends are free of class work and assigned reading. They are yours to explore and enjoy Seoul and everything Korea has to offer. I am happy to offer suggestions for potential activities or excursions.

After the last day of the Korea portion students will have two weeks to turn in a final paper for the core class, and three weeks to turn in a final paper for their elective course.

III. Readings

There is one required book for the core course: Lawrence Freedman (2003) *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy, 3rd edition*

Each elective course will require an additional text:

- GLOA 480: Chinoy (2009) *Meltdown: The Inside Story of the North Korean Nuclear Crisis*
- CONF 385: Glaser (1990) *Analyzing Strategic Nuclear Policy*
- HIST 387: Kaplan (1983) *The Wizards of Armageddon*

All of these works are readily available from online retailers. Be sure to bring copies of the required books with you!

Additional resources—journal articles, news stories, and video segments—will be hosted on the class Blackboard site. Should you want to bring printed copies of the material, I suggest you do so before departing for Korea.

IV. Core Course: Assignments & Grading

The grade for the main course is based on four components:

Participation	15%
Reading responses	15%
Final exam	35%
Final essay	35%

Class Participation (15%) Attendance and active participation in class and during site visits are critical. “Outstanding” class participation would include attendance at all classes and site visits, thoughtful and insightful contributions during class and discussion sessions, and demonstrating respect when offering different perspectives. Thoughtful and insightful contributions will include a demonstrated understanding of the readings and / or lecture material and a critical analysis of the material.

Reading Responses (15%) Over the course of the program you will write five short responses to the day's readings.. The post should make clear you have engaged the work’s main arguments. The posts do not have to rise to the level of polished essays but they should reflect an effort to make a coherent set of points using clear and effective prose.

Final Exam (35%) At the end of the third and final week, you will sit for your final exam. The final exam will not be cumulative. It will cover the readings, lectures, and material learned during site visits since the mid-term.

Final Paper (35%). Author a 1,500 word essay on the required text, exploring one of several essay prompts. I am happy to provide feedback on drafts before the end of the trip. Note that I will only be able to provide limited feedback in August before the final paper is due.

Extra Credit There will be extra credit available over the course of the program. The value of extra credit is graduated: students with higher scores will receive fewer points for completing extra credit assignments than those with lower scores.

V. Elective Course: Assignments & Grading

Independent research (75%). Due 12 August. The elective course will emphasize independent research, which will constitute 75 percent of your grade. The deliverable will be a research paper of 12 pages minimum. The paper will be double spaced, with 1-inch margins and 12-font. Citations can be in Chicago, APA, or MLA style and they can either be in-text, footnotes, or endnotes. Your research proposal will be due on 7 July. The proposal will include your desired topic of research, reading list, and research schedule. The final paper will be due 12 August. I am available to help scope your topic, review outlines, provide feedback on drafts, etc.

Leading discussions / class participation (25%). The elective text will serve as the primary guide for class discussions. Students, either individually or in small groups, will be responsible for facilitating a group discussion based on their analysis of the assigned reading. Even when you're not leading the day's discussion preparation, attendance, thoughtful facilitation, and active participation will be critical.

VI. Blackboard

Access to Blackboard GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online tools before the first day of class.

VII. General Policies & Information

Be Respectful Active participation is a major part of the course. While debate is encouraged where appropriate, in the spirit of productive discussion it is vital to remain thoughtful and considerate.

Academic Honesty Integrity is integral to GMU's academic and social culture. Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and suspected violations will be referred to the Honor Committee. Please refer to Blackboard for additional information about the Honor Code. But, seriously folks, you're all adults. Just don't cheat.

Students With Disabilities If you are a student with a disability, please contact me and the Office of Disability Resources. Accommodations will be arranged in accordance with their policies.

Contact Questions Before we leave for Korea, I am available by email <aarmstr8@gmu.edu> to answer and questions. Once we arrive in Korea, I will be available 24/7—by both phone and email— should an issue arise. Barring emergencies, please limit calls and inquiries to the hours between 9 AM and 8 PM.

Safety and Emergency Support

Korea is a safe country. I urge students to act with mature responsibility and discretion. Should it be needed, you have a whole team behind you. In addition to my assistance in-country, there is a support hotline available 24/7 at GMU. Please refer to the program information page for emergency contract information and instructions.

VIII. Schedule & Readings

Students: we will be discussing elements of Freedman *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy* over the course of the program. Familiarity with this text is also essential for the final essay. By the end of the course you should have finished the book at your own pace.

Su 1 Arrival

Week 1: The History of Nuclear Weapons

Mo	2	AM	Area tour	
		PM	Welcome dinner	
Tu	3	AM	Guest lecture: History of Korea	Britanica, History of Korea Additional readings TBD
		PM	Amstrong: Intro lecture	Bellany 2005 - Nuclear Weapons & International Security
We	4	AM	Guest lecture: Korean Politics	Readings TBD
		PM	Armstrong: Cooperation Simulation	Axelrod 1984 - Evolution of Cooperation, pg 3-54
Th	5	AM	Armstrong: WWII and the bomb	Giangreco 1995 - Operation Downfall Wilson 2007 - Rethinking Nuclear Weapons & Hiroshima
		PM	Armstrong: The Korean War	Warner 1980 - The Korean War Harrison 2002 - Ending the Korean War
Fr	6	AM	Site visit: US Consulate	Readings TBD.
		PM	Site visit: Gyeongbokgung Palace	

Sa 7 Explore, eat, laugh.

Su 8 Explore, eat, laugh.

Week 2: MAD Theory

Mo	9	AM	Armstrong: MAD theory lecture I	Monteiro & Debs 2014 - Strategic Logic of Nuc. Proliferation
		PM	Armstrong: MAD theory lecture II	Van Evera 1999 - Nuclear Revolution Bell 2015 - Nuclear Weapons Can Change Foreign Policy
Tu	10	AM	Guest lecture: Korea defense policy	Han 2002 - The Sunshine Policy Moon & Lee 2009 - Arms Race on the Korean Peninsula
		PM	Armstrong: breakout group 1	Chinoy 2009 - Selections
We	11	AM	Guest lecture: Topic TBD	Readings TBD
		PM	Armstrong: breakout group 2	Glaser 1990 - Selections
Th	12	AM	Armstrong: The Limits of MAD	Glaser & Fester 2005 - Counterforce Revisited Lieber & Press 2006 - The End of MAD? Broad & Sanger 2016 - US Modernizes Nuclear Weapons
		PM	Armstrong: breakout group 3	Kaplan 1983 - Selections
Fr	13	AM	Site visit: DMZ	Emamdjomeh et al. 2017 - The DMZ, interactive fact sheet https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/world/mapping-the-dmz/?utm_term=.6e3453bdf33a
		PM	Site visit: DMZ	

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Week 3: Arms Control

Mo	16	AM	Guest lecture: Korean Arms control	Huntley 2006 - Rebels Without a Cause ACA 2018 - U.S-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy
		PM	Armstrong: Cold War Arms Control	Meier & Lunn 2014 - Trapped ACA - Nuclear Arms Control Fact Sheet The New START Treaty Chinoy 2009 - Selections
			Breakout group 1	
Tu	17	AM	Guest lecture: Arms Control	Readings TBD.
		PM	Armstrong: arms control simulation	Solingen 1994 - Political Economy of Nuclear Restraint Glaser 1990 - Selections
			Breakout group 2	
We	18	AM	Site visit: placeholder	Readings TBD.
		PM	Site visit: placeholder	Readings TBD.
Th	19	AM	Site visit: US military base	Readings TBD.
		PM	Site visit: US military base	
Fr	20	AM	Free	
		PM	Free	

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Su 22 Explore, eat, laugh.

Week 4: Contemporary Case Studies

Mo	23	AM	Guest lecture: Topic TBD	Readings TBD
		PM	Armstrong: Iraq case study	ACA 2002 - Iraq Chronology of UN Inspections Thrall 2007 - A Bear in the Woods? Kaplan 1983 - Selections
			Breakout group 3	
Tu	24	AM	Guest lecture: Nuclear North Korea	Carpenter 2004 - Living with the Unthinkable Revere 2017 - Dealing with Nuclear North Korea
		PM	Armstrong: Iran case study	Sagan et al. 2007 - A Nuclear Iran Samore et al. 2015 - The Iran Nuclear Deal
We	25	AM	Armstrong: Nuclear terrorism	Zenko 2006 - Estimates of Nuclear Terrorism deLeon et al. 1998 - Nuclear Terrorism
		PM	Armstrong: Simulation	
Th	26	AM	Armstrong: Final Lecture	
		PM	Exam review session	
Fr	27	AM	Final exam	
		PM	Farewell dinner	

Sa 28 Departure