**POLITICAL SCIENCE 142D: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SPRING 2024 (MOSAIC 0113)**

**LECTURE: MONDAY/WEDNESDAY/FRIDAY 11-11:50AM (NOTE: THIS COURSE IS IN PERSON)**

Instructor: **Erik Gartzke** (Professor) NOTE: Due to workload issues, I can no longer field your emails in a prompt manner. I am happy to answer your questions during office hours or in class.

1. *Read this syllabus carefully. It contains the information you need in order to succeed in the course. Ignorance is not an excuse for a failure to follow appropriate course policies.*

2. *I do not offer extensions, exceptions or incompletes FOR ANY REASON.* If you believe you may not be able to complete the course to your standards, please consider dropping the course.

3. *I will only consider retroactive withdrawals that include a finding of fact from a residential college Dean or equivalent campus authority.* The written finding, signed by the appropriate authority, must include the following statement: “I [authority’s name] affirm that the conditions affecting this student have satisfactorily met campus policy regarding retroactive withdrawals.”

4. *When contacting any instructor, please identify the course (and section if appropriate). We are usually teaching more than one course at a time. So please make it clear to us which course!*

5. *You must complete the minimum quantity/quality of required assignments. Students who do not do so will be subject to receiving an “F” in the course.*

6. *I retain the right to alter these policies at any point before, during or after the quarter. The most recent copy of the syllabus is posted at the top of the home page of the course canvas page.*

- **Course website [Canvas, need UCSD SSO to access]:** https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/55806
- **Lecture:** 11-11:50AM MW (Location: MOSAIC 113 [IN PERSON... yes, really!])

**NOTE:** It is possible that I will be traveling occasionally this quarter. On these days, please use the following zoom link: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/97042967342 **These lectures are NOT recorded**

- **Office hours:** 11-11:50AM Fridays: Link: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91617454349

**Teaching Assistants:**

**Evan Mann** (ecmann@ucsd.edu)
Office hours: Wednesday 12-2PM. (SSB 323). Google Calendar Signup: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/appointments/schedules/AcZssZ3uFcuWU8JWhs3J4mTCA9-dtBLM9-RG2D-vGJBinysbR5io-5upC1ngMxUwIGN6bRJKZeULDHSN

**Zayne Sember** (zsember@ucsd.edu) Zoom: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98807932025#success
Office hours: Tuesday 11AM-12PM. Google Calendar Signup: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/selfsched?sstoken=UUZadmV0VzdZLVUDfGRlZmF1bHR8NjcyNmQ1YzcwNjVjZTFiZml0NzliYTY4OWNmZGU2MjY

**Shelbi Anne Swanson** (sswanson@ucsd.edu)
Office hours: Wednesday 2-3PM. (SSB 329). Google Calendar Signup: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AzKHzs04puunDOAchwwVHRx7z0MuNmysVGWhAWvHJSk4/edit#gid=0
You deserve the best education available. The instruction team for POLI142D will do their very best to ensure you receive all possible assistance. In return, please be patient with us.

If you have questions or concerns, please begin by contacting your GTA. If you are not satisfied with the result, please contact me (in class or during my office hours). I will assist you as soon as I am able. Please bear in mind that this is mass education...I am vastly outnumbered. I do my best.

Your health (physical, mental, social) is always important. Please do not suffer in silence. A variety of resources on and off campus are provided to help you get better, or stay better. I list some in this syllabus. Others can be accessed on the UCSD website. If you have any questions, please ask your GTA or myself. We will attempt to assist you or refer you to someone who can.

Bearing these issues in mind, this is a university. Depending on your choice of grading option, you are asking me for a sincere, expert evaluation of your academic performance in this course [the Political Science Department policy precludes me from offering opinions regarding enrollment or grading options -- please refer to your appropriate academic advising entity]. If you do not want me to grade you on what you do, or do not do, in this course, then do not ask me to do so.

You are the best judge of what you want and what you are willing to do to achieve your goals. I do not know your preferences and cannot evaluate the multitude of factors affecting your life or your performance in the course. Nor should I take these factors into account in grading, since doing so will inevitably introduce biases and inequality into the grading process. The course rules are fair (they apply to everyone equally). They offer the most flexibility I can provide you, or anyone, in the space of the ten weeks of this quarter. I provide this maximum flexibility to everyone, up front.

This means there is no additional flexibility available for me to give you. You must complete each of the required tasks on time to obtain a passing grade. Failure to do so is grounds for failing the course. If for any reason you do not believe that you can commit the time and effort necessary to complete the course at this time, DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE. To repeat, all work MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME. For logistical reasons, late assignments will automatically receive a grade of zero (0). You have substantial discretion in which assignments you complete, when.

I do not offer extensions, exceptions or incompletes FOR ANY REASON. If you believe you may not be able to complete the course to your standards (again) please consider withdrawing from the course. I can only consider retroactive withdrawals that contain a written finding of fact from a college Dean or equivalent campus authority. The finding, signed by the appropriate authority, must include the following statement: “I [authority's name] affirm that the conditions affecting this student have satisfactorily met campus policy regarding retroactive withdrawals.”

Course Description:
This course provides an overview of the threats posed to national and international security by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons. Time permitting, some attention will also be paid to new technologies of warfare (“cyberwar,” automated systems “drones,” space) and to emerging modes of conflict (gray zone conflict, cross- or multi-domain deterrence).

Students will learn about how these weapons and strategies function, why states and some non-state actors seek them, and how nations seek or attempt to prevent their spread (proliferation). The course will do this in part by delving into the technical and policy challenges related to these
weapons. It will further address how CBRN weapons shape states’ national security strategies and regional security dynamics. Efforts at the international level to restrict the use and proliferation of these weapons will be discussed. We will also explore the future of WMD and CBRN terrorism.

Course Requirements:
You can take the course P/NP or for a grade. Please consider your options and circumstances. Consult with the appropriate advising staff member if you have questions about your options.

* PLEASE TAKE NOTE: There are no make-up exams or assignments. Attendance is required at all quizzes and exams but attendance is not itself subject to a grade. If you miss a quiz or exam, the resulting grade, as with any late or incomplete assignment, will normally be a zero (0).

- **Short Papers [Three (3)]** (30% of course grade, 10% each): Each student taking the course must prepare three short papers of NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES, that compares/contrasts two or more readings from a given week. Papers of more than two (2) pages will not be accepted. You may reference any/all of the readings for a given week (required or optional). Students may choose which of the weeks to complete their short papers. But you must complete at least one short paper in the first two weeks!

All assignments must be submitted electronically and supplied to the GTA grader by Sunday evening (6PM Pacific time) of the week for which an assignment is scheduled. Be succinct, compelling and incisive. What is something interesting, unusual or odd in comparing two or more of the week’s readings? DO NOT JUST SUMMARIZE THE READINGS!!!!!!!!!!! We already know what they say. Tell us something new. How does some difference between the readings affect the authors’ conclusions or your interpretation of what the two (or more) readings imply? How does the difference or omission cause you to doubt the validity of one or more of the author’s argument(s)? How would you know if they are wrong, or if you are wrong? Write these documents expecting the reader/grader to try and disagree with you. Be logical and persuasive!

- **Commentary on Video Documentaries [Two (2)]** (20% of course grade, 10% each): Each student in the course will individually prepare two short commentaries of NO MORE THAN THREE PAGES each, analyzing and/or comparing one or more of the video documentaries listed in the syllabus. Special attention will be given to analyzing or criticizing the documentary. I already know what they are about. Tell me what the investigators did wrong, got wrong, forgot to cover, misinterpreted, etc. Focus on the politics/policy aspects of each respective documentary. Where are their errors/biases? In what ways is the documentary misleading? What have you gleaned from the course readings, for example, that might allow you to assess the claims presented in the documentary more critically? What policy implications are recommended by each documentary? Do you accept these recommendations? Why or why not?

- **Quizzes [Twenty (20)]** (20% of course grade, 1% each): There will be a very brief quiz at the beginning of each lecture session. The quiz will normally address the material that I covered in the previous lecture. There will be one, two or at most three questions in a true/false or multiple-choice format. The quizzes will be graded pass/fail (you either get the point or you do not. We will drop your lowest four quizzes in the quarter.

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• **Final Exam** (30% of course grade): Each student will prepare an essay based on a range of questions. Unlike in the recent past, this is an “in class” exam. The questions will be given out a week prior. The exam will take place at the scheduled time (Friday, June 14, 11:30AM-2:29PM). A quality essay will integrate all relevant materials from the course (lecture and readings) in a concise but persuasive analytical answer to the question posed.

*I am precluded by the Political Science Department's policy from providing any advice to students about grading options or other aspects of your academic schedule or courses. If you have questions, please contact the appropriate advisor in your major department.*

**Required Readings:**
There are three required textbooks. Each is available from the UCSD Bookstore. There are also other outlets where you can purchase (website named after a famous watercourse comes to mind).


**Additional Readings:**
In addition to the three required textbooks, there are a number of other readings available for the course. *All of these materials can be accessed online* via the Canvas course page. I ask that you read at least one (1) of these additional readings each week (you can certainly read more).

**NOTE:** APM 015, Section II, A.1.b prohibits “significant intrusion of material unrelated to a course.” This course is about international politics. I will from time to time interject my own opinions about international politics and the mechanisms that generate it, including domestic U.S. politics. Students who are uncomfortable with this should consider selecting another course.

**DATE**

**TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT**

**WEEK 1 (April 1 & 3): Introduction/Syllabus/Levels, Methods, and Concepts**

**VIDEO DOCUMENTARY:** “The Bomb” [https://ucsd.kanopy.com/product/bomb](https://ucsd.kanopy.com/product/bomb) (alternate source, YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Orze43Uchm8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Orze43Uchm8)). Also consider “The Day After Trinity” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm5fCxXnK7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm5fCxXnK7Y)

**WEEK 2 (April 8 & 10): An Overview of Nuclear Policy Dynamics**


**WEEK 3 (April 15 & 17): Nuclear Weapons – History and How Stuff Works**

**PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

*Optional readings:*


**WEEK 4 (April 22 & 24): Why States Want WMD**

**PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

Optional reading:


WEEK 5 (April 29 & May 1): Nuclear Strategy: Deterrence  
- Sagan and Waltz. “Chapters 1-2.” *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional reading:
- Sagan and Waltz. “Chapters 3-5.” The Spread of Nuclear Weapons


WEEK 6 (May 6 & 8): Chemical and Biological Weapons.

Biological Weapons:

Chemical Weapons:
- Barnaby. “Chemical Weapons.” How to Build a Nuclear Bomb, 55-64.

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional reading:

“Trump's "limited strike" on Syria” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc90l4FrLqM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc90l4FrLqM).
“Inside the US Government’s Top Secret Bioweapons Lab” (also short) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1GnYs4LOC0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1GnYs4LOC0) “Bioterror” (NOTE: may be offensive) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C30ZKprLSkI&has_verified=1&bpctr=1585549991](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C30ZKprLSkI&has_verified=1&bpctr=1585549991)

**WEEK 7 (May 13 & 15): Nuclear Proliferation/Counter Proliferation**

**PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

Optional readings:


**VIDEO DOCUMENTARY:** “Stealing the Atomic Bomb” (USSR)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFObTJxFuWl  “The Terror Trader - Pakistani Rogue Scientist A Q Khan” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5AMrywjr1U

**WEEK 8 (May 20 & 22): Weapons Platforms (Ballistic/Cruise Missiles)**
- Cirincione. “Missile Proliferation.” *Deadly Arsenals*, 83-117.

**PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

**Optional readings:**
- Federation of American Scientists, “Ballistic Missile Basics”

**VIDEO DOCUMENTARY:** “Command and Control”
[https://archive.org/details/CommandAndControl](https://archive.org/details/CommandAndControl). Also watch “Missileers” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1tMx27Q4O0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1tMx27Q4O0) and “Rise of the Rockets” (behind PBS pay wall) [https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/rise-of-the-rockets/](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/rise-of-the-rockets/)

**WEEK 9 (May 27 & 29): CBRN Terrorism and Nuclear Accidents**

***No Class Monday 27 May (Memorial Day Holiday)***


**PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

**Optional readings:**
WEEK 10 (June 3 & 5): Cyber Conflict and UAVs.

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional readings:

https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/japans-killer-quake/ Also “Pandora’s Promise” (1)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBMj-96hols [the video is in three parts]. (2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yBePJrKmws (3)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLuKXOVzhE

WEEK 10 (June 3 & 5): Cyber Conflict and UAVs.

PLUS AT LEAST ONE (1) OF THE ADDITIONAL READINGS:

Optional readings:

https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/japans-killer-quake/ Also “Pandora’s Promise” (1)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBMj-96hols [the video is in three parts]. (2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yBePJrKmws (3)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLuKXOVzhE
*** The Final Exam is Scheduled to be Held on Friday 14 June 11:30AM-2:29PM ***
Intellectual Property

My lectures and course materials, including syllabi, PowerPoint/Keynote presentations (whether “live” or recorded), tests, quizzes, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by U.S. copyright law and by University policy. I am the exclusive owner of the copyright in any of these materials I create. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may also share those materials with another student who is enrolled in or auditing this course, provided that this does not violate the academic integrity policy of the University or this course.

You may not reproduce, distribute or display (post/upload) lecture notes or recordings or course materials in any other way — whether or not a fee is charged — without my express prior written consent. You also may not allow others to do so.

If you do so, you may be subject to student conduct proceedings under the UC San Diego Student Code of Conduct.

Similarly, you own the copyright for your original papers and exam essays. If I am interested in posting or utilizing your answers or papers in any way, I will ask for your written permission.

Additional information/resources

Academic Integrity: Submitting any assignment in this course confirms that you agree to abide by UCSD’s policies as listed in the Principles of Community and the Student Code of Conduct. Academic misconduct includes (but is not limited to): using another person’s words as your own, asking someone else to write any part of an assignment you submit as your own, failing to cite material from another source, editing/rephrasing someone else’s words as your own.

The Policy on Integrity of Scholarship lists some of the standards by which you are expected to complete assignments in this course. Students needing assistance may consult with the instructor or the teaching assistants. You are encouraged to use authorized UCSD writing resources, such as the Writing Hub. No other person or resource may be used to assist you in preparing or writing any assignment without express permission from the instructor. Exceptions will be made for a documented disability only. Please consult with the instructor if you have questions about this policy or believe you need the assistance of other persons or online resources. You may not use a tutor. You may not consult or collaborate with other students in preparing, conducting or writing assignments. You may not refer to any other source (EX: Google Translate, Grammarly, AI aids).

Student Standards:

• Plagiarism/Cheating: You are encouraged to study and learn together. All assignments submitted for a grade must be the sole product of the person submitting the work. Tests or assignments that are suspected of containing materials that are not the student’s work or not properly referenced/cited will be referred to the academic integrity office. If you have any questions about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please refer to the University’s guidelines (Excel with integrity) and consult with your TA or myself.

• Disabilities/life issues: It is your responsibility to apprise your TA and myself of factors that may interfere with your performance in class well in advance of scheduled due dates for assignments. Appropriate measures will be taken in accordance with UCSD policies.
• **Grading/appeals:** All attempts to discuss grading decisions must begin with your TA. You can of course bring them to my attention if the issues cannot be resolved first with your TA. Appeals to me must be made in writing (a Word document or PDF is fine). Late or incomplete assignments/exams *do not constitute the basis for a grade appeal*. I do not offer course extensions unless instructed in writing to do so by University authorities.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (https://osd.ucsd.edu/). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department **well in advance** of any exams or assignments. Please contact the Department of Political Science OSD Liaison if you have any disability needs; please connect with staff via the Virtual Advising Center as soon as possible.

**Academic Advising**

Students who have questions pertaining to Political Science academic advising are asked to reach out the Department's Undergraduate Advisor who can be contacted via the Virtual Advising Center. Academic advising questions include (but are not limited to): add/drop deadlines, course enrollment policies, planning major and minor requirements, quarter-by-quarter plans, department petitions and paperwork, and referrals to campus and student support services.

**Inclusive Classroom Statement**

The TA(s) and I are fully committed to creating a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspectives, experiences, and identities. We urge each of you to contribute your unique perspectives to discussions of course questions, themes, and materials so that we can learn from them, and from each other. If you should ever feel excluded, or unable to fully participate in class for any reason, please let me know, or you may also submit anonymous written feedback to the Department of Political Science's Undergraduate Advisor. A staff member will bring these anonymous comments to my attention. Additional resources to support equity, diversity, and inclusion in our classroom, and beyond, may be found here: Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: 858.822.3542 | diversity@ucsd.edu | https://diversity.ucsd.edu/ https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/diversity/index.html https://regents.ucsd.edu/governance/policies/4400.html

**Classroom Comportment**

Courtesy and a respect for different opinions, experiences and backgrounds is a foundational element of a diverse and civilized society. They are a necessary element of genuine education and open debate. UC San Diego is committed to the following "Principles of Community":

https://ucsd.edu/about/principles.html

Those who cannot play nice with others need a rethink. You will address my teaching staff appropriately. Students who cannot treat others politely will be referred to their college deans.

If you feel at any point that you have not been addressed or treated appropriately by myself or my teaching staff, please feel free to raise your concerns directly with me. You may also contact the Political Science Department to discuss the situation with the relevant staff member. You are of course encouraged to consider raising your concerns with OPHD. https://ophd.ucsd.edu