

# **PS 1581: Origins and Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation Capstone**

William Spaniel  
[williamspaniel@gmail.com](mailto:williamspaniel@gmail.com)

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Seminar: Thursdays, 11:00-1:30  
Posvar 4625

Office Hours: Thursdays, Posvar 4446, 9:00-11:00

For more than 70 years, nuclear weapons have had a central role in international relations, beginning with Cold War diplomacy between the United States and Soviet Union to ongoing negotiations with Iran and North Korea today. This class investigates why states develop nuclear weapons and how nuclear weapons affect international politics following proliferation. We will use a seminar method, with students presenting existing research papers and others commenting and criticizing the work. The class culminates in students developing their own papers.

## Course Materials

Blackboard is difficult to work with. Thus, I will post all course materials on my website: <https://williamspaniel.com/classes/nuclearpolitics2018/>. Most importantly, this includes links to required readings and PDFs of any materials students develop for the class.

There are no required books for this course.

## Article Presentations

The majority of our meetings will consist of two students presenting reports on the assigned readings for the week. Each student should plan to spend an hour in front of the class describing the paper(s) assigned to him or her. These presentations should clearly:

- identify the author's research question and answer to that question
- explain the author's theory (i.e., what is the story that the author is trying to tell?)
- summarize the empirical evidence that supports the author's theory
- highlight any shortcomings of the article's argument

Non-presenting students must participate in these discussions—do not slack off on readings just because you are not presenting. The goal here is to have a conversation among us, with one person leading the charge.

Presenting students must email me PDFs of their slides two days in advance of their presentations. Do NOT send me PowerPoint files.

## Article Critiques

On weeks when you are not leading the presentations, you must do the following:

- Read *at least* two of the articles assigned for the week.
- Of the articles you have read, write a critique of them. Focus on the shortcomings of those articles' arguments and evidence. Please limit summaries of the argument and descriptions of the evidence to what is necessary for the critique. The critiques should be at least one but no more than two single-spaced pages.
- Print the critique and give it to me at the beginning of the class.
- Read *at least* the abstracts and introductions to all the other articles.

In addition to your designated presentation week, you may also not turn another week's critique without penalty.

## Research Paper

Each student will write an original research paper on either (1) the origins of nuclear proliferation or (2) the consequences of nuclear proliferation. The research methodology is up to the student—both case studies and quantitative papers are acceptable. Note that your research on why countries did *not* develop nuclear weapons is just as viable as research on why countries did.

The paper must be written as though it would be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. That is, it should have (1) an abstract consisting of one paragraph that summarizes the argument and evidence, (2) an introduction, (3) a section explaining the theory the student is either developing or adapting from existing work, (4) empirical evaluation of the theory, and (5) a conclusion.

The final paper should be around 20 double-spaced pages. This total does not include the title page (which should include the abstract). It also does not include any figures or tables—though figures and tables are welcome additions.

The paper should be well-sourced and situated in the broader scholarly research on nuclear weapons. This means that you ought to plan to spend at least a few days in the library going through the nuclear shelves and online looking through Google Scholar. The assigned readings are *not* sufficient for a high quality paper. You are also welcome to use primary source documents and country-level reports from international organizations. However, these again are *not* sufficient for a high quality paper.

Students should look to begin their projects early so as to ensure a quality final product. Before spring break, students must submit an introduction and an outline of the remainder of their paper. After spring break, students will present rough drafts of their research to solicit feedback from their colleagues. The final two weeks of class will consist of another round of presentations, with students handing in their papers during finals week.

Plagiarism in the paper is grounds for failing the class.

## Evaluation

I will weigh the above components in following manner:

- Weekly Participation: 5%
- Weekly Paper Critiques: 10%
- Presentation of Existing Research: 10%
- Outline: 10%
- First Presentation: 5%
- Second Presentation: 10%
- Final Paper: 50%

After calculating the weighted averages, I will assign final grades in the following manner:

93% < x: A  
90 ≤ x ≤ 93%: A-  
87% < x < 90%: B+  
83% < x ≤ 87%: B  
80% ≤ x ≤ 83%: B-  
77% < x < 80%: C+  
73% < x ≤ 77%: C  
70% < x ≤ 73%: C-  
x < 70%: Non-passing grades

### **Late Work**

Absent any university regulations that provide exceptions or a North Korean attack on the American homeland, no late work will be accepted.

### **Disabilities**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both myself and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union (412-648-7890), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

### **Disclaimer**

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class. You alone are responsible for attending lecture and checking the website to stay up-to-date.

## Readings and Schedule

The readings and schedule are subject to change, pending international crises and how fast we move through the material. Please see the website for links to the readings and an up-to-date schedule.

### August 30: No Class (American Political Science Association Conference)

### September 6: Introduction

Stephen Schwartz: [Atomic Audit](#) (just introduction)

We will divide the readings for the rest of the semester.

### September 13: Nuclear Coercion

Kyle Beardsley and Victor Asal: [Winning with the Bomb](#) (BD)

Matthew Kroenig: [Nuclear Superiority and the Balance of Resolve: Explaining Nuclear Crisis Outcomes](#) (BD)

Scott Sagan: [The Problem of Redundancy Problem: Why More Nuclear Security Forces May Produce Less Nuclear Security](#) (DG)

Erik Gartzke and Dong-Joon Jo: [Bargaining, Nuclear Proliferation, and Interstate Disputes](#) (DG)

### September 20: Nuclear Skepticism

Todd Sechser and Matthew Fuhrmann: [Crisis Bargaining and Nuclear Blackmail](#) (AG)

Scott Sagan: [The Perils of Proliferation: Organization Theory, Deterrence Theory, and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons](#) (AG)

Mark Bell and Nicholas Miller: [Questioning the Effect of Nuclear Weapons on Conflict](#) (PK)

John Mueller: [The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World](#) (PK)

## **September 27: Who Proliferates? Security and Alliances**

Scott Sagan: [Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb](#) (SB)

Nuno Monteiro and Alexandre Debs: [The Strategic Logic of Nuclear Proliferation](#) (SB)

Philipp Bleek and Eric Lorber: [Security Guarantees and Allied Nuclear Proliferation](#) (AZ)

Matthew Fuhrmann and Todd Sechser: [Nuclear Strategy, Nonproliferation, and the Causes of Foreign Nuclear Deployments](#) (AZ)

## **October 4: Who Proliferates? Economics and Regimes**

Sonali Singh and Christopher Way: [The Correlates of Nuclear Proliferation: A Quantitative Test](#) (MK)

Christopher Way and Jessica Weeks: [Making It Personal: Regime Type and Nuclear Proliferation](#) (MK)

Dong-Joon Jo and Erik Gartzke: [Determinants of Nuclear Weapons Proliferation](#) (KR)

Nicholas Miller: [The Secret Success of Nonproliferation Sanctions](#) (KR)

## **October 11: Who Proliferates? Capacity**

Matthew Fuhrmann: [Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements](#) (JH)

Matthew Kroenig: [Importing the Bomb: Sensitive Nuclear Assistance and Nuclear Proliferation](#) (JH)

Nicholas Miller: [Why Nuclear Energy Programs Rarely Lead to Proliferation](#) (AG)

William Spaniel: [Why Give Nuclear Assistance to Would-Be Proliferators?](#) (WS)

Outlines due.

## **October 18: Nuclear Latency**

Matthew Fuhrmann and Benjamin Tkach: [Almost Nuclear: Introducing the Nuclear Latency Dataset](#) (AM)

Bradley Smith and William Spaniel: [Introducing v-CLEAR: A Latent Variable Approach to Measuring Nuclear Proficiency](#) (AM)

William Spaniel: Bargaining over the Bomb, Chapter 4 (AC)

Rupal Mehta and Rachel Elizabeth Whitlark: [The Benefits and Burdens of Nuclear Latency](#) (AC)

## **October 25: Rough Research Presentations**

### **November 1: Preventive War**

James Fearon: [Rationalist Explanations for War](#) (CY)

Sarah Kreps and Matthew Fuhrmann: [Attacking the Atom: Does Bombing Nuclear Facilities Affect Proliferation?](#) (CY)

Muhammet Bas and Andrew Coe: [Arms Diffusion and War](#) (DE)

Thomas Chadeaux: [Bargaining over Power: When Do Shifts in Power Lead to War?](#) (DE)

### **November 8: No Class (Peace Science Conference)**

### **November 15: Bargaining**

Alexandre Debs and Nuno Monteiro: [Known Unknowns: Power Shifts, Uncertainty, and War](#) (SS)

William Spaniel: [You Get What You Give: A Model of Nuclear Reversal](#) (SS)

Andrew Coe: [Containing Rogues: A Theory of Asymmetric Arming](#) (JF)

William Spaniel: [Arms Negotiation, War Exhaustion, and the Credibility of Preventive War](#) (JF)

### **November 22: No Class (Thanksgiving)**

### **November 29: Final Research Presentations, Part I**

**December 6: Final Research Presentations, Part II**

**December 13: Papers Due**

Place them under my door by 3 pm.