



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

8,377: The Second Nuclear Age: Sorting Out What's New and What's Not

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,377,1.00 The Second Nuclear Age: Sorting Out What's New and What's Not](#) -- Englisch -- [Davis James Warren](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This is an advanced International Relations Course. Students need not have already studied IR but if they have not will certainly need to do additional reading to understand the theoretical and empirical context of the course.

Learning objectives

- Students will acquire a solid foundation in the most important debates surrounding the importance of nuclear weapons for international politics and states' security, including the fundamentals of deterrence theory, arms control and nuclear proliferation.
- Students will be able to analyze and evaluate the likely effects on international security of current developments in the areas of nuclear proliferation and nuclear weapons technology.

Course content

The issue of nuclear weapons largely has been since the end of the East/West Confrontation that dominated international relations during the second half of the 20th century. However, a series of recent events, including the threat posed by the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea, an assertive Russian foreign policy that not only has led to the annexation of Crimea but also an enhanced emphasis on nuclear weapons in military strategy, the US President's announcement of a major expansion of America's nuclear deterrent, have given rise to fears of a new arms race and perhaps nuclear war, have led many to argue that we have entered a "second nuclear age." Current debates and political statements about nuclear strategy suggest that many key lessons learned in the "first nuclear age" may have been forgotten.

This course aims to evaluate the new nuclear challenges in light of earlier understandings of the relationship between nuclear weapons and states' security. Students will learn how nuclear strategy and policy-making evolved during the Cold War and discuss whether and how this knowledge is relevant for today's world.

Course structure

The Second Nuclear Age - Spring Semester 2021

1. Chronology and jargon of nuclear strategy
2. Early Strategists
3. Early Debates
4. "Using" Nuclear Weapons



5. Command and Control
6. Nuclear Crises in the Cold War
7. Nuclear Weapons in Global Security: More is better vs. more will be worse
8. Nuclear Proliferation
9. Non-Proliferation / Disarmament
10. Proliferation / Non-Proliferation cases
11. A New Era of Counterforce?
12. Contemporary Strategic Debates- NATO, EU, Russia

Course literature

Required readings will be made available to the extent possible online via StudyNet and in a reader available for purchase from the Skriptenkommission.

Additional course information

Ideally this course will take place on campus and in person.

In the event that this course is disrupted due to the coronavirus pandemic, classes will continue online. All examination formats will remain the same, with the exception that the oral presentation will take place via a 30-40 minute voice over power point presentation which students will be able to view individually during the first 40 minutes of the class session.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Each student will present one week's readings

Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Written Essay

Examination-aid rule



Term papers

Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

Supplementary aids

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Presentation:

Each student will be expected to prepare and present the readings for one week and to guide class discussion. A good presentation not only recapitulates the main arguments in the readings, but identifies the contentious issues/open questions in order to facilitate a critical discussion in class.

Term-paper:

Students will be required to write a term-paper on a subject related to the course. Papers should not exceed 5,000 words and will be due on June 11, 2021. While there is no single template, a good term paper might critically engage with one of the readings or debate, extend an argument to a new case or probe the validity of received wisdom in light of current developments.

Examination relevant literature

The **presentations** are based on the readings from the syllabus.

Literature for the **term-paper** will reflect the student's choice of topic.



Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).