Arms Control in the Nuclear Realm

Dr. Emily Landau

Course Number: 702.2180
Class Time: Tuesday, 15:00 – 18:00
Class Location: TBA
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Course Description:
This course focuses on the notion of nuclear arms control as understood from the perspective of international relations studies. The course will highlight the motivation for developing nuclear weapons, how they are viewed by states and by the international community, and the strategic dilemmas that states face when they attempt to negotiate arms control agreements in the nuclear realm, as well as the strategic significance of the agreements themselves. We will be looking at the history of attempts to negotiate arms control and nonproliferation agreements, including the experience in the Middle East in the early 1990s, and at the different international contexts for negotiating arms control: UN, regional frameworks, and bilateral dialogues.

In conceptual terms, controlling the negative effects of nuclear weapons will be examined and discussed in light of the two major traditions that developed over the course of the second half of the 20th century: disarmament (with its focus on weapons), and "stabilization of relations" (with its focus on states). We will also examine the major proliferation challenges of the post-Cold War – Iran and North Korea – and assess developments in arms control thinking in light of the experience of international attempts to curb these two states' nuclear ambitions.

Course Requirements:
- Weekly reading assignments
- Active class participation, including opening discussion on reading assignments
- Mid-Term exam
- Final assignment: (up to 5 pages)

Final Grade:
Mid-Term exam 60%
Final assignment and class participation 40%
Course Outline and Reading List

Week 1+2: Opening Lectures: Introduction to Arms Control and to the Course; Why Arms Control is Important; Arms Control and International Relations Theory

Week 3: Nuclear Weapons I: Why do states want them? What can they do with them?

Week 4: Nuclear Weapons II: Why do states give them up? What restrains them? What role for arms control?

Week 5: US-Soviet Nuclear Arms Control: "Stabilization of Relations" Tradition:

Week 6: NPT and Beyond: Disarmament Tradition:

**Week 7:** Arms Control: Conceptual Dilemmas:


**Week 8:** Midterm Exam

**Week 9:** Introducing Arms Control to the Middle East; Israel's Nuclear Policy and Attitude toward Arms Control:

Avner Cohen and Marvin Miller, "Bringing Israel's Bomb out of the Basement: Has Nuclear Ambiguity Outlived its Shelf Life?" *Foreign Affairs*, September-October 2010.

**Week 10:** CSBMs: the Key to Stabilizing Relations; Application to the Middle East in ACRS:


**Week 11:** Post-Cold War Nuclear Proliferation and Arms Control: Iran and North Korea:
Week 12: Where do we go from here? New Disarmament Agenda and New Arms Control Directions; WMDFZ for the Middle East:


Emily B. Landau, "Obama's Nuclear Disarmament Agenda: Blurred Aims and Priorities", in Emily B. Landau and Tamar Malz-Ginzburg (eds.) The Obama Vision and Nuclear Disarmament, INSS Memorandum no.107, March 2011.


(optional) W.P.S. Sidhu and Bruce Jones with Colette Jaycox (eds.) Preparing for a Constructive 2012 Conference on the Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone, Center on International Cooperation, New York University, March 2012. (3 articles).