GOVERNMENT 4937/7937:

GOING NUCLEAR: THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Professor Christopher Way
Office: 306 White Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30 – 3:30
Email: crw12@cornell.edu

Course Description: What are the causes and consequences of the spread of nuclear weapons and of nuclear energy? What are the drivers of the spread of nuclear energy? Who can operate nuclear energy plants safely, and who cannot? And will the widely predicted “nuclear renaissance” still occur given the Fukushima-Daiichi disaster? Does the spread of nuclear energy fuel the spread of nuclear weapons? Why do some countries pursue nuclear weapons while others refrain from doing so? This class focuses on building the basic background knowledge to allow students to engage questions like these and to undertake an original research project. Assignments center on a substantial original research project. My goal for you in this class is to enable you to conduct a genuinely interesting and original research project that actually contributes something new to this area of enquiry. Familiarity with nuclear weapons/energy issues is not required to take the class.

Requirements and Grading:

This class has three (graded) requirements. First, I expect you to come to class each week ready to engage in a lively, well-prepared discussion of the readings. This counts for 25% of the course grade. Second, you’ll each be required to write critical memos on the assigned readings for two of the sessions. These memos will be circulated in advance to the entire class and play a large role in guiding our group discussions. Specific details will be discussed in class. These will count for 15% of the course grade. Third, the main assignment is an original research project. The last two weeks of class are devoted to student presentations on their projects. These will be power-point presentations lasting
about 12 minutes each followed by discussion with the class. You’ll also write up a 25 page research paper on your chosen topic; this will be due at the start of finals period. Your presentation counts for 20% of the course grade and the paper makes up the remaining 40%.

**Texts:**

I’m going to post the readings on Blackboard. Two inexpensive books that you might want to purchase are:

- Daniel Yergin. *The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World*. 2011. Penguin Books. (we’ll only be reading three chapters of this, but it is a great book and a fun read and you will probably enjoy the whole thing when you have time).

**Cornell University Policies and Regulations:** Participation in this class commits students and instructors to abide by Cornell’s expectations and policies regarding equal opportunity and academic integrity. Further, it implies permission from students to submit their written work to services that check for plagiarism (such as Turnitin.com). Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with university policies regarding plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity. In particular, please make yourself familiar with the definition of plagiarism, and be aware that you may not turn in the same piece of work (or part thereof) for credit in multiple classes, either in the same semester or while at Cornell in general. Violations of the University Code of Academic Integrity will be firmly dealt with in this class. The Code can be found on the web at (a link to the Code can also be found on the Government 386 web page):

   http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html

A Cornell tutorial called “Recognizing and Avoiding Plagiarism” can be found at:

   http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm

Please make yourself familiar with the contents of these documents.

In addition, this instructor observes all university policies addressing racial, ethnic, gender, sexual preference, or religious discrimination and all forms of harassment; he conducts class in conformance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with pertinent policies and to bring any concerns related to them to the attention of the instructor.
Course Schedule and Outline:

Week 1 (Jan 22). Introduction and logistics.

Week 2 (Jan 29). Nuclear Energy Basics

- Peruse the “Alternative Energy Time-Line”

Week 3 (Feb 5). Nuclear Energy: Past and Future


Week 4 (Feb 12). A Nuclear Renaissance?


Week 5 (Feb 19). Policy Challenge 1: Nuclear Renaissance and Internationalization of the Fuel Cycle?


**Week 6 (Feb 26). Policy Challenge 2: Energy Dependence and International Terrorism**


**Week 7 (March 5). Policy Challenge 3: Spreading Nuclear Energy without Spreading Nuclear Weapons**


**Week 8 (March 12). Access to Technology and Weapons Proliferation**

Week 9 (March 19). Spring Break!

Week 10 (March 26). Theories of Nuclear Proliferation


Week 11 (April 2). No class!

- Work hard on your research projects!

Week 12 (April 9). The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime


Week 13 (April 16). Near Misses and Future Proliferators in East Asia?


**Week 14 (April 23).**

Student Presentations.

**Week 15 (April 30).**

Student Presentations.

---

**Final papers are due by 5 PM on May 8.**