

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/ Department of Political Science
POLS 190 Senior Seminar, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
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Office Hours:	9.30 to 10.30 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12.30 to 1.30 PM on Fridays
Class Days/Time:	Fridays 9.30 AM- 12.15 PM
Classroom:	Clark Hall 302

Course Format

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system on Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course is the integrating capstone course that will be the culmination of your experience with the study of political science. The topic of this course is nuclear weapons. After an introduction to the science behind their creation, the course will survey the history of the introduction of nuclear weapons into global strategy, the dominance of deterrence, the attempts at nonproliferation, and the current dilemmas surrounding disarmament. This is a seminar class with significant participation required.

Prerequisite: POLS 100W or instructor consent.

Course Goals

The Political Science Program Learning Outcomes are

- **Breadth**
Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- **Application**
Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- **Disciplinary methods**
Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources,

government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

- **Communication Skills**

Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

- **Citizenship**

Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1. Demonstrate knowledge of key facts about the politics and technology of nuclear weapons

CLO2. Locate and evaluate primary documents and scholarly arguments

CLO3. Apply course concepts to real-world problems

CLO4. Discuss major social issues in a civil and collaborative manner

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. All texts can be accessed using links on the Canvas site. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if there are any hindrances to access. Full citations for the texts and videos on the syllabus are provided in a separate document on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

The major assignment for this course is the term paper which is approximately **5000 words (25 double-spaced pages)**, including all components such as the title page, figures, and bibliography. Students who are writing an honors thesis will turn in a paper of **approximately 7000 words**. You will be submitting three preliminary versions of this paper, so that you may incorporate feedback and revise your work to produce a final paper that represents a solid piece of research. You will also present the argument of your paper to your classmates in the last week of class.

Your participation in the simulation is mandatory. You will be given roles to play before class, and assessed both on your participation and reflection papers.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final examination will be held in class on December 14. It will consist of 20 short answer questions and one short essay.

Grading Information

- Extra credit opportunities will be announced throughout the semester via Canvas Announcements. Extra credit points are added to your total score and have the same weight as other scores. There is no limit on how many extra credit points you can earn in this course.
- If you miss the deadline for submission for an assignment, you will lose 5 percent of your score for that assignment per 5 hours of lateness (pro-rated). For example, if you submit the term paper 6 hours after the deadline, and your score would have been 15 points, you will lose one point. Most assignments require submission on Canvas. If you wish to request an extension on your submission, be prepared to provide a reason and documentation.

Determination of Grades

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due date
2 & 4	Online discussions	9x3= 27	Various
4	Participation in class	7	Various
2	Term paper outline	3	September 21
2	Term paper literature review	4	October 5
1	Midterm exam	15	October 12
3	Simulation	7	October 26
2	Term paper draft	6	November 16
4	Research presentation	6	November 30 December 7
1	Final exam	15	December 14
2	Term paper final submission	10	December 18

Final letter grades are based on this scale (please note these are points and not percentages)

A only	95-100
A minus	90-94
B plus	85-89
B only	80-84
B minus	75-79
C plus	70-74
C only	65-69
C minus	60-64
D plus	55-59
F	<55

Classroom Protocol

This is a seminar, and your success in the course will depend to a great degree on your completing the required readings and participating in class discussions. Please be prepared to be called upon, by name, in each class. This class does not allow for use of any electronic devices, including smartphones and laptops for note-taking, except in cases of documented medical need.

Writing Fellow

This semester, we will benefit from the assistance of a Writing Fellow. My-Tam Hoang is available to help you with your writing assignments for this course. Please make appointments with her by emailing my-tam.hoang@sjsu.edu. Please note that she is not an editor, and her role is not to fix the mistakes in your paper. She will serve as a resource for you to think through the process of writing. For instance, you could ask her for help with being more concise in your essays, or properly citing sources.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

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The schedule is subject to change with fair notice, provided on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	Aug 24	Introduction	
2	Aug 31	A. Introduction B. Overview of arsenals C. Nuclear technology	Syllabus; various articles from the <i>Nuclear Notebook</i>
3	Sep 7	A. The decision to drop the bomb B. Nuclear ethics	1. Wilson 2. Fussell 3. Lee
4	Sep 14	Deterrence	1. Nichols Ch.1 2. Nuclear Posture Review
5	Sep 21	Governance	1. Wellerstein 2. Gusterson (2 articles) 3. Radiolab podcast 4. House Bill 669 (Lieu-Markey Bill)
6	Sep 28	Accidents and C3I	1. Schlosser 3-7, 157-88, 220-27 2. Broderick pages TBA
7	Oct 5	Disarmament and arms control	1. Schelling 2. Sagan and Waltz 2010 3. Kroenig 2013 Tannenwald 2017
8	Oct 12	MIDTERM Presentation by librarian	
9	Oct 19	A. Nonproliferation B. Renunciation of nuclear weapons: South Korea	1. Sagan 2011 2. Gavin 3. Choi & Hwang
10	Oct 26	Simulation	
11	Nov 2	Nuclear programs of China, India, and Pakistan	1. Cunningham and Fravel 1-26 2. Narang 38-59
12	Nov 9	Nuclear programs of Israel, Iran, and North Korea	1. Cohen (Chs. 1 & 2) 2. Waltz 3. Braut-Hegghammer
13	Nov 16	A. Nuclear terrorism B. Counter-proliferation	1. Eaves 2016 2. Bunn and Sagan 2014 3. Mueller 2010

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
14	Nov 30	Research presentations by students	
15	Dec 7	Research presentations by students	
	Dec 14	Final exam 8 AM- 9.30 AM	Closed book, in class.