Syllabus

Issues in Nuclear Proliferation and the nuclear test as a bargaining chip - 58372

Last update 03-08-2016

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: international relations

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Or Rabinowitz

Coordinator Email: or.rabinowitz-batz@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays, 1100-1200, room 5309.

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Or Rabinowitz
Course/Module description:
The aim of the course is to expose students to various issues in nuclear proliferation related to the Cold War period and the Post-Cold War period while focusing on the development of the nuclear test as a bargaining chip in the international arena.
The course will explore the main themes which characterized nuclear proliferation over different periods of the Cold War and after it as well as different theoretical approaches which explain them. The role of nuclear tests in the international system and in the construction of the NPT regime will be examined, as well as the development of the legal norm against testing.

Course/Module aims:
- Review the main trends related to nuclear proliferation from the 1940s and to this day.
- Examine the development of the nuclear test into a bargaining chip in the international arena.
- Examine the relevant theoretical approaches.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- Compare and categorize the different nuclear case studies.
- Define the central, relevant terms in the academic discourse on nuclear proliferation.
- Critically analyse various theoretical approaches.
- Analyse the development of the nuclear test into a bargaining chip.

Attendance requirements(%):
Students are allowed to miss no more than three lectures to complete this course.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures.

Course/Module Content:
1. The Manhattan project, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing, and the birth of the nuclear age
2. The legal background: the NPT and when does a state become a Nuclear Weapon State
3. Why states develop nuclear weapons
4. Nuclear assistance
5. Roll-back, hedging and nuclear restraint
6. Counter proliferation
7. Israel, the early years
8. Israel, the 1970s and to this day
9. Nuclear deals and covert development
10. Nuclear weapons and foreign policy
11. The nuclear taboo
12. Iran’s nuclear program

Required Reading:
Reading list (English)


[Jacques E C Hymans, “When does a state become a ‘nuclear weapon state’? An exercise in Measurement Validation,” Nonproliferation Review 17, no. 1 (2010);


Or Rabinowitz and Nicholas L. Miller, "Keeping the bombs in the basement", International Security, summer 2015 (Vol. 40, No. 1)


Paul C. Avey (2015) Who's Afraid of the Bomb? The Role of Nuclear Non-Use...
Norms in Confrontations between Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Opponents, Security Studies, 24:4


Additional Reading Material:
Country Profiles in the Nuclear Threat Initiative website:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 100 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Additional reading items will be detailed during the course.
Students are required to submit 6 reading reports and to present papers in class.