

**Course Syllabus**  
**Nuclear Weapons in International Security**

Kärnvapens betydelse i internationell säkerhet

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Course Code</b>         | 1SS083                            | <b>Main Field of Study</b>     | Political Science: Security Studies  |
| <b>Valid from Semester</b> | Autumn 2022                       | <b>Department</b>              | Department of Political Science and Law  |
| <b>Education Cycle</b>     | Basic level                       | <b>Subject</b>                 | Political Science  |
| <b>Scope</b>               | 10.0                              | <b>Language of Instruction</b> | The teaching is conducted in English.  |
| <b>Progression</b>         | G1N                               | <b>Decided by</b>              | The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University |
| <b>Grading Scale</b>       | Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction | <b>Decision date</b>           | 2022-01-19   |
| <b>Revision</b>            | 1.1                               |                                |  |

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### Entry Requirements

General entry requirements.

Samhällskunskap (Civics) A alternatively Samhällskunskap (Civics) 1b alternatively Samhällskunskap (Civics) 1a1 + 1a2 and English proficiency equivalent to English B or English 6 is also required.

### Course Content and Structure

The aim of the course is to provide the student with a general understanding of the role of nuclear weaponry in international security. The course ranges from the initial development and use of the atomic bomb in World War II through the superpower showdown of the Cold War onto the present multipolar age of nuclear modernisation. The student will learn about the technological evolution of nuclear weapon systems and the relevant debates on issues of nuclear strategy, vertical and horizontal proliferation, and arms control. Attention will also be given to the social and cultural ramifications of life in the nuclear age. The course will draw on current issues and latest policy debates in an era of increasing nuclear instability. The course is structured around lectures, compulsory seminars, an individual written assignment in the form of a home exam, and self-study. The aim of the lectures is to introduce the topic of the week and to highlight key issues within the readings to facilitate engagement with the course literature ahead of the seminar. The compulsory seminars are the most important part of this course and active student participation is expected and required. The aim of the seminars is to deepen the student's understanding of the course readings and of key issues, themes, and debates surrounding nuclear weapons. Seminar questions will be distributed beforehand to help the student reflect upon the central issues in the readings and to stimulate discussion during the seminars.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

After completed course the student should be able to:

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of the significance of nuclear weapons for international security and global society since 1945.

#### Competence and skills:

- Critically apply relevant concepts and theories of nuclear strategy and arms control.

#### Judgement and approach

- Independently engage in contemporary debates on nuclear issues such as modernisation, non-proliferation, and disarmament.

**Type of Instruction**

Seminars

Lectures

Independent Study

**Assessment****Nuclear Weapons in International Security**

Scope: 10.0

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

The course is examined through an individual written assignment and through active participation in compulsory seminars.

Active participation in the seminars presupposes that the student orally discusses key issues and problems within the framework of the course based on the course literature.

The examiner may decide that absence from a seminar or participation that does not achieve the grade pass (G) in certain cases can be supplemented with a complementary written assignment. Such an assignment must be submitted or presented within three working days, as from when the examiner communicates such information.

In the case of not fulfilling the requirements for the grade pass (G) on the written examination the student may be given a complementary written assignment to achieve the grade pass (G). The student has three working days to complete such task, unless there are special reasons approved by the examiner. Late examinations are not graded unless there are special reasons approved by the examiner.

**Grading**

Grading for the written home exam takes place through a three-grade grading scale: Fail (F), Pass (P) and Pass with Distinction (PwD). Grading for the seminars take place through a two-grade grading scale: Fail (F) and Pass (P). Grading criteria are reported at the latest at the start of the course.

For the grade P on the course, the student must obtain the grade P in the compulsory seminars and the grade P on the written home examination.

For the grade PwD on the course, the student must obtain the grade P in the compulsory seminars and the grade PwD on the written home exam.

**Restrictions in Number of Examinations**

There is no limit on the total number of examination opportunities.

**Restrictions Concerning Degree**

The course cannot be included in a degree with another course whose content fully or partially corresponds to the content of this course.

**Transitional Provisions**

When the course is no longer given or when the course content has changed substantially, the student has the right to be examined once per semester during a three-term period in accordance with this syllabus.

**Miscellaneous**

The course is given within the Swedish Defence University's Bachelor's Programme. The course may also be given as a single-subject course.

If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defense University on special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.

On the completion of the course, an evaluation will be conducted under the auspices of the course director, which will form the basis for any changes to the course.



## Reading List

## Nuclear Weapons in International Security

Kärnvapens betydelse i internationell säkerhet

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|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Course Code</b>                  | 1SS083     |
| <b>Revision</b>                     | 1.1        |
| <b>Reading List Valid from Date</b> | 2022-06-02 |
| <b>Reading List Decided Date</b>    | 2022-06-01 |

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**Books (selected parts and chapters)**

Biswas, Shampa, *Nuclear Desire: Power and the Postcolonial Nuclear Order* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2014) – Chapter 1 [48 pages] and Chapter 2 [34 pages]

Cowen Karp, Regina, *Security without Nuclear Weapons? Different Perspectives on Non-Nuclear Security* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992) – Chapter 2 [34 pages]

Futter, Andrew, *Hacking the Bomb: Cyber Threats and Nuclear Weapons* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2018) – Chapter 7 [25 pages]

Jaspers, Karl, *The Future of Mankind* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1961) - Chapter 1, 12, 18 [59 pages]

Morgan, Patrick M., *Deterrence Now* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003) - Chapter 1 [40 pages] & chapter 2 [38 pages]

Scarry, Elaine, *Thermonuclear Monarchy: Choosing between Democracy and Doom* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2014) – Introduction [20 pages]

Schelling, Thomas, *The Strategy of Conflict* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1960) – Chapter 8 [21 pages]

Schelling, Thomas, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1966) – Chapter 1 [35 pages]

Younger, Stephen M., *The Bomb: A New History* (New York: Harper Collins, 2010) – Chapter 1 (32 pages), Chapter 3 (28 pages), Chapter 4 (18 pages)

**Articles and chapters in books**

Anders, Gunther, *Burning Conscience: The Case of the Hiroshima Pilot, Claude Eatherly, Told in His Letters to Gunther Anders* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1962) [15 pages]

Bourne, Mike, "Invention and Uninvention in Nuclear Weapons Politics", *Critical Studies on Security* Vol.4, No.1 (2016) [19 pages]

Brodie, Bernard, "Strategy Hits a Dead End", *Harper's Magazine* (October 1955) [5 pages]

Cohn, Carol, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals", *Signs* Vol.12, No.4 (1987) [32 pages]

Craig, Campbell, "Solving the Nuclear Dilemma: Is a World State Necessary?" *Journal of International Political Theory* Vol.15, No.3 (2018) [18 pages]

Dahl, Robert A., *Controlling Nuclear Weapons: Democracy Versus Guardianship* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1985) – chapter 1 [40 pages]

Deudney, Daniel, "Going Critical: Toward a Modified Nuclear One Worldism", *Journal of International Political Theory* Vol.15, No.3 (2018) [19 pages]

Freedman, Lawrence, *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy* (London: Macmillan, 1981) – Chapter 1 [13 pages], Chapter 2 [7 pages] and Chapter 3 [5 pages]

Gartzke Erik & Jon R. Lindsay, "Thermonuclear Cyberwar", *Journal of Cybersecurity* Vol.3, No.1 (2017) [12 pages]

Gavin, Francis J., "Same as It Ever Was: Nuclear Alarmism, Proliferation, and the Cold War", *International Security* Vol.34, No.3 (Winter 2009/10) [31 pages]

Gray, Colin S. and Keith Payne, "Victory Is Possible", *Foreign Policy*, No.39 (1980) [14 pages]

Hersman, Rebecca, "Wormhole Escalation in the New Nuclear Age", *Texas National Security Review* (Summer 2020) [20 pages]

Herz, John H., "Rise and Demise of the Territorial State" *World Politics*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (1957) [22 pages]



- Johnson, James, "Delegating Strategic Decision-Making to Machines: Dr. Strangelove Redux?" *Journal of Strategic Studies* (2020) [39 pages]
- Lieber, Keir A. and Daryl G. Press, "The Rise of U.S. Nuclear Primacy" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.85, No.2 (2006) [13 pages]
- Lifton, Robert Jay and Eric Olson, "The Nuclear Age" in Edwin S. Shneidman (ed.), *Death: Current Perspectives* (Palo Alto, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1984) [9 pages]
- Morgenthau, Hans, "Death in the Nuclear Age", *Commentary*, September 1961 [4 pages]
- Rhodes, Edward, "Nuclear Weapons and Credibility: Deterrence Theory beyond Rationality" *Review of International Studies* Vol.14, No.1 (1988) [18 pages]
- Sagan, Scott, "The Causes of Nuclear Weapons Proliferation," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol.14 (2011) [24 pages]
- Sagan, Scott & Kenneth Waltz, "A Nuclear Iran: Promoting Stability or Courting Disaster?" *Journal of International Affairs* Vol.60, No.2 (2007) [16 pages]
- Schell, Jonathan, "The Abolition" *The Washington Quarterly* Vol.20, No.3 (1997) [9 pages]
- Schelling, Thomas "A World without Nuclear Weapons", *Daedalus* Vol.138, No.4 (2009) [6 pages]
- Schelling, Thomas, "Reciprocal Measures for Arms Stabilization" *Daedalus*, Vol.134, No.4 (1960) [17 pages]
- Talmadge, Caitlin, "Deterring a Nuclear 9/11", *The Washington Quarterly* Vol.30, No.2 (2007) [14 pages]
- Tannenwald, Nina, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use", *International Organization*, Vol.53, No.3 (1999) [33 pages]
- Trachtenberg, Marc, "Strategic Thought in America, 1952-1966", *Political Science Quarterly* Vol.104, No.2 (1989) [34 pages]
- Waltz, Kenneth N., "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities" *The American Political Science Review*, Vol.84, No.3 (1990) [16 pages]
- Total: 963 pages