

COURSE DETAIL

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Country

France

Host Institution

Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)

Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

140

UCEAP Course Suffix

N

UCEAP Official Title

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

UCEAP Transcript Title

NUC WEAPON&INTL SEC

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the politics, strategy, and international security implications of nuclear weapons. Beginning with the science and history behind the bomb's invention, the course explores how nuclear weapons have shaped global politics from Hiroshima to the contemporary era of multipolar nuclear rivalry. Through close engagement with foundational texts and contemporary policy debates, it examines the logic of deterrence, the strategic dilemmas of extended deterrence, and the evolving architecture of non-proliferation and arms control. The course applies these frameworks to key cases—such as NATO, Iran, Russia, China, and France—to assess the challenges of escalation, proliferation, and technological change in the emerging nuclear age. Emphasis is placed on bridging theory and practice, enabling students to critically assess how nuclear weapons continue to structure conflict, diplomacy, and international order in the 21st century.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

DAFF 25A55

Host Institution Course Title

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/en/?202520/291233>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Seminar

Host Institution Department

International Relations

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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