

# Arms Control and International Relations

*PPOL 6100W, Fall 2024*

*Hong Kong University of Science and Technology*



## *Class Schedule*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture / Activity</b>
<b>09/03</b>	Unit 0. Introduction
<b>09/10</b>	Unit 1. Concepts in Arms Control and Security Studies Unit 2. Calculation of National Interests in Arms Control
<b>09/17</b>	Unit 3. Strategic Stabilities -- Rational Analysis Unit 4. Strategic Stabilities -- Accidents and Miscalculations
<b>09/24</b>	Unit 5. Beyond National Security Unit 6. The Constructivist Views
<b>10/01</b>	
<b>10/08</b>	Unit 7. Domestic Politics in Arms Control Unit 8. Arms Control and International Law
<b>10/15</b>	Unit 9. Nuclear Security Unit 10. Nuclear Non-proliferation
<b>10/22</b>	Unit 11. Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament Debate Preparation
<b>10/29</b>	Debate
<b>11/05</b>	Unit 12. Missile and Space Issues Unit 13. Biological, Chemical and Conventional Arms Control
<b>11/12</b>	Unit 14. Arms Control Related to Cyber & AI Unit 15. Arms Control Issues in the US-China Relation
<b>11/19</b>	MUN Preparation

11/26	MUN
12/15	Final paper due

### ***Course Description***

In an era where global security is increasingly intertwined with technological advancements and complex international dynamics, understanding the intricacies of arms control and its implications on national and global security is essential. This course, *Arms Control and International Relations*, offers an in-depth exploration of how states assess their national security interests, the factors driving arms races, and the pivotal role of arms control in maintaining strategic stability. We will delve into traditional and non-traditional security concepts, exploring how states navigate the delicate balance between power and cooperation in an increasingly interconnected world.

Through this course, students will engage with key themes such as the risks and motivations behind arms races, the impact of domestic and international factors on arms control decisions, and the intersection of international law with arms control efforts. We will also examine how different types of arms control measures apply to a range of technologies, from nuclear weapons to emerging domains like cyber, space, and artificial intelligence.

#### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will:

1. **Understand the Current Arms Control Landscape:** Gain a comprehensive overview of contemporary arms control agreements and the challenges they face in today's geopolitical environment.
2. **Analyze National Security Calculations:** Learn how states determine their national security interests and the factors that influence these decisions.
3. **Evaluate the Role of Arms Control in Global Security:** Explore how arms control initiatives contribute to both national and global security through international cooperation.
4. **Assess the Factors Influencing Arms Control Decisions:** Understand the domestic and international elements that drive states to pursue or resist arms control measures.
5. **Develop Arms Control Policies:** Learn how to craft effective arms control policies that balance national security needs with global stability.
6. **Examine the Regulation of Emerging Technologies:** Investigate how international frameworks can be applied to regulate emerging military technologies like cyber, space, and AI.

7. **Engage with International Relations Theories:** Familiarize with the theories that underpin the study of international relations and their relevance to arms control.

### **Student Activities:**

This course is designed to be interactive and engaging, offering students the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios through a variety of activities:

1. **Live Debate:** Students will participate in a structured debate, defending opposing viewpoints on a contentious issue in arms control. This exercise will sharpen their analytical and rhetorical skills, as well as their ability to critically engage with complex topics.
2. **Model United Nations Simulation:** In this activity, students will assume the roles of state representatives, negotiating an international arms control agreement within a simulated United Nations framework. This hands-on experience will enhance their understanding of the diplomatic process and the challenges of multilateral negotiations.
3. **Final Paper:** Students will choose a topic related to arms control and international security, conducting in-depth research to produce a comprehensive final paper. This project will allow them to demonstrate their mastery of the course material and contribute original insights to the field.

This course is an invaluable opportunity for students interested in the intersection of international relations, security studies, and the rapidly evolving landscape of military technologies. By the end of the semester, participants will be well-equipped to navigate and contribute to the complex discussions surrounding arms control and global security.

### ***Contact***

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### ***Disclaimer***

While most of the content is definitive, the schedule of this course might undergo minor modifications which will be communicated in advance.

Some readings are already included and new one will be added soon.

## ***Assignment and Breakdown of Grade***

We will hold a debate session where students will be divided in two teams and where each team will support opposite sides on a topic. A specific grading rubric will be made available to students before the debate so that they understand how they will be evaluated.

A Model United Nations simulation ([M.U.N](#)) will be held where groups of students will represent different states during a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The goal of the exercise will be for states' representatives to negotiate, and if possible, sign and ratify an arms control agreement. The object of this agreement will be decided later, possibly with the participation of the students. More information on the rules and practices of this M.U.N. exercise will be provided to student in due time.

The last deliverable for this course will be a final paper on one of the following topics:

- A topic around arms control of your choice, preferably involving China or the U.S.
- A new arms control agreement for one emerging technology (cyber, space, or AI technologies)
- An analysis of the merits and flaws of the TPNW
- An analysis of the agreement negotiated during the M.UN.

### **Breakdown of grade:**

Debate: 30%

MUN: 30%

Final paper: 30%

Attendance and participation: 10%

### ***Readings:***

#### **Required readings:**

Larsen, Jeffrey A., ed. *Arms Control: Cooperative Security in a Changing Environment*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002

(Introduction; Part 1; Part 2; Part 3, Chap. 15 only ; Part 4)

Williams, Paul D., and Matt McDonald, eds. *Security Studies: An Introduction*. 4th ed. London: Routledge, 2023

(Part1: Chap. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Part2: Chap. 9, 10, 11, 12, 15; Part 3 : 18, 19, 20, 22 ; Part 4 : Chap. 26, 29, 30, 32, 36, 38, 39, 40)

**Recommended readings:**

<https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/how-emerging-technology-breaking-arms-control>

More to come...