COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to provide students with:

- an academic understanding of the origins, theory and practice of disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation
- an appreciation of the making and framing of national policy in this field, and
- an understanding of the multilateral disarmament process.

CLASS SCHEDULE

6 January Class 1: Introduction: a threat assessment
13 January Class 2: Disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation: the basics
20 January Class 3: Stakeholders, negotiators and implementers
27 January Class 4: Disarmament: origins, theory, trajectory
3 February: No Class
10 February Class 5: Arms control: origins, theory, trajectory
17 February Class 6: Nonproliferation: the case of nuclear weapons
24 February No Class (Reading Week)
3 March Class 7: Cooperative threat reduction and counterproliferation
10 March Class 8: Monitoring and verification: the case of nuclear testing
17 March Class 9: Compliance and enforcement: the cases of Iran and North Korea
24 March Class 10: Chemical and biological disarmament and arms control
31 March Class 11: Conventional arms control
7 April Class 12: Space and other future challenges.
 COURSE OUTLINE

The course is intended to impart a comprehensive academic understanding of the origins, theory and practice of disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation. Students will explore the intellectual, political, strategic and other underpinnings of these approaches to conflict prevention and mitigation and how they have evolved, particularly since the end of the Cold War. There will be an emphasis on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, but delivery systems, conventional weapons and space weapons will also be considered.

Multilateral, regional, bilateral and other types of treaties will receive prominence as a principal means of achieving disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation objectives, but newer arrangements, such as security- and confidence-building measures, cooperative threat reduction and counter-proliferation approaches will also be dealt with. In respect of treaties, due emphasis will be placed on their negotiation and implementation, as well as on monitoring, verification and compliance. The roles of various stakeholders in the weapons control enterprise, including states, international organizations, civil society and industry will be studied.

The course will begin with the origins of and theory behind the three classic approaches of disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation. Recent permutations, namely counterproliferation and preventive or pre-emptive counterproliferation, will be considered. This will be followed by a dissection of the various tools available for pursuing these approaches, ranging from global, multilateral treaties, complete with full-scale verification and compliance systems at one end of the spectrum, to declaratory measures at the other, as well as the part that various stakeholders play. The course will then move on to a consideration of the way that various categories of so-called weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons) and their associated technologies, including delivery systems, have been tackled. Case studies of particularly states, including problematic ones like Iran and North Korea, other stakeholders, treaties and implementation bodies will be interwoven with and used to illustrate the various themes. The course will conclude by examining some of the greatest challenges to disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation, including the frontier of space; the proliferation of dual-use technologies and new military technologies.

In the course of playing the role of a particular state and participating in a model Conference on Disarmament, students should acquire an appreciation of the making and framing of national policy towards the disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation, as well as an understanding of the multilateral disarmament process.