How did the invention of nuclear weapons and their use as an act of war in 1945 change military strategy, international diplomacy, and world politics? This course surveys historical efforts to understand and to navigate these changes at national, regional, and global scales. At the same time, it examines the development of nuclear energy and its complex relationship with nuclear weapons. How have policymakers weighed the benefits and risks of this form of electricity generation? How do these trade-offs look today facing climate change and nuclear proliferation concerns? The course offers a global retrospective of the nuclear age and its uneven impacts from North America and Europe to Asia and Africa. Topics include histories of fission research, radiation exposure, the Cold War and its intersections with decolonization struggles, nuclear deterrence, nonproliferation negotiations, accidents and close-calls, and disarmament efforts.

Students will gain familiarity with:
1. Historical and policy debates surrounding nuclear technologies, including military and energy applications;
2. Recent interdisciplinary scholarship and classic texts on the nuclear age;
3. Use of primary sources for historical research and historical writing;
4. Formulation of policy-relevant arguments in response to paper prompts and exam questions.

**Required Texts**
All other texts available using the Brightspace Library Reading List tool.

**Assignments and Weighting**
1. Response paper (500 words), on Ibuse’s *Black Rain*, due 2pm August 31, 10% of final grade
2. Quiz, in class using Blue Books, September 14, 10%
3. Midterm exam, in class using Blue Books, October 12, 20%
4. Primary-source-based papers (1,000 words), each 20%
   - Topic: nonproliferation, due midnight November 3
   - Topic: disarmament, due midnight December 1
5. Final exam (in person using Blue Books, December 11–16), 20%

Unless done in class or otherwise in person, assignments are to be submitted using Brightspace.

Remember to bring to class on September 14 and October 12, and to the final exam (December 11–16), a Blue Book available for purchase at University Bookstore (360 W. State St.) or Follett’s Purdue West Bookstore (1265 W. State St.).
Grading Scale
A+: exceptional work
A: 93 or higher
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 80-82
C+: 76-79
C: 70-75
D: 66-69
F: 65 or lower

Attendance
Attendance is essential to success in this course. The course readings and lectures complement each other but are not interchangeable. Exams will almost certainly cover topics and questions that we discuss extensively in class but that the readings address only briefly, if at all.

This course follows the University Academic Regulations regarding class attendance, which state that students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Students should request notes from their peers in the event of an absence. Please do not come to class if you are feeling ill.

Late Work
Without written authorization from the instructor, student work forfeits the equivalent of one full letter grade (e.g., A work automatically becomes B work) for each day it is late. Work submitted more than 4 days late without this written authorization will receive a failing grade and will not otherwise be graded.

Students should request extensions in writing at least 72 hours before the assignment deadline no matter the circumstances. When conflicts can be anticipated, such as for many University-sponsored activities and religious observations, you should inform me of the situation as far in advance as possible. For cases that fall under excused absence regulations, you or your representative should contact or go to the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) website to complete appropriate forms for instructor notification. Under academic regulations, excused absences may be granted by ODOS for cases of grief/bereavement, military service, jury duty, parenting leave, or emergent medical care. The processes are detailed, so plan ahead.

For unanticipated or emergency circumstances when advance notification is not possible, contact me as soon as possible by email. These emergencies may require documentation. Extensions not covered by the excused absence or emergency policies will be granted at the instructor’s discretion.

Regarding make-up quizzes and exams, or any other in-class assignment, please contact me by email as far in advance as possible.
Academic Integrity
I encourage students to study together and otherwise discuss the course materials, but all written assignments should reflect only each student’s own work that they have completed independently. Attempts to pass off another’s words as your own – be it on an in-class exam or a course paper written outside class time – will carry harsh penalties. Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed by the instructor and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for review at the university level. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular assignment and at the instructor’s discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to OSRR, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered. The “University Regulations” handbook contains further information on dishonesty. Please make sure that you are familiar with Purdue’s academic integrity policies, available on the Brightspace course site.

References and Citations
Assignments for this class require citations complying with the Chicago Manual of Style Notes and Bibliography system. The Chicago Manual of Style (17th edition) is available online using the Purdue University Libraries site. The Purdue Online Writing Lab offers a brief overview of Chicago Style:

Recording Policy
Course lectures and discussions may not be recorded using audio or video without written permission from the instructor.

Technology Policy
I encourage students to consider dedicating a notebook to this course and taking notes by hand in it during class and while reading. Students may instead use their electronic devices for this purpose during class if preferred. Please do your very best to limit class-time uses of electronic devices to course purposes only. Other class-time uses of these devices distract not only you but also those around you. Please silence all ringers and other notifications during class.

Reading Instructions
Please read each assigned text in advance of the paired class session (e.g., read Sime’s “Politics of Forgetting” prior to class on August 24). Consider making brief notes about each assigned text. Perhaps summarize in a few phrases the main point, supporting claims, and key evidence.

Course Schedule
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Orientation, introductions, discussion of primary sources and secondary sources, Q&A
Part 1: World War
Thursday, August 24, 2023
Fission Research

Tuesday, August 29, 2023
“The Decision”

Thursday, August 31, 2023
Hiroshima
Ibuse, Black Rain

Tuesday, September 5, 2023
“International Control”
Shane J. Maddock, Nuclear Apartheid: The Quest for American Atomic Supremacy from World War II to the Present (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2010), Ch. 3.

Part 2: Cold War
Thursday, September 7, 2023
Arms Race

Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Semipalatinsk

Thursday, September 14, 2023
Making a Nuclear Alliance

Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Atoms for Peace
Gisela Mateos and Edna Suárez-Díaz, “Atoms for Peace in Latin America” (2016)
https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.013.317
Thursday, September 21, 2023
“Too Cheap to Meter?”

Part 3: "Nuclear Imperialism"
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Bravo and the Lucky Dragon

Thursday, September 28, 2023
The Indochina Crisis

Tuesday, October 3, 2023
The French Bomb, African Decolonization, and Black Civil Rights

Thursday, October 5, 2023
African Uranium

Tuesday, October 10, 2023
October Break: No class

Thursday, October 12, 2023
Midterm exam

Part 4: Nonproliferation
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
The Chinese Bomb
Thursday, October 19, 2023
Negotiating Nonproliferation

Tuesday, October 24, 2023
International Institutions and India

Thursday, October 26, 2023
Cold War Germany with Prof. Will Gray
Reading TBA

Tuesday, October 31, 2023
Oil Shock

Thursday, November 2, 2023
Preventative Strikes

Part 5: Mutually-assured Destruction
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
The Nuclear Revolution

Thursday, November 9, 2023
Gambling with Armageddon
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Damascus
No reading! Watch during class: Robert Kenner, Command and Control (2016)
***Suggested: Start reviewing the Wilson Center documents (below) on South Africa to prepare for the next paper!

Thursday, November 16, 2023
Chernobyl
***Suggested: Continue reviewing the Wilson Center documents (below) on South Africa to prepare for the next paper!

Part 6: Disarmament?
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Apartheid’s Bomb

Thursday, November 23, 2023
Thanksgiving Break: No class

Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Soviet Collapse

Thursday, November 30, 2023
Cooperative Threat Reduction

Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Pakistan, North Korea, Iran

Thursday, December 7, 2023
Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?
December 11–16: Final Exam

**Email Policy**
Outside of class or office hours, communicate with your instructor by email. Include the course title and state the reason for your email in the subject line (e.g., “HIST 33205 - question about essay”). Please make your message concise and clear. I will usually respond to your emails during the workday within 24 hours, except on the weekend.

**Students with Disabilities**
Purdue University is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity to university courses, activities, and programs for students with disabilities. As your instructor, I take this responsibility very seriously. Students with documented disabilities that substantially limit a major life activity, such as learning, walking, or seeing, may qualify for academic adjustments and/or services. If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first three weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center of any impairment/condition that may require accommodations and/or classroom modifications. To request information about academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, or services, please contact the Disability Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students, 830 Young Hall, (765) 494-1247 (V/TTY), drc@purdue.edu.

**Nondiscrimination Policy**
Please review the University Nondiscrimination Policy Statement on the Brightspace course site.

**Violent Behavior Policy**
Please review the University Violent Behavior Policy Statement on the Brightspace course site.

**Emergency Preparedness Policy**
Please review the University Emergency Procedures Guide linked on the Brightspace course site.

**Disclaimer**
In the event of a major emergency, the requirements, deadlines, and grading policies in this syllabus are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone.