

FACING NUCLEAR WEAPONS CHALLENGES IN 2021

Professor: Benoît Pelopidas

Session 2

Language of instruction: English

Number of hours of class: 2.5

Objective of the Course

This course will provide students with tools to assess the validity of claims regarding nuclear weapons to which they may be exposed. It will also offer a framework for projecting the scope of possible nuclear futures, which will be illustrated with untapped primary sources from global nuclear history.

Summary

This session explores the impact of nuclear weapons on the world we live in with a forward-looking approach. Students will better understand policy issues such as the crisis with North Korea, current investments in nuclear weapons “modernisation” worldwide, the politics of nuclear deterrence, non-proliferation and crisis management in the current era.

It will also engage with the most recent and possible future sources of change, such as the radicalisation of the Pope’s position vis-à-vis nuclear weapons, the entry into force of a Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons coinciding with the demise of the 2010 New Start Treaty, which was central to arms control between the USA and Russia.

The course is grounded in the instructor’s experience and award-winning scholarly framework on the scope of nuclear weapons choices. This look into the future will constantly be connected to nuclear history of the past 75 years through untapped primary sources.

Professor Biography



Benoît Pelopidas is the founding director of the *Nuclear Knowledges* program at Sciences Po (CERI), formerly known as the Chair of excellence in security studies. He is also an affiliate of the Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University.

“[Nuclear Knowledges](#)” (NK) is the first scholarly research program in France on the nuclear phenomenon which refuses funding from stakeholders of the nuclear weapons enterprise or from antinuclear activists.

Nuclear Knowledges offers conceptual innovation and unearths untapped primary sources to rethink possibilities in the realm of nuclear weapons policies.

Benoît has been awarded three international prizes for his research on the scoping of publicly available nuclear choices and the most prestigious scholarly grants in Europe (European Research Council).

Over the last decade, he has been engaging with policy making elites in the US, Europe and New Zealand as well as civil society groups to reconnect democracy, intergenerational justice and nuclear policy and support innovative arms control and nuclear disarmament policies.

