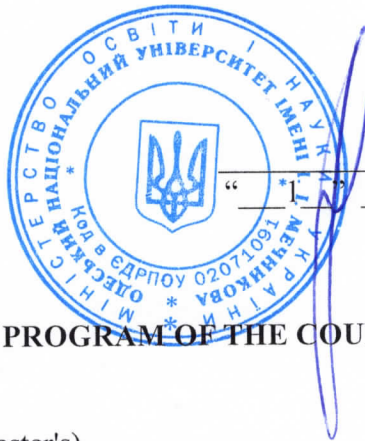


ODESA I. I. MECHNIKOV NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



“APPROVE”
First Vice-Rector
(Maiia NIKOLAIEVA)
“1” September 2025

WORKING PROGRAM OF THE COURSE

Nuclear Factor in Global Politics

Level of higher education: Second (master's)

Field of knowledge: C Social sciences, journalism, information and international relations

Specialty: C3 International relations

Educational and professional program: International relations, public communications and regional studies

The curriculum is developed based on the academic program of the discipline "Nuclear Factor in Global Politics". Odesa: ONU, 2025. 14 p.

Developers: Polina SINOVETS, Ph.D. in Political Science, Associate Professor of the Department of International Relations

The curriculum was approved at the meeting of the Department of International Relations
Protocol No. 1 dated "29" August 2025
Head of the Department [Signature] (Olga BRUSYLOVSKA)

Agreed with the guarantor of the Educational and Professional Program International Relations, Public Communications, and Regional Studies
[Signature] (Olga BRUSYLOVSKA)

Approved by the Educational and Methodological Commission (EMC) of the Faculty of International Relations, Political Science, and Sociology
Protocol No. 1 dated "29" August 2025
Head of the EMC [Signature] (Oleg KHOROSHYLOV)

Reviewed and approved at the meeting of the Department of International Relations
Protocol No. ____ dated "____" ____ 20__
Head of the Department _____ (Olga BRUSYLOVSKA)

Reviewed and approved at the meeting of the Department of International Relations
Protocol No. ____ dated "____" ____ 20__
Head of the Department _____ (Olga BRUSYLOVSKA)

1. Description of the Academic Discipline

Indicators	Field of Knowledge, Specialty, Specialization, Level of Higher Education	Characteristics of the Academic Discipline	
		<i>Full time form of study</i>	<i>Part time form of study</i>
Total: Credits – 4 Hours – 120 Content Modules – 3	Field of knowledge: C Social sciences, journalism, information and international relations Specialty: C3 International relations Level of higher education: Second (master's)	<i>Elective discipline</i>	
		<i>Year of study:</i>	
		2nd	-
		<i>Semester</i>	
		3-d	
		<i>Lectures</i>	
		14hours	
		Practical, Seminars	
		26hours	h.
		<i>Лабораторні</i>	
		hours	h.
		<i>Independent work</i>	
		80hours	h.
		Final Assessment Form:	
		<i>Credit</i>	

2. Purpose and Objectives of the Academic Discipline

Purpose: To examine key trends in the development of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, an integral part of global international security. The primary objective is to analyze the system of international relations established through the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which emerged in the 1970s and remains relevant today. Ukraine, having abandoned the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, is an active member of this regime, and strengthening it is a priority of Ukrainian diplomacy. **The course aims** to develop students' skills in analyzing factors influencing nuclear proliferation processes and forecasting prospective scenarios for the NPT regime based on current trends and patterns in international relations.

The study process targets the formation of the following competencies:

- Ability to identify, pose, and solve problems (3K3);
- Ability to identify and analyze the nature, dynamics, principles of organization of international relations, types and kinds of international actors, and modern trends in global politics (CK1);
- Ability to conduct applied analytical research on international relations, global politics, public communications, and regional studies, and professionally prepare analytical materials and reports (CK7);
- Ability to identify and analyze the development features of countries and regions, global, regional, and local processes, and Ukraine's role in them (CK9);
- Ability for self-learning, maintaining an adequate level of knowledge, readiness to acquire new knowledge, and improving professional skills and qualifications (CK10).

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the discipline, students should:

- Know and understand the nature, sources, and directions of evolution of international relations, international politics, state foreign policies, and the state of theoretical research in international relations and global politics (PH1);
- Critically comprehend and analyze global processes and their impact on international relations (PH2);
- Analyze and evaluate issues of international and national security, international and internationalized conflicts, approaches, methods, and mechanisms for ensuring security in the international arena and state foreign policy (PH4);
- Identify, assess, and predict political, diplomatic, security, social, and other risks in international relations and global development (PH6);
- Prepare analytical reports, briefs, and other documents on the state of international relations, foreign policy, public communications, and regional studies (PH9).

3. Content of the Academic Discipline

CONTENT MODULE I. Nuclear Weapons and the Revolution in Military Affairs

Topic 1. Nuclear Weapons: Historical Stages of Development
From Curie's radium discovery to the nuclear chain reaction. The Manhattan Project and nuclear weapons testing in 1945. Hiroshima and Nagasaki – bombings and their historical significance. Nuclear weapons in U.S. and Russian policy during the Cold War. The Cuban Missile Crisis as an element of nuclear deterrence adaptation. The phenomenon of nuclear parity and strategic stability.

Topic 2. Nuclear Deterrence as a Theory and Key Principle in State Policy
The phenomenon of deterrence. Categories of nuclear deterrence credibility: theoretical, practical, and historical examples. The concept of “unacceptable damage” and its evolution since the Cold War. The theory of arms control.

Topic 3. Nuclear Programs of States
Nuclear programs of the U.S., Russia, France, the UK, and China post-Cold War. Current state of nuclear programs amid modern crises in international security. India and Pakistan's nuclear tests in 1998. North Korea as a challenge to the NPT. Iran's nuclear program as a challenge to international security. Modernization and reduction of nuclear arsenals. New technologies and their impact on nuclear states' policies.

CONTENT MODULE II. Nuclear Weapons in Leading Theories of International Relations

Topic 4. Concept of Nuclear Disarmament and Arms Control
Nuclear deterrence as the basis of strategic stability theory. The evolution of arms control during the Cold War – from SALT to New START. Key criteria of the arms control concept. The ABM Treaty in the context of strategic stability. Dialectics of offensive and defensive armaments. Collapse of the INF Treaty and consequences for international security.

Topic 5. Nuclear Disarmament in Russian and U.S. Nuclear Policy
Negotiations and signing of the INF Treaty as the first treaty to eliminate an entire class of missiles. Tactical nuclear weapons and the Presidential Nuclear Initiatives by George H.W. Bush and Yeltsin. Nuclear disarmament of Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. Indefinite extension of the NPT at the 1995 conference. The “Four Nations Initiative” and the Obama administration's call for global nuclear zero. Prospects for further nuclear reductions.

Topic 6. Nuclear Weapons in Neorealism, Constructivism, and Liberal Institutionalism
Neorealism and nuclear weapons: Mearsheimer and Waltz on the necessity of nuclear weapons for international security. Liberal institutionalism and the possibility of a “nuclear-free environment” through the NPT. Constructivism and state image: examples of South Africa, Ukraine, and India. J. Hymans and the concept of national identities.

CONTENT MODULE III. Non-Proliferation Regimes, Nuclear Reductions, and Disarmament

Topic 7. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the Basis of International Security

Creation and signing of the NPT in 1968. Official and unofficial nuclear states. Guarantee system: positive and negative. IAEA safeguards as a key NPT element. Export control organizations: Zangger Committee, Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), and Missile Technology Control Regime. Ukraine's role and place.

Topic 8. Treaties on Nuclear Arms Reductions

Nuclear tests by the USSR and U.S. in the 1950s–60s: process and consequences. The “Lucky Dragon” incident and Soviet nuclear bomb tests. Environmental consequences. Signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. Creation of the CTBT Organization. Prerequisites and history of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs). Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba. Semipalatinsk Treaty and the creation of an NWFZ in Central Asia. Challenges to establishing NWFZs in critical regions: East Asia and the Middle East.

4. Structure of the Academic Discipline

Topics	Hours									
	Full-time					Part-time				
	In total	including				In total	including			
		L	P	-	I		L	P	-	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Content Module 1. Nuclear Weapons: Historical and Political Significance										
Topic 1. Nuclear Weapons: History and Combat Use	13	2	-	-	11					
Topic 2. Nuclear Deterrence in Theory and Policy	11	1	2	-	8					
Topic 3. Arms Control Theory	16	2	5	-	9					
Total for Content Module 1	40	5	7	-	28					
Content Module 2. Nuclear Programs of States										
Topic 4. Nuclear Programs of Russia and the U.S.	16	2	3	-	11					

Topic 5. Nuclear Programs of the UK, France, and China	11	1	2	-	8					
Topic 6. Nuclear Programs of Unofficial and Threshold Nuclear States	13	2	3	-	8					
Total for Content Module 2	40	5	8	-	27					
Content Module 3. Key Challenges to Modern International Security										
Topic 7. NPT, CTBT, and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	21	2	6	-	13					
Topic 8. Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine	19	2	5	-	12					
Total for Content Module 3	40	4	11	-	25					
Total Hours	120	14	26	-	80					

5. Seminar Topics

Seminars are not provided.

6. Practical Session Topics

No.	Topic	Hours
1	Nuclear Deterrence in Theory and Policy <i>Discussion Questions:</i> 1. Basic concepts and features of nuclear deterrence. 2. Nuclear deterrence in Cold War history. 3. Nuclear deterrence in Russia's policy during the war against Ukraine.	2
2	Arms Control Theory <i>Discussion Questions:</i> 1. Features of arms control theory and its distinction from disarmament. 2. Strategic stability phenomenon: U.S. and Soviet/Russian interpretations. 3. Arms control in Soviet-U.S. relations. 4. Arms control post-Cold War and its prospects today.	5

3	Nuclear Programs of Russia and the U.S. <i>Discussion Questions:</i> 1. Nuclear threshold issues in both strategies. 2. U.S. nuclear deterrence from Bush Jr. to Biden. 3. Russian nuclear deterrence from the 2000 Military Doctrine to the 2024 Nuclear Doctrine. 4. Key Russia-U.S. treaties and their prospects (New START and discussions on its successor).	3
4	Nuclear Programs of the UK, France, and China <i>Discussion Questions:</i> 1. UK nuclear program: history and present. 2. France nuclear program: history and present. 3. China nuclear program: history and present.	2
5	Nuclear Programs of Unofficial and Threshold Nuclear States <i>Discussion Questions:</i> 1. Iran's nuclear program. 2. North Korea's nuclear program.	3
6	NPT, CTBT, and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty <i>Discussion Questions:</i> 1. NPT and its three pillars. Key treaty articles. 2. CTBT and its key articles. 3. Contradictions between NPT and CTBT. 4. Prospects of both treaties post-Russia's invasion of Ukraine.	6
7	Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine <i>Discussion Questions:</i> 1. Legal framework for nuclear weapons relations post-USSR collapse. 2. Key Ukrainian disarmament documents. 3. Tactical nuclear weapons issues. 4. Strategic nuclear weapons issues. 5. Budapest Memorandum and its violation by Russia.	5
Total		26

7. Laboratory Sessions

Laboratory sessions are not provided.

8. Independent Work

No.	Topic	Hours
1	Nuclear Weapons: History and Combat Use	11
2	Nuclear Deterrence in Theory and Policy	8
3	Arms Control Theory	9
4	Nuclear Programs of Russia and the U.S.	11

5	Nuclear Programs of the UK, France, and China	8
6	Nuclear Programs of India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea	8
7	NPT, CTBT, and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	13
8	Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine. Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. Prospects for Nuclear Disarmament Post-Russia's War Against Ukraine	12
Total		80
	<i>Students select one of the above topics at the semester's start and submit the essay to the instructor one month before the course ends.</i> Essay requirements: 15 pages. Content: Based on the discipline's content. Requirements and evaluation criteria: The essay aims to deeply study theoretical or applied issues of the discipline through research. Key skills include independently formulating a problem, defining goals, tasks, object, and subject of research; searching and selecting diverse information; processing and analyzing information; logically presenting analysis results, making reasoned conclusions; properly formatting references; and publicly defending the work. The essay must align with the current state of international relations studies, use modern scientific concepts, and apply relevant terminology. It should present scientifically objective positions, use real examples and reliable statistical data for clarity, and analyze and systematize domestic and foreign authors' perspectives. Minimum sources: 15, with no more than one-third from the internet; the majority should be published documents, articles, and monographs. References and the final "List of References" must follow APA style.	
	As independent work, students may complete professional courses/trainings, internships, online courses, civic education, or obtain certificates from educational platforms, which can count toward periodic, ongoing, or partial final assessment. Suggested courses for recognition as periodic, ongoing, or bonus points (at the student's discretion)	
Educational Platform, Course Name, Brief Description, Link¹	Competencies and Learning Outcomes Formed	Hours
Odesa International Summer School on Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Arms Control, and Nuclear	3K3, 3K7, 3K9	90

¹Students may independently select resources relevant to the discipline. For recognition as periodic, ongoing, or partial final assessment, students must submit documentation confirming informal education, a program description, and a description of competencies and learning outcomes achieved. The instructor reserves the right to verify these competencies and outcomes.

Deterrence http://odcnp.com.ua/300-call-for-application-for-xvth-odcnp-international-summer-school-the-new-international-order-after-ukraine-nuclear-deterrence-arms-control-and-nonproliferation		
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9. Teaching Methods

Verbal: Lectures (problem-based, visualization lectures, case study analysis, etc.), storytelling, explanation, discussion, debate, addressing problematic situations.

Visual: Multimedia presentations, demonstrations, direct observation, presentation of research results.

Practical: Role-playing games, individual assignments (essay preparation and defense).

10. Assessment Forms and Methods

Ongoing/Periodic Assessment Methods: Oral questioning, evaluation of individual assignments (essays), defense of individual assignment results.

Final Assessment: Credit (oral form).

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

National Grade	Theoretical Preparation	Practical Preparation
Excellent	Masters the material, presents it freely, independently, and with reasoning during oral and written responses; deeply and comprehensively addresses theoretical questions using normative, mandatory, and additional literature; makes independent conclusions, identifies causal relationships; independently finds and uses additional information to complete tasks. Able to identify key features, formulate conclusions, and operate with facts and data.	Can rationally choose and evaluate task execution methods; completes creative tasks and proposes new approaches; freely applies theoretical knowledge to practical analysis; demonstrates a creative approach to individual and group tasks in independent work.
Good	Adequately masters the material, presents it with reasoning during oral and written	Correctly solves most tasks; has consistent task execution skills.

	responses using normative and mandatory literature; lacks depth and argumentation in some responses, applies knowledge to standard situations; analyzes information but makes minor inaccuracies.	
Satisfactory	Masters material at a reproductive level or partially reproduces it with logical connections, knows basic concepts; struggles to identify key features, causal relationships, and conclusions.	Can apply knowledge in standard situations, has basic, inconsistent task execution skills. Correctly solves half of the calculation/test tasks. Struggles with identifying key features, causal relationships, and conclusions.
Unsatisfactory with possibility of retake	Superficially and fragmentarily masters material (without reasoning); randomly identifies features; cannot perform basic analysis and synthesis; makes significant errors in responses.	Inadequately addresses practical tasks, makes significant inaccuracies, correctly solves some tasks with instructor assistance, lacks formed skills.
Unsatisfactory with mandatory course retake	Does not master the material.	Performs only task elements, requires constant instructor assistance.

11. Questions for Ongoing and Periodic Assessment

1. Manhattan Project – dates, essence, consequences, and impact on international security.
2. Nuclear deterrence – definition, methods of analysis.
3. Nuclear deterrence in Cold War history. Role of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.
4. Strategic stability – key criteria and parameters.
5. “Unacceptable damage” category and its role in deterrence.
6. Doctrine of “mutual assured destruction” in superpower relations during the Cold War.
7. “Stability-instability paradox” and its historical examples.
8. Arms control concept. Key treaties.
9. Arms control during the Cold War.
10. Nuclear deterrence in USSR-U.S. relations during the Cold War.
11. France’s nuclear strategy.
12. UK’s nuclear strategy.
13. China’s nuclear strategy.
14. Russian Federation’s nuclear strategy evolution from 2000–2022.
15. U.S. nuclear strategy from 2002–2018.
16. “Bush Doctrine” and its impact on international relations.
17. D. Trump’s nuclear policy.
18. New technologies and their impact on strategic stability.
19. START issues in Russian-U.S. relations. New START.
20. ABM issues in Russian-U.S. relations.
21. Nuclear non-proliferation regime (1968): key documents and organizations.
22. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017): characteristics and state positions.
23. International export control regime.

24. Nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) and their role in the non-proliferation regime.
25. Israel's nuclear program and its impact on Middle East international relations.
26. India's nuclear program and "new relations" with the U.S.
27. Pakistan's nuclear program and its role in undermining non-proliferation principles.
28. Iran's nuclear program – international crisis around the "Iranian dossier."
29. North Korea's nuclear program.
30. Scientific approaches to the role of nuclear weapons in the world.
31. Ukraine's nuclear disarmament – process and challenges.
32. Impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on the international nuclear order.

12. Distribution of Points for Students

Ongoing/Periodic Assessment	Total Points
Content Module 1 (ongoing assessment in lectures and practicals)	Content Module 2 (ongoing assessment in lectures and practicals)
T1	T2
7	7

Grading Scale: National and ECTS

Total Points for All Activities	ECTS Grade	National Grade	
		For Exam, Course Project, Practice	For Credit
90-100	A	Excellent	Passed
85-89	B	Good	
75-84	C		
70-74	D	Satisfactory	
60-69	E		
35-59	FX	Unsatisfactory with possibility of retake	Not passed with possibility of retake
0-34	F	Unsatisfactory with mandatory course retake	Not passed with mandatory course retake

13. Educational and Methodological Support

1. Sinovets P.A. Syllabus of the course "Nuclear Factor in Global Politics." Odessa: ONU, 2022. 5 p.

14. Recommended Literature

Required readings

1. Sinovets P. The Nuclear Weapons Factor on Interstate Politics in the Russia-Ukraine War. *PONARS Eurasia*. September 19, 2022. URL: <https://www.ponarseurasia.org/author/polina-sinovets/>
2. Ukraine's Nuclear History: A Non-Proliferation Perspective / Ed. P. Sinovets. Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022.
3. Sinovets P., Hesse V. Russian Foreign and Security Policy: The Evolution of the Escalation Strategy. *Arms Control and Europe. New Challenges and Prospects for Strategic Stability*/Ed. P. Sinovets, W. Alberque. Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022. P. 21-28.
4. Синовец П. А. Двумилый Янус, или Теория ядерного сдерживания в XXI веке. Одесса: Феникс, 2008.
5. DeGroot G. J. *The Bomb: A Life*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2004.
6. Terrais B. Principles of Nuclear Deterrence and Strategy. NDC Research Paper, 2021. N 19.

Recommended readings

1. Sinovets P., Maksymenko I., Skrypnyk M. The Russian roulette: the Kremlin's escalation strategy in the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. *Lithuanian Annual Strategic Review*, 15 June, 2022. URL: <https://journals.lka.lt/journal/lasr/article/1919/info>;
2. Acton J. M. Deterrence during Disarmament: Deep Nuclear Reductions and International Security. London: Routledge, 2011.
3. Sinovets P. Between the Rock and the Hard Place: Will the Black Sea avoid the Escalation Ladder? Security dilemma in the Black Sea region in the light of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict / Eds. O. Polegkiy and T. Stepniowski. Lublin: IES Policy Papers, Institute of Central Europe, 2021. P. 57-72. URL: <https://ies.lublin.pl/ies-policy-papers/security>
4. Davis P., Gilmore J., Frelinger D., Geist E., Gilmore C., Oberholtzer J., Tarraf D. Exploring the Role Nuclear Weapons Could Play in Deterring Russian Threats to the Baltic States. 2019, October 24. URL: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2781.html
5. Fitzpatrick M. How Europeans view tactical nuclear weapons on their continent. *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. 2011. N 67(2). P. 57-65. doi:10.1177/0096340211399405
6. Hodges B., Bugajski J., Wojcik R., Schmiedl C. One Flank, One Threat, One Presence. 2020, May 26. URL: <https://cepa.org/one-flank-one-threat-one-presence/>
7. Kühn U. Preventing Escalation in the Baltics: A NATO Playbook. 2018, March 28. URL: <https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/03/28/preventing-escalation-in-baltics-nato-playbook-pub-75878>
8. Nuclear Posture Review Final Report - U.S. Department of Defense. 2018, February. <https://media.defense.gov/2018/Feb/02/2001872886/-1/-1/1/2018-NUCLEAR-POSTURE-REVIEW-FINAL-REPORT.PDF>
9. Tertrais B. French Nuclear Deterrence: Policy, Forces, and Future: A Handbook. *Recherches & Documents*. 2020. N 4.

URL:<https://www.frstrategie.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/recherches-et-documents/2020/202004.pdf>

15. Electronic Resources

1. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. URL: http://carnegieendowment.org/#/slide_374_china-s-military-and-us-japan-alliance-in-2030
2. Institut Français des Relations Internationales. URL: <http://www.ifri.org/?a=b&lang=uk>.
3. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS). URL: <http://cns.miis.edu/>.