

Lights! Camera! Explosions!



NDU ELECTIVE 6014: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION: WMD AND MASS MEDIA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Why should I take WMD & Mass Media?** This course is a fun and interesting way to learn about WMD topics through the lens of how WMD is portrayed by various mass media. In this class we will address the role visual media plays in shaping opinion and informing action, and encourage you to think critically about threats and challenges posed by WMD in an era of (dis)information.
2. **What are the requirements?** Class participation is important—especially for an online course. To prep for the discussion you will watch movies and clips and do some additional reading. There are two official class assignments: 1) write a policy memo assessing a WMD media portrayal, and 2) develop and deliver a “pitch” for an original movie in which WMD play a key role.
3. **Do I have to be in the concentration to take?** No! This class is open to anyone. However, it does serve as a foundational or elective course requirement for the Master’s Degree Area Concentration in WMD Studies.
4. **Do I have to be a film buff?** Not at all – no film background is required. We will introduce film studies concepts as needed. The movies serve to frame discussion on topics such as biothreats, nuclear deterrence, command & control, and WMD terrorism.
5. **What are the instructors doing to make online learning bearable?** We know online classes can mean long hours in front of the computer, so we will keep the course lively and interactive with lots of discussion, integrating film clips into our class lectures.
6. **When is the class?** Mondays, 1230-1430, 09/14/2020 - 12/07/2020
7. **Do we seriously get to watch movies AND get 2 credit hours?** Yes! We will watch movies, documentaries, and YouTube clips to assess how WMD is portrayed, how the films/clips reflect and shape opinion, inform (and misinform) action, and are leveraged and manipulated by current and potential adversaries.
8. **What movies will we watch?** Full list of movies is on our syllabus but we will watch Contagion, Wonder Woman, Dr. Strangelove, The Day After, Wargames, and more!
9. **This sounds great!! Can I sign up!?**