NDU 6014
Contemporary Issues in WMD:
WMD and Mass Media
LIGTHS! CAMERA! EXPLOSION!

• Watch and debate WMD films!
• Counter disinformation and propaganda!
• Learn how visual media (movies, news, social media, and more!) shapes opinion & informs action.

NDU 6014: WMD and Mass Media
Fills the foundation course requirement for Master’s Degree Area Concentration in WMD Studies
(but you don’t have to be in the concentration to take the course)
Mass Destruction and Mass Media

- WMD 101
  - Nuke, Chem, Bio, & Rad Weapons
  - Emerging technologies
  - State and terrorist use

- Mass Media and WMD Portrayal in film, documentaries, YouTube, social media...
  - Apocalypse and Armageddon
  - Disinformation
  - Pandemics

You will gain an understanding of WMD issues and media literacy
Disinformation in Media

• Influence
• Perspective
• Disinformation
• Manipulation
• Narrative

…all shapes opinion & informs action
We’ll use movies, documentaries, YouTube, and social media...
Purpose

• Baseline understanding of WMD threat and efforts to counter it
• Assess and understand how visual media that includes or features WMD:
  • informs (and misinforms) public and policymakers,
  • shapes opinion & informs action,
  • is leveraged and manipulated by current and potential adversaries
• Understand narratives, perspective and influence in a post-truth world
Movies and Topics

- **Nuclear Weapons**
  - *Trinity and Beyond* (1995)

- **Biological Weapons**
  - *The Plague War* (1994)

- **Chemical Weapons**

- **Fears of Armageddon and Apocalypse**
  - *On the Beach* (1959)
  - *The Day After* (1983)

- **Deterrence and Brinksmanship**
  - *Dr. Strangelove* (1964)

- **Nuclear Command-and-Control**
  - *Fail Safe* (1964)
  - *WarGames* (1983)

- **WMD Terrorism**

- **Disinformation and WMD**
  - *Contagion* (2011)

- **State use: Assassinations**

- **Synthetic Biology and Emerging Technologies**
  - *The Andromeda Strain* (1971)
  - *GATTACA* (1997)