Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: An Introductory Course

An online intensive course for graduate and post-graduate students

22 - 26 February 2021
via Zoom

All times are indicated in Central European Time (CET)

Day 1: Monday, 22 February  

Weapons and Programs

9:30 – 10:00 Welcome, Introduction, Course Overview
Elena Sokova, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)

10:00 – 10:45 Overview: Biological Weapons and Programs
Dr. James Revill, UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 11:45 Overview: Chemical Weapons and Programs
Dr. James Revill, UNIDIR

11:45 – 12:30 Overview: Nuclear Weapons and Programs
Elena Sokova, VCDNP
Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, VCDNP

12:30 – 13:00 Meet and Greet (breakout session)

Day 2: Tuesday, 23 February  

WMD Control Regimes

9:30 – 9:45 Topic Intro

9:45 – 10:45 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime
Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, VCDNP
10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:00 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC)
   Dr. Daniel Feakes, BWC Implementation Support Unit
   Dr. Clarissa Rios Rojas, Cambridge University

12:00 – 13:00 Chemical Weapons Convention
   Dr. Peter Hotchkiss, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Day 3: Wednesday, 24 February  WMD Control Regimes (continued): Case Studies

9:30 – 10:30 Case Study: Recreating the Horsepox Virus
   Dr. Filippa Lentzos, King’s College London

10:30 – 11:30 Case Study: Iran’s Nuclear Program
   Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, VCDNP

11:30 – 11:45 Break

11:45 – 13:00 Case Study: Syria’s Chemical Weapons Program and Disarmament
   Angela Kane, VCDNP, former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
   Jerry Smith, CHC Global, former OPCW Team Leader

Day 4: Thursday, 25 February  WMD Control Regimes (cont.); Emerging Technologies

9:30 – 10:15 Strategic Trade Controls
   Dr. Sibylle Bauer, Stockholm Peace Research Institute
   Dr. Mirko Himmel, University of Hamburg

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:15 Strategic Trade Controls (continued)

11:15 – 11:30 Break
11:30 – 13:00 Advances in Life Sciences and Implications for Chemical and Biological Weapons
Dr. James Revill, UNIDIR
Shruti Sharma, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, India

Extracurricular:
15:00 – 16:00 Global Health Security Implications of COVID-19
Dr. Richard Pilch, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
Public VCDNP webinar

Day 5: Friday, 26 February
Emerging Technologies (continued), conclusions

9:30 – 10:45 Emerging Technologies: Implications for Nuclear Risks
Dr. Ulrich Kühn, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), Hamburg

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Panel discussion: New and Emerging Technologies and WMD Threats
Dr. Filippa Lentzos, King’s College London
Dr. Ulrich Kühn, IFSH
Dr. James Revill, UNIDIR

12:30 – 13:00 Evaluation

13:00 – 13:30 Conclusions and Wrap-Up