

Announcing an Autumn Quarter Seminar

STS 152: Nuclear Weapons, Risk and Hope

[Prof. Martin E. Hellman](#)

Mondays, 4:15-5:15
FloMo Main Lounge
1 unit, S/NC basis
No prerequisite

Course Description: This seminar is open to all Stanford students interested in learning the level of risk inherent in relying on nuclear weapons, what can be done to reduce that risk, and the roles they might play in achieving that goal. Its application of critical thinking to national security is of particular relevance to SLE students.

Required readings will average approximately an hour each week, with many optional links to follow for more depth. Required readings and class discussions will be accessible to all students, including those in the Humanities.

There are no exams or papers. Attending at least nine of the ten class meetings will earn you a Satisfactory (Pass) grade. If you need to miss more than one meeting, see me to arrange appropriate make-up work.

Guest Speakers: Guest speakers will include former Secretary of State George Shultz, one of the principals in the [Nuclear Security Project](#), and History Professor Barton Bernstein, one of the world's leading experts on the history of the nuclear age.

Registering: Register under STS (Science, Technology and Society) 152. The course is 1 unit on an S/NC basis only.

Background and Questions: The first 12 pages of last year's [Handout #1](#) give an overview of the course content. Reading that material before the first class meeting is recommended. (This year's handouts will be updated versions from last year.) Students also may be interested in my related [effort](#) to create a "[pocket of nuclear awareness](#)" at Stanford. [Support for that project](#) includes a letter from former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor encouraging students to entertain "the audacious concept that their involvement could be the catalyst for [ending the nuclear threat]."

If you have questions, please contact me at hellman@ee.stanford.edu.