

Announcing a Winter Quarter Seminar  
**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, and what can be done to reduce that risk.

Its application of critical thinking to national security and international relations is of particular relevance to SLE students.

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.

Required readings will be approximately an hour per week, with many optional links to follow if you like. Required readings and class discussions will be at a level accessible to non-majors, including those in the Humanities.

**Registering**

Undergraduate students should register under EE190, “Special Projects in Electrical Engineering.” When enrolling, list the instructor as HELLMAN since other faculty also will have students enrolled in EE190. However, there are no section numbers.

Graduate students should register under EE390, on the same basis.

**Background and Questions**

The first 12 pages of [Handout #1](#) give an overview of the course content. Reading that material before the first class meeting is suggested.

Students may also be interested in my related [project](#) that is trying 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](mailto:hellman@ee.stanford.edu).