

## The Making of the Atomic Bomb

IDH 2930 Section 3128

Tine: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Period (4:05PM-4:55PM)

Location: Hume 0119

Spring 2022

### Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday 10-11 AM; Tuesdays – 1:30-2:30PM

### Course Description

The Making of the Atomic Bomb is a contemporary history book which won the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction. It describes the personalities of the scientists who discovered the reactions that made the bomb possible. It also shows the impact of other historical events such as World War 1 and the Nazi rise in Europe on the development of atomic energy. It is not only a story about the scientific discoveries, but also about the events and personalities that affected the development of the bomb. This course is intended to provide the student with an opportunity to express their understanding of this work in written and oral communication. Discussions regarding content will be centered around the implications of intended actions of individuals and groups as well as unintended consequences of historical circumstances.

### General Education Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is an honors course in the UF General Education Program. The intent is for the student to learn critical thinking skills in analyzing written work. The students will be expected to learn to express themselves in a clear and concise manner when discussing their opinion. In addition, the students will learn how to write in an efficient manner. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative and quantitative analyses to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions affecting entire nations.

These general objectives will be accomplished through:

1. Writing a concise report after reading assigned chapters.
2. Orally presenting their opinion to the members of the class.
3. Discussion of the results of actions of individuals and/or authoritative bodies.
4. Evaluation of the ethicality of dissemination or suppressing critical information to the public.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication and critical thinking:

**Content:** *Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline.* Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the scientific principles described in the work. Various social and ethical issues pertaining to the decisions leading to the dropping of the atomic bomb will be discussed. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through written reports of the assigned readings.

**Communication:** *Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline.* Students will participate in small group discussions at the end of class periods during the semester with assigned groups. At the end of the class periods, several groups will be asked to present the points supporting their argument on a given subject. Every group will have the chance to present, and normal class discussion will occur during every meeting period. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through student discussions during class time as well as during presentations of arguments on specified topics at the end of class small group discussions. Participation grades will reflect how well a student communicates during these tasks.

**Critical Thinking:** *Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.* Students are expected to prepare brief written reports for each of the assigned readings. In three of these reports the students are expected to critically analyze the behavior and consequences of a selected individual or organization discussed in any the assigned readings. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed by the identified three reports for the semester.

## Required Textbook

Richard Rhodes (1995). *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*. Simon and Schuster.  
ISBN: 0684813785

## Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to course

Week 2: Organization and Information

Week 3: Background for nuclear reactions

Read Chapters 1-3

Week 4: Discussion of Chapters 1-3

Report Due on Chapters 1-3 by 5PM.

Read Chapters 4-5

Week 5: 20 min. presentation by Group 1

Report Due on Chapters 4-5 by 5PM

Discussion of Chapters 4-5

Read Chapters 6-7

Week 6: 20 min. presentation by Group 2

Report Due on Chapters 6-7 by 5PM

Discussion of Chapters 6-7

- Read Chapters 8-9
- Week 7: 20 min. presentation by Group 3  
 Report Due on Chapters 8-9 by 5PM  
 Discussion of Chapters 8-9  
 Read Chapters 10-11
- Week 8: 20 min. presentation by Group 4  
 Report Due on Chapters 10-11 by 5PM  
 Discussion of Chapters 10-11  
 Read Chapters 12-13
- Week 9: Quiz on Chapters 1-11  
 Report Due on Chapters 12-13 by 5PM  
 Discussion of Chapters 12-13  
 Read Chapters 14-15
- Week 10: Report Due on Chapters 14-15 by 5PM  
 20 min. presentation by Group 3  
 Discussion of Chapters 14-15  
 Read Chapters 16-17
- Week 11: No class – Spring Break
- Week 12: Report Due on Chapters 16-17 by 5PM  
 20 min. presentation by Group 4  
 Discussion of Chapters 16-17  
 Read Chapters 18-19
- Week 13: Report Due on Chapters 18-19 by 5PM  
 20 min. presentation by Group 1  
 Discussion of Chapters 18-19
- Week 14: 20 min. presentation by Group 2  
 Report Due on Selected Chapter by 5PM
- Week 15: Quiz  
 Summary and Discussions  
 Final Paper Due

### Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Quizzes (2)	200	15
Presentations (2)	200	15
Reports (10)	500	30
Final Paper	100	40
Total	1000	100

### Grading Scale

Score	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
934-1000	93.4-100	A	4.00
900-933	90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
867-899	86.7-89.9	B+	3.33

834-866	83.4-86.6	B	3.00
800-833	80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
767-799	76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
734-766	73.4-76.6	C	2.00
700-733	70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
667-699	66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
634-666	63.4-66.6	D	1.00
600-633	60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-599	0-599	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy**

Class attendance is expected. Each unexcused absence will result in a 10 point reduction in the final grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation.

Late essay response papers will not be accepted. A makeup quiz will be provided for students who miss either quiz due to extreme, documented circumstances. A cumulative make-up quiz will be provided at the end of the semester for any and all quizzes missed. This score will replace all missing quiz grades. Students should arrange with the instructor for makeup material, and the student will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment, if circumstances allow it.

### **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/](http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

### **Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

### **Materials and Supplies Fees**

There are no additional fees for this course.

## University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Counseling and Wellness Center** Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.