

# COURSE DETAIL

## INTRODUCTION TO GAME-THEORETIC MODELS OF WAR

**Country**

Norway

**Host Institution**

University of Oslo

**Program(s)**

University of Oslo

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Political Science International Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**

108

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

INTRODUCTION TO GAME-THEORETIC MODELS OF WAR

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

GAME-THEORETIC WAR

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

8.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

5.30

## Course Description

Game theory may be defined as the use of formal models in the study of strategic interaction. This course offers an introduction to game theory and its potential applications to the study of war. Game theory suggests at least three main sources of war. First, war may result from asymmetric information. Because countries may have incentives to misrepresent their military strength, they may be unable to settle a dispute peacefully. Second, commitment problems might result in war. If two countries want to settle a dispute peacefully but suspects that the other side is unlikely to abide with the terms of that settlement, they may resort to warfare. Finally, war could result when the main source of the dispute involves an indivisible good, so that a compromise is difficult or even impossible. The course places particular emphasis on explaining puzzles related to war in general and World War I in particular. Specifically, the course provides a primer in core issues concerning war, including (but not limited to): information problems; commitment problems; indivisibilities; arms races; coalition building; war termination; and differences between international and civil wars. The course recommends students have completed a course in international politics as a prerequisite.

### Language(s) of Instruction

English

### Host Institution Course Number

STV1266

### Host Institution Course Title

INTRODUCTION TO GAME-THEORETIC MODELS OF WAR

### Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/statsvitenskap/STV1266/>

### Host Institution Campus

### Host Institution Faculty

Social Sciences

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

Political Science

**Course Last Reviewed**

2022-2023

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