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 Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Social Sciences

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Political Science

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