

COURSE DETAIL

LEGITIMATE FORCE

Country

Switzerland

Host Institution

University of Geneva

Program(s)

Global Studies, Geneva

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Legal Studies International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

117

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

LEGITIMATE FORCE

UCEAP Transcript Title

LEGITIMATE FORCE

UCEAP Quarter Units

5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

In 1919, sociologist Max Weber put forward an apt definition of the modern state: “a human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory”. As this definition has come to dominate Western thought, this course explores the contours and boundaries of this idea with an attention on what sorts of force can be considered to be legitimate. To do so, students look at the concept of legitimacy itself, positing that it indeed has a shape of legality, morality, and efficacy that can steer our examination. Consequently, international law is used as a preliminary guide for the cross-border exercise of force. And since the legitimacy of the government is hypothesized here to be a target in asymmetrical conflict, the course investigates contemporary force employed by the state for counterterrorism and discuss its legitimacy: i.e. detention, war-making, torture, the use of drones, and invasions of privacy.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

J2D038 SE

Host Institution Course Title

LEGITIMATE FORCE

Host Institution Campus

University of Geneva

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Global Studies Institute

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