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 Course Details

Host Institution Campus
University of Geneva

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Global Studies Institute

Course Last Reviewed

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