

Evaluation-form

Course-code: PECOS4111

Course title: Conflict and Cooperation

Language: Norwegian English

Course convener's evaluation of the course:

This first iteration of PECOS4111 worked very well indeed. The mix between lectures covering theory and case studies, participative exercises, and practitioner perspectives helped achieve the course's learning objectives, which sought to encourage students to apply analytic concepts and theoretical insights to both historical case studies and contemporary policy questions.

The interactive elements of the course, including reading exercises and group discussions, were very effective. The use of reading responses facilitated student engagement with the course material and helped the course convener in their class preparation by highlighting areas of particular student interest. Students were sometimes hesitant to engage in class discussions and the convener will continue to explore ways to make it easier for them to do so.

The practitioner perspective on cyber-security from Bjørn Svenungsen of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was excellent. Bjørn was able to provide cutting-edge insights that added substantively to students' understanding of this fast-evolving topic. The course should continue to employ practitioner perspectives and increase the number where possible.

Given student interest, reflected in written work, the course convener will also work to expand the range of case studies to include more from the Global South.

There were some challenges with admission procedures that led to a larger number of students than originally planned for this interactive course. To facilitate planning for these activities the course convenor and head of PECOS agreed to a cap of 30 students for the course. However, this cap was not implemented effectively.

Summary of feedback from student contact-point:

The students thought that the lectures were very well delivered and really appreciated the opportunity to engage with the cybersecurity practitioner from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The students appreciated the use of reading responses and participative methods in class (reading exercises and group discussions), which facilitated engagement with the course.

Some students suggested that slides be posted on Canvas beforehand. Some students encountered difficulties in locating the room, which was in Kjemibygningen due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suggestions for improvements:

The suggestions from convener evaluation and student feedback will be taken into consideration for into future iterations of PECOS4111.

Future caps on class sizes should be implemented effectively and the administration should explore ways in which this can be done. The location of lectures was reasonable given the need to find a room large enough to accommodate a class of up to 50 students with sufficient social distancing. The course convenor appreciates the efforts of the administration to find an appropriate space, especially given the high classroom demand during this period.