

## Evaluation-form

**Course-code:** STV1212

**Course title:** Nuclear Weapons and International Conflict

**Language:**  Norwegian  English

### Course convener's evaluation of the course:

The course went very well indeed. The mixture of theoretical classes and empirical case studies provided the students with a good introduction to key themes in nuclear security studies. The students engaged well with the material and made the most out of the crisis simulation and practitioner perspective lecture from Svein Efstad, former Policy Director of the Norwegian Ministry of Defence. Guest lecturers Henrik Hiim and Fabian Hoffmann provided excellent contributions on their areas of expertise, China and emerging weapons technology.

The Andøya Crisis Simulation continued to make an invaluable contribution to meeting the course's learning objectives. Moving the simulation from the end to the middle of the course helped to build a class community and provided more time for the students to reflect on its implications for the rest of the course. Changing the second compulsory activity from a conceptual topic to a broad question on the lessons of the simulation elicited some excellent responses, linking it to theories of crisis stability and escalation, and embedded it more firmly in the course's learning process.

Svein Efstad's Oslo Nuclear Forum lecture on "Securing Norway in the Nuclear Age: Lessons from a Life in Government" was very well received, mixing reflections on Norwegian security policy with career advice. It complemented the rest of the course very well by providing a Norwegian perspective on nuclear security issues.

### Summary of feedback from student contact-point:

The student contact emphasized how much the students enjoyed the simulation and found it a good way to get to know other members of the class. She suggested that it take place even earlier in the course so that students could get to know each other in the first few weeks.

When asked about the course's content, the contact expressed no desire for any major changes. She displayed a clear understanding of the rationale for the current content: an early emphasis on nuclear-strategic theory, with later classes introducing empirical cases that added important nuances to this basic theoretical understanding.

The student contact point asked members of the class about the exam just after it had finished. She received no complaints, with the students assessing that it was fair and addressed the range of topics covered in the course. This suggests that the exam is well aligned with the course's learning objectives.

**Suggestions for improvements:**

STV1212 is in its third year, the structure of the course is well established, and student feedback is overwhelmingly positive, so there is no need to make major changes.

I would hesitate to place the simulation earlier in the course, because the students need some basic grounding in key theoretical concepts to maximize the simulation's educational value. The Oslo Nuclear Project is currently rewriting the simulation and an improved version will be used in future years.