

# STVXXX – Introduction to Game-theoretic Models of War

## Course description

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## Schedule, syllabus and examination date

### Choose semester

- [Spring 2021](#)

## Course content

The course offers an introduction to non-cooperative game theory and its potential applications to the study of war. Particular emphasis is placed on explaining puzzles related to war in general and World War I in particular. Specifically, the course provides a primer in core issues related to war, including (but not limited to):

- Commitment problems
- Information problems
- Arms races
- Coalition building
- War termination
- Similarities and differences between international and civil wars

## Learning outcome

The course teaches students to apply simple game-theoretic models in the study of war.

### Knowledge

Having completed the course, you

- Are familiar with basic game-theoretic terminology
- Can describe the logics of game-theoretic models
- Can apply game-theory logic to analyze questions related to war

### Skills

Having completed the course, you can:

- Identify puzzles and use game theory to resolve them

- Extract the underlying logic of game-theoretic models
- Read and understand scholarly work that uses game theory

### Competences

Having completed the course, you have:

- Increased your general analytical competence
- Enhanced your ability to use game-theoretic logic in your own work

## Prerequisites

Recommended previous knowledge

Advanced student in a Bachelor program in political science or equivalent and have taken an introduction to international politics course, such as STV1200.

## Overlapping courses

## Teaching

There will be a total of 13 class sessions (each of 2 hours duration), divided between 10 lectures and 3 seminars.

## Examination

4 hour exam

### Digital examination

The written examination is conducted in the digital examination system Inspera. You will need to familiarize yourself with the digital examination arrangements in Inspera.

[Read more about written examinations using Inspera.](#)

### Language of examination

You may write your examination paper in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

### Grading scale

Grades are awarded on a scale from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is a fail. Read more about [the grading system](#).

### Explanations and appeals

- [Explanation of grades and appeals](#)

### Resit an examination

Students who [have a valid reason for absence from the regular examination](#) are offered a postponed examination at the beginning of the next semester.

Re-scheduled examinations are not offered to students who withdraw during, or did not pass the original examination.

The course is only offered this semester.

### Special examination arrangements

Application form, deadline and requirements for [special examination arrangements](#).