

STRATEGIC GAMES

1. MODULE SUMMARY

Aims and Summary

The module's main objective is to introduce students to the subject of strategic games and help them to learn about the advantages and pitfalls of forecasting in the field of international relations and security studies. It seeks to provide students with basic tools of analysing and understanding current strategic environment and its possible evolution in the short and mid-term perspective. It helps develop strategic thinking and scenario developing, which are crucial skills for any student of IR, who will later seek advanced expert positions in both public and private organizations.

Module Size and credits

CATS points	10.0
ECTS credits	5.0
Total student study hours	100
Number of weeks	12
School responsible	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
Academic Year	2022-2023

Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

n/a

Excluded Combinations

n/a

Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Coursework 60%: composed of a research paper;

Final exam 40%

Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

Special Features

n/a

Course stages for which this module is mandatory

MA in International Relations, Year 1 (level 7)

Course stages for which this module is a core option

n/a

2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Forecast and critically appraise political and security scenarios and develop analytical accounts of these scenarios.

2. Critically apply analytic methodologies to real-life problems and to employ databases in the public domain to analyse current and future events.
3. Evaluate political and ethical arguments and apply them to the policy-making process.

Indicative Content

Strategic Games are often used by civil and military academic institutions, both governmental and non-governmental agencies to deepen the knowledge about the security environment. They are also implemented to present foreseeable future scenarios and assist leaders in the decision-making process. The course will conclude with an exam and a paper-project that devises three different strategies for a selected current strategic game problem. Prior to that students will be asked to brainstorm in class on different ideas that will help them develop their own scenarios. They will be acting in a capacity of analysts and decision-makers presenting, advocating and justifying particular scenarios. Some of the topics discussed in class will include:

- “Black Swans” and their implication for a decision-maker.
- Decision making and bad forecasts in international relations.
- Prospect theory and forecasting.
- United States, European Union and Russia in mid-term perspective.
- Why do states go to war? How does domestic politics and culture impact foreign policies?
- Possible intentional conflicts in Europe and the Americas.
- Possible international conflicts in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.
- Cooperation and resolving conflicts.

Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of discussion classes, lectures and problem solving.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Guided	0 hours	(0%)
Lecture	0 hours	(0%)
Self-guided	70 hours	(70%)
Seminar	30 hours	(30%)
Workshop	0 hours	(0%)
Total	100 hours	

Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)

The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:

- Analysis paper (60% - 3 credits): 3500 words; contributes to learning outcomes 1,2,3
- Final Exam (40% - 2 credits): 120 minutes, contributes to learning outcomes 2, 3

Re-sit

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, is entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit.

Date of last amendment

30-10-2016

3. MODULE RESOURCES**Essential Reading**

D'Anieri, P., 2010. *International Politics: Power and Purpose*, 3rd ed. Boston: Wordsworth, Boston.
Friedman, G., 2011. *Next Decade*. New York: Doubleday.
Gompert, D.C., Cevallos, A., Garafola, C.L., 2016. *War with China Thinking Through the Unthinkable*.
Rand Corporation.

Recommended Reading:

Ferguson, N., 2011. *Civilization: The West and the Rest*. New York: Penguin Press.
Friedman, G., 2009. *The Next 100 Years, a Forecast for the 21st Century*. New York: Doubleday.
Global Trends 2030, A World Transformed – National Intelligence Council 2012:
<https://globaltrends2030.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/global-trends-2030- James M. Global Trends 2025, A World Transformed – National Intelligence Council 2008: http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Global%20Trends_2025%20Report.pdf.november2012.pdf>, pp.i-73.
Goldgeier, The Future of NATO, Council on Foreign Relations Report 2010:
<http://www.cfr.org/nato/future-nato/p21044>.
Kahnem, D., Tversky, A., 1979. Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decision under Risk. *Econometrica*, 47(2), pp.263-292.
Krejci, O., 2007. *Geopolitics of The Central European Region*. Bratislava: Publishing House of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, (fragments).
Levitsky, S., Way, L.A., 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press, (fragments).
Sobek, D., 2005. Machiavelli's Legacy: Domestic Politics and International Conflict. *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(2), pp.179-204.
Stansfield, G., 2014. The Islamic State, the Kurdistan Region and the future of Iraq: assessing UK policy options. *International Affairs*, 90(6), pp.1329-1350.
Taleb, N.N., 2008. *The Black Swan: Second Edition: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*. London: Penguin Books.
Tayler, J., 20014. Putin's Nuclear Option:
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/09/04/putins_nuclear_option_russia_weapons
Weyland, K., 2009. The Diffusion of Revolution: '1848' in Europe and Latin America. *International Organization*, 63(3), pp.391-423 2009.

Required Equipment

None

4. MODULE ORGANISATION**Module leader**

Name Dr Marcin Zaborowski

E-mail marcin.e.zaborowski@gmail.com

Length and month of examination

120 minutes in June

Expected teaching timetable slots

Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

Subject Quality and Approval information**Board of Study**

Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

Subject Assessment Board

Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

Shortened title**Date of approval by FCPC**

15 February 2017