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**Study Abroad in Oslo, Norway**

**Bjørknes University College**

**Peace and Conflict Studies**

**Course Descriptions**

**Fall 2017**

**All international students should take three courses, which amounts to a full semester (30 credits). Below you will find course descriptions of which the two first mentioned, *The Ethics of War and Peace* and *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, are confirmed for the fall of 2017. Of the two next, *Foreign Policy Analysis* and *Migration and Refugee Studies*, only one will be offered. Final confirmation is expected in the beginning of March.**

**In addition to the core courses, international students have the opportunity to participate in an introduction course on Norway (see final page for description).**

**The Ethics of War and Peace** (10 credits)

The last 100 years have seen brutal wars, murderous totalitarian regimes, genocide, and nuclear weapons. But we have also witnessed – to a certain extent *because* of the facts just mentioned – an unprecedented development of international law, a great resurgence of interest in international ethics and the ethics of war, humanitarian initiatives on a large scale, and the founding of international organizations such as the United Nations, designed to foster peace and international cooperation.

In this course, we will delve into the contents and background of one of the most important developments of late 20th century thought about war: namely, the resurgence of the “just war” idea. The idea of justice in war, and the need to restrain the use of violent force, has a long history in the Western tradition, with interesting parallels in other traditions. It is different from political realism on the one hand and from pacifism on the other, yet shares important traits with both.

The course will analyze some of the most important contributions to the ethics of war. We will first look at the basic rationale for, and organizing of, the just war idea in modern texts, by focusing on excerpts from Michael Walzer’s seminal *Just and Unjust Wars* together with other important texts. Thereafter, we will study texts from some key historical figures who have contributed to the ethics of war, before finishing the semester with a return to our own age and current debates.

The aim of the course is to gain intimate knowledge of the main ethical concepts we need to know in order to be able to debate the morality of using armed force, and to relate this to the quest for stable, peaceful solutions to armed conflict. We will be debating both the question of when to use armed force (*ius ad bellum*) and how to employ it (*ius in bello*). Since these questions are intimately related to questions about how war can end peacefully, and indeed how war can be avoided overall, we have decided to call the course “The Ethics of War *and Peace*”, even though our focus is on the use of armed force.

**Learning outcomes**

The candidate shall be able to…

Knowledge

* Gain knowledge of the historical development of international law pertaining to armed conflict, both *ius ad bellum* and *ius in bello*.
* Discuss the concept of “just war”.
* Explain how the just war tradition is different from political realism on the one hand and from pacifism on the other.

Skills

* Evaluate arguments for and against use of armed force (*ius ad bellum)*.
* Evaluate the *ius in bello* criteria for right conduct of war.
* Use historical and contemporary examples to illustrate ethical dilemmas of war.
* Refer to key literature on the ethics of war and peace.

Competence

* Gain knowledge of central ethical concepts needed for discussing the ethics of the use of armed force.

Assessment

*Requirement:*

* Compulsory participation in discussions in the digital classroom.

*Exam:*

* Take home exam (individual essay); memo: 2500 words (+/- 10 % excluding front page and reference list) (60 % of the grade, grading system A – F)
* 3 hour written exam (40 % of the grade, grading system A – F)

**Lecturer**

[*Professor Henrik Syse*](https://www.prio.org/People/Person/?x=3469), is one of Norway’s foremost philosophers and lecturers. He is a Research Professor at Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), one of the members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee (yes, he actually decides who wins the Nobel Peace Prize), editor of Journal of Military Ethics and Professor at Bjørknes University College, amongst many other things.

**Terrorism and Counterterrorism** (10 credits)

This course examines a wide range of questions in order to provide students with a deeper understanding of not only the evolving threat of terrorism, but also the evolving problems produced by counterterrorist measures employed by states. This course thus starts by exploring the phenomenon of terrorism and counterterrorism.

Among the questions we will examine are: What is terrorism? What is a terrorist – is one man’s freedom fighter really another man’s terrorist? How has the threat of terrorism changed over time? What motivates different types of terrorist groups? When does terrorism succeed and fail? How can terrorism best be fought? What are the pitfalls of states pursuing counterterrorism? What is the post-mortem of the “War on Terror” as pursued by the United States from 2001-2009? How does the United States fight terrorism after the end of its “war on terror”?

The course will also look at the July 22, 2011 terror attack in Norway, and examine the attack itself, the ideology behind it, and the phenomenon of “lone wolves.” As is in keeping with the dual themes of the course, it shall also cover the Norwegian government’s response to the attack, and the political and organization fallout from this response.

**Learning outcomes**

The candidate shall be able to…

Knowledge

* Understand and analyse core concepts of the class as defined by the syllabus.
* Understand and explain potential causes of terrorism.
* Describe and explain terrorist movements.
* Analyse the political balancing act between counterterrorism and liberal democratic values.

Skills

* Analyse and discuss various forms of terrorism.
* Analyse and discuss various strategies of counterterrorism.
* Analyse the political balance between counterterrorism strategies and liberal democratic values.
* Evaluate various forms of counterterrorism strategies.
* Critically evaluate how terrorism is covered in the media.
* Discuss and present key topics orally.

Competence

* Identify and discuss academic and ethical issues related to terrorism research
* Critically evaluate the use of the term "terrorism" both in the media and in scientific publications.

Assessment

*Requirement:*

* Compulsory participation in discussions in the digital classroom.

*Exam:*

* Take home exam (individual essay); memo: 3500 words (+/- 10 % excluding front page and reference list) (60 % of the grade, grading system A – F)
* 3 hour written exam (40 % of the grade, grading system A – F)

**Lecturer**

*Dr. Hilde E. Restad*, Associate Professor of International Studies. She holds a PhD in Foreign Affairs from University of Virginia and her research focus on US foreign policy. Hilde is commenting on US politics in Norwegian and International media frequently. In 2014 she published her main work so far; [*American Exceptionalism: An Idea that Made a Nation and Remade the World*](https://www.routledge.com/products/9780415817516) (Routledge)

**Migration and Refugee Studies** (10 credits)

This interdisciplinary course draws on a range of theoretical approaches from political science, law, economics, sociology and history to make sense of the complex ethical, political and legal concerns surrounding population mobility. We consider the causes and consequences of modern population movements and place these movements in a historical and empirical context. We consider some of the key economic, security and political determinants of migration and refugee movements and examine the moral and ethical issues for public policy, asking some basic questions such as why do people migrate, how far and for what reasons? We consider how host states, including the existing populations, respond to the challenges associated with these movements, specifically how new groups are integrated, and we reflect on how the growing movements of people across borders is transforming societies. Sometimes they could increase levels of internal intolerance, but also transforming societies into more multi-cultural and multi-ethnic networked societies.

**Learning outcomes**

The candidate shall be able to…

Knowledge

* Gain an understanding of the academic study of migration and globalization studies as part of the discipline of international relations.
* Understand some of the key historical trends associated with the movements of people in the past and present.
* Develop an awareness of the key economic, security and political determinants of migration and refugee movements.

Skills

* Gain a more historically informed understanding of how, why and where people migrate.
* Critically engage with the ethical and political challenges associated with migration and refugee movements including the public policy challenges associated with managing migration.
* Have a clear understanding of the positive and negative responses of countries and populations responding to migratory flows.

Competence

* Understand the global nature of today´s migratory flows.
* Develop an understanding of the economic and political consequences of today´s migratory flows.
* Develop an understanding of some of the methodological challenges associated with the subject of migration and refugee studies.
* Develop an awareness of the ethical controversies, and understand the political sensitivities associated with the pros and cons of migratory flows.

Assessment

*Requirement:*

* Online course (pass/fail)
* Compulsory participation in discussions in the digital classroom.

*Exam:*

* Take home exam (individual essay); memo: 3000 words (+/- 10 % excluding front page and reference list) (60 % of the grade, grading system A – F)
* 3 hour written exam (40 % of the grade, grading system A – F)

**Lecturer**

This course will be taught by a team of migration experts from the world renown [Peace Research Institute, Oslo](https://www.prio.org/) (PRIO). Have a look at the website of the Migration research team [here](https://www.prio.org/Research/Group/?x=1).

**Foreign Policy Analysis** (10 credits)

In this course we examine the various theories of foreign policy and how foreign policy is made, focussing in particular on states. The intention is to provide students with an insight into the decision making process, including how policy instruments are chosen, the role of leadership in the process, the importance of history and identity in framing the foreign policy goals of a country and the relevance of such factors as biases, perceptions, psychology and interests (bureaucracies) in shaping the agenda. The course will include a close reading of the foreign policies of the United Kingdom which we will use to shed light on the complexities involved in understanding why states behave as they do.

**Learning outcomes**

The candidate shall be able to…

Knowledge

* Understand the key central concepts in foreign policy analysis.
* Have an awareness of the key foreign policy literature.
* Have a good basic understanding of the United Kingdom’s foreign policy.

Skills

* Analyse foreign policy documents in light of foreign policy analysis theory.
* Assess the idea of the conception of foreign policy being a “two-level game”.
* Utilise foreign policy analysis tools to make sense of international political agreement and disagreement.
* Critically discuss the role of leadership in foreign policy decision-making.

Competence

* Display a critical appreciation of the various contending theories in foreign policy analysis and the complexities associated with understanding foreign policy at different the levels of analysis.
* Understand of why states act the way they do internationally and how they make decisions.
* Appreciate the relevance of foreign policy analysis in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Assessment

*Requirement:*

* Short essay; memo: 1200 words (pass/fail)

*Exam:*

* Take home exam (individual essay); memo: 2000 words (+/- 10 % excluding front page and reference list) (60 % of the grade, grading system A – F)
* 3 hour written exam (40 % of the grade, grading system A – F)

**Lecturer**

*Dr. Christopher White*, Associate Professor of International Studies. Chris holds a PhD from London School of Economics (LSE). He is a specialist in political theory and British politics. He has also worked, amongst other places, at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the UK House of Commons.

**Additional course**

**Introduction to Norway** (no credits)

When studying in Norway, you ought to know something about our history, geography, culture, society and politics. This course will make sure you scratch the surface of the “Norwegian-ness” and in return get more out of your time here. As part of the course we organize various excursions, in and around Oslo.

**For more information**

[**www.peaceandconflictnorway.com**](http://www.peaceandconflictnorway.com)

**info@bjorkneshoyskole.no**

*Disclaimer: Please note that changes may occur.*