Core Concepts in International Relations  
(Graduate School in Decision Science/Doctoral Programme Political Science)

This class exposes students to the core concepts used in current theoretical reasoning on international relations. To this end, we will read some recent game-theoretical articles and go through the mathematical proofs from which the authors derived the equilibrium predictions. Note that this class is not a substitute for a proper introduction to game theory. However, it will allow you to read and understand theoretical claims made in the advance literature; such articles are published in AJPS, APSR, ISQ, IO and some other outlets. We will focus on a range of topics (armed conflict, alliances, terrorism, trade, international negotiations etc.).

Students are expected to write a research paper of between 7000 and 9000 words (appendices excluded). The outline of the paper has to be presented in the last session of the class, a first draft is due March 15, 2013, and a second and final version by April 30, 2013. Note that these deadlines are not negotiable.

Requirements:
1) Presentation of a formal proof included in a research article of your own choice
2) Presentation of research design for your term paper
3) Research paper

8/11/2012 (10:00-12:00, D351): Introduction

6/12/2012 (9:00-16:00, D351): Decision/Game Theory
The morning session will introduce the main theoretical tools. We will go through the appendix of Schneider/Cederman in the afternoon.

Required reading:
1) James D. Morrow. Game Theory for Political Scientists. Princeton: PUP.
31/1/2013 (9:00-16:00, D351): International Conflict
We will go through the required reading in the morning. The presentations of the related literature is scheduled for the afternoon session.

**Required reading:**

14/2/2013 (9:00-16:00, D351): IPE and IO
We will go through the required reading in the morning. The presentations of the related literature is scheduled for the afternoon session.

**Required reading:**

21/2/2013 (9:00-16:00, D431): Presentation of research designs