
Spring 2016
MW 12:40 – 2:00pm
Case 339

MC 293

Methods of Strategic Analysis in Public Affairs

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Office Hours:

“What is of supreme importance . . . is to attack the enemy’s strategy.”
Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

Overview

The study of public affairs requires an awareness of strategic thinking. Politicians plan how to get their bills passed. Nations try to make sure they prevail in international crises. Former spouses vie for the best advantage in divorce negotiations. Firms constantly seek to stay one step ahead of their competitors. In all these contexts, strategy is everything.

What makes strategic thinking so important? The key is something so obvious that it has often been overlooked: in many decision-making contexts, the outcome of your decision is dependent not only on what you do, but also on the decisions of others whom you do not control.

This course will provide an introduction to key concepts in game theory and apply them to issues in the fields of politics, economics, social relations, and international relations.

Evaluation

All course work will be graded on a percentage basis (out of 100%). On D2L, assignments and averages will also appear in percentages. Conversion to the university’s 4-point scale will follow this chart:

94-100%	4	67-73%	2
87-93%	3.5	60-66%	1.5
80-86%	3	50-59%	1
74-79%	2.5	<50%	0

Required

Dixit, A. K., Skreath, S., & Reilly, D. H., Jr. 2014. *Games of Strategy*, 4th edition (New York: W. W. Norton).

Earlier editions have different chapter division and problems, so you should buy the 4th edition.

Requirements

Problem Set I [25%]

Instructions available on D2L

Midterm Test [25%]

Instructions available on D2L

Group Paper/Presentation [17%]

Instructions available on D2L

Cooperation Game [3%]

Instructions available on D2L

Final Exam [30%]

Instructions available on D2L
