



How and why do you use wargaming in higher education to deliver learning objectives?

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Where do I use wargames in my HE teaching?

Formal Teaching:

- ‘Hot economics. Cold politics’ 3rd year module, 1 semester. Two games, one a practice to get used to format and the second is a part of the assessment where students write a reflective essay.
- ‘Politics and Development in East Asia’ 5th year (postgraduate taught) module, 1 semester. One game that informs a policy paper which is then assessed.

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Other HE activities:

- Masters level – education enhancement – with Felipe Cruvinel and John Hart, links on PaxSims.

<https://paxsims.wordpress.com/2021/07/29/international-relations-crisis-simulation-at-the-university-of-st-andrews/>

<https://paxsims.wordpress.com/2021/07/31/conducting-a-multi-week-remote-crisis-simulation/>

Other HE activities

- Internal training – Simulations as innovative assessment (training for staff, was planned for 2020 but was postponed as a result of the pandemic)
- At the moment – in development – module on wargames. With third or fourth year students, 6 weeks on designing and playing games the second 6 weeks on getting students to design their games.
 - Challenges: need for me to have students with some SME on an area of international relations (e.g. East Asia), this means applying a pre-requisite and a narrow range of students who can do the module ...
 - Teaching programme and staff duties ...

How accepted are games by the institution?

- Fairly ... it is more connected to departments / schools.
- Depends on what you call them and this can also be a problem.
- There is a new simulator in St Andrews, this is hard physics, but new proposal for linking manual games to the utility of a simulator. So there is a great deal of potential and interest.
<https://darcythompson.net/>

Why are games useful?

- Background information
- Understanding connections between complex areas rather than in isolation from one another.
- Offers a different way to critique the insights in readings.
- Encouraging diverse views
- Reflective activities
- They are fun.



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Thank you!

Please get in touch to
follow up with anything
in the presentation.

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