

PS205: Introduction to International Politics

Rules for the Prisoners' Dilemma Game

(Written by Jane Dawson, University of Oregon, Department of Political Science, 1998)

This is a game of strategy. Think about your strategy and play to win!! Those who receive the *lowest prison terms*—due to their finely honed rational skills—will be the winners. Good luck! You can read more about the Prisoner's Dilemma and Security Dilemma in the first chapter of the Nye book.

Payoff Structure for the PD Game

	THEY are Silent (Cooperate with Other)	THEY Confess (Defect from Other)
YOU are Silent (Cooperate with Other)	THEY get 2 years YOU get 2 years	THEY go free - 0 years YOU get 10 years
YOU Confess (Defect from Other)	THEY get 10 years YOU go free - 0 years	THEY get 5 years YOU get 5 years

Rules for a Series of One Shot Games with Different Partners

1. Find a partner, preferably someone you do not know well.
2. Do NOT communicate with your partner about your intentions. A “poker face” is a must. Keep your opponent guessing!
3. When the instructor calls for a decision, write down whether you will “cooperate” or “defect” on the table on the next page. Write "C" if you plan to cooperate with your fellow prisoner and keep silent; write "D" if you plan to defect and tell the authorities everything.
4. Using the matrix above, compare your decision with your partner's and determine how many years YOU (not your partner) will spend in prison.
5. Mark down your sentence (10, 2, or 0 years) and switch partners.
6. See score sheet on next page

Rules for Iterated Series of Games with SAME Partner

1. Choose a partner with whom you have not played before.
2. Play the game repeatedly with the same person. You will not know exactly how long the game will continue. Keep playing and recording your scores until the instructor tell you to stop.

Name: _____

Student ID#: _____

Score Sheet for a Series of One Shot FACE TO FACE Games with DIFFERENT Partners

	<i>Your Choice (C or D)</i>	Partner's Choice	<i>Your Sentence</i>
Partner #1			
Partner #2			
Partner #3			
Partner #4			
Partner #5			
Your Total Sentence			

Score Sheet for Iterated Series of Games with SAME Partner

	<i>Your Choice (C or D)</i>	Partner's Choice	<i>Your Sentence</i>
Round #1			
Round #2			
Round #3			
Round #4			
Round #5			
Round #6			
Round #7			
Round #8			
Round #9			
Round #10			
Round #11			
Round #12			
Round #13			
Round #14			
Round #15			
Your Total Sentence			