

Marine Corps War College
National Security and Joint Warfare

National Security and Joint Warfare: Course Overview

INSTRUCTORS:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: National strategy is the application of ends (goals), ways (concepts, policies, doctrine) and means (resources) to advance the national interest. Joint Professional Military Education is based, in part, on four elements of national power: Diplomatic, Informational, Military, and Economics (DIME). History demonstrates that to successfully formulate and implement national security policies, strategic leaders must wisely orchestrate each of these elements. Successful senior leaders understand the interplay between these elements and give sound military advice, as well as help develop prudent military strategy for the civilian leadership. Without this understanding, senior leaders can become marginalized in important discussions of national security.

The National Security and Joint Warfare (NSJW) Course provides the student with an extensive understanding of national security affairs emphasizing the military's role in all aspects of national security, decision making, and joint warfare. NSJW is the largest block of instruction at MCWAR.

NSJW has two main subcourses: "National Security" and "Joint Warfare". Each subcourse has several subsections (see below).

NSJW takes several field studies and receives special visitors to enhance student learning. Students can expect to travel at least once a month or have a distinguished visitor come to MCWAR. Given the dependency on outside actors for the timing of those field studies, students will be kept updated as scheduling decisions are made. Anticipated field studies/visitors at this point include:

- The Service Chiefs/Commandants
- US Government Agency leaders (Defense, Department of Homeland Security, State)
- The White House
- Combatant Commands

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LEARNING OUTCOMES: Each lesson will contribute to the students achieving the following Learning Outcomes:

1. Evaluate relationships among the principal contributors to national security policy.
2. Evaluate the formal and informal governmental processes that contribute to the development of national security policy.
3. Evaluate joint warfare processes and concepts vis-à-vis the ends, ways, and means paradigm.
4. Evaluate the impact of current and future national security issues on national defense policy.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

1. **Overview.** This course is a seminar, which means you are expected to participate fully in the discussion during each class period. The *quality* of your contributions is more important than the *quantity*, and sustained class involvement is preferred to sporadic engagement. Each week's total amount of reading is limited as compared to many other graduate programs that assign hundreds of pages each class. The tradeoff is that you are expected to *read each class assignment before coming to class*, and have spent time thinking about issues the reading elicited. You should also follow current events relevant to this course. All readings are either student-issued books, available on the internet, or on MCWAR's blackboard site, as indicated below.

One of NSJW's core objectives is to increase your ability to think critically and analytically. Accordingly, instead several formal papers, students will keep a professional journal. Sometimes, the NSJW professors will assign topics. Other times, students will be able to pick their own topics drawing on class readings or discussions, current events, or the like. The journal entries should be approximately 250 words each, unless otherwise directed. Grammar and organization are less important than the quality of your thinking. Students can anticipate having approximately one journal entry per week, although NSJW will attempt to deconflict with other MCWAR requirements – students will not have journal entries on weeks where student workload is heavy for other classes. Students will post some of their work on Blackboard "Discussion Board," whereas other entries will be submitted electronically to the professors alone. Grading will occur on a graduating pass/fail system – students are either given credit (or penalized) for doing (or not doing) the entry, with the final journal grade reflecting the number of entries completed (e.g., if 100 entries are assigned, and the student completes all but 5 of them, the student's grade is a 95 percent for the journal portion of the grade).

NSJW's midterm is a cumulative oral examination conducted with several MCU faculty. The NSJW Written Examination at the end of the year is an open book/notes paper covering the entire year.

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Please note that deadlines are strict; no extensions will be granted in the absence of a genuine emergency. Students will be marked down half a letter grade for every day late, starting with the first minute.

National Security: The National Security subcourse highlights the **culture** and **structures/actors/policies**. The course starts with an examination of the US national security **culture**, including the formation of the United States and the constitutional foundations of US Government. We then look at security **structures** to include elements of the US Government, the Department of Defense and the Office of the Secretary of Defense from the National Security Act of 1947 to the present. We also explore the various **agencies, departments, and actors** that comprise, or have influence upon, the US national security apparatus. We examine the roles, functions, missions, doctrine, and capabilities of each Military Service, as well as possible changes to Title X responsibilities and authorities being driven by high-level guidance and policies and on-going DoD initiatives. External actors, such as think tanks, the media, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also considered.

The **documents/policies** that drive national security ends, ways, and means are explored last. The President sets the strategic direction in the National Security Strategy. From that point, the Department of Defense decides an execution strategy and implements that strategy through the Joint Staff and Combatant Commanders. How the national security strategy is interpreted and executed is key to understanding US policy.

Joint Warfare: Joint Warfare refocuses the strategic direction and transitions to the regional and theater level. This portion of the course directly complements the MCWAR Regional Studies course and helps define non-military DIME components. In addition to visits to combatant commands and government agencies/departments, we examine operational art and campaign planning. After an initial overview, we will add a twist to conventional operational planning. Although the planning systems may be a review to many students, participation in Joint Land, Air, Sea and Space (JLASS) Exercise with fellow students from all of the nation's war colleges moves the course from theory to application. In preparation for the exercise the seminars are reorganized into four operational planning teams. Each OPT conducts campaign planning as the staff of a combatant command – Northern Command (NORTHCOM); Southern Command (SOUTHCOM); Special Operations Command (SOCOM); and a Red Team combatant command-level organization. MCWAR students then “fight” their plan at Maxwell AFB in April during the execution phase of JLASS. JLASS is the capstone exercise for NSJW and MCWAR.

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2. **Lesson Sequence.** Potentially topics are subject to change due to guest speaker availability and current events. Although these changes will be flagged, it is the students' responsibility to regularly check the MCWAR calendar for updates.

NATIONAL SECURITY	
US National Security Culture	
8400	Introduction to National Security and Joint Warfare – <i>The Ugly American</i>
8401	Principles of American Government, Part 1: <i>The Federalist Papers</i>
8402	Principles of American Government, Part 2: The Constitution
8403	The American Foreign Policy Tradition(s)
8404	Civil-Military Relations
8418	National Security and Joint Warfare in the Future
US National Security Structures, Actors, Policies	
8405	Pre-Goldwater-Nichols Joint/Interagency Operations
8439	J. Walter Thompson Field Study
8436	The Presidency
8409	The National Security Council and the National Security Strategy
8406	The Department of Defense, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and the National Military Strategy
8407	The Intelligence Community
8423	The Department of Homeland Security and Defense Support of Civil Authorities
8410	The Congress
8412	The Media
8413	Non-governmental Actors in the Operational Environment: Inter- and Non-Governmental Organizations and Contractors
8438	COCOM Field Studies
8498	The Service Chiefs
JOINT WARFARE	
Current and Future Operations	
8419	Stability Operations
8420	<i>Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla</i>
8421	Hybrid Operations and Beyond
Current and Future Challenges	
8424	Weapons of Mass Destruction Strategic Issues
8426	The Cyber Domain and National Security
Executing National Strategy	
8428	National Strategic Direction: The Role of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Joint Strategic Planning System (Strategic Level)
8429	National Strategic Direction: The Role of the Combatant Commanders, Service Component Commanders, and the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (Operational Level)
8435	Life on a Joint Staff
Foundations of Theater and Operational Planning	
8430	Operational Art (Operational Design)
8431	Joint Operations Planning Process (JOPP)
Joint Land, Air, and Sea Strategic Special Program (JLASS-SP)	
8432-34	Joint Land, Air, and Sea Strategic Special Program (JLASS-SP)
Writing Assignments/Exams	
8499	National Security and Joint Warfare Writing Assignments/Exams

3. **Summary Course Hours.** All hours are approximate and subject to change. See individual lesson cards for specific hours.

Lecture	Seminar	Practical Application	Field Study	Exam	PSPT	Total
3	56.5	81	45	10	150	345.5

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ASSESSMENT MEASURES: Your grade will be based on seminar participation; participation in the Joint Land, Air, and Sea Strategic Special Program (JLASS-SP); service/COCOM presentations; a professional journal; and a written NSJW examination at the end of the year. Grade distribution is as follows:

Seminar participation: 20%
JLASS-SP: 20%
Professional Journal: 5%
2-page National Security paper: 15%
Midyear Oral Examination: 15%
Final Examination: 25%

RECURRING THEMES:

1. The “human dimension” is central to war, politics, and diplomacy; consequently, the subjects of leadership, morality, ethics, and the art of command are central to an understanding of the profession of arms.
2. The national security environment is inherently complex, dynamic, and unpredictable; not all strategic problems have a solution and every solution is temporal.
3. Consistent success in war and peace requires the integrated application of all instruments of national power.
4. Effective strategists understand the relationships between ends, ways and means in pursuit of political objectives.

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATION: The College is very attentive to what many educators call “Institutional Effectiveness” – that is, how well we are achieving our objectives. The critique allows the student to register views on the methodology of each segment of the course. All participants are required to contribute their constructive criticisms and their suggestions for improvements. It is best to do these evaluations at regular intervals, rather than waiting until the end of the course.