

**Marine Corps War College**  
*Diplomacy and Statecraft*

**Diplomacy and Statecraft: Course Overview**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The Diplomacy and Statecraft (DS) course explores the “D” in DIME. The DS course examines international relations and American interactions in Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. DS seminars are spread across the academic year. They exploit the expertise of MCWAR staff as well as visiting scholars, civilian policymakers, foreign government officials, and military leaders.

The initial DS seminars explore theoretical and methodological approaches to foreign relations. These “foundational” seminars aim at the development of analytical techniques that will be applied during the rest of the year, and perhaps in future jobs.

The DS course begins with several “foundational” seminars that explore some of the theoretical and analytical underpinnings of the DS course, drawing on case studies as examples of the theoretical insights. The first seminar of the year is 8252, The Atomic Bombings of Japan: A Grand Strategy Analysis. This first seminar will make the concepts of seminar number two (8211, International Relations Theory) easier to digest using real-world examples from the a-bombs case study. We will then interleave another case study (8254, The Cuban Missile Crisis) with an exploration of decision-making paradigms (8201, Deciphering Foreign Policy Decision-making) that help explain the missile crisis. In the practical application associated with 8213, Analytical Techniques for Decision-makers, we “place” Quds force commander, General Suleimani to assess the “Placement” technique. Throughout the DS course, we will often couple real world case studies with theory and practical application. With our investigation of the atomic bombings, we will commence that practice.

Subsequent seminars examine specific countries, events, and case studies. The objective is less the accumulation of facts, though that is important, but the process of using that data to forge new or revised policies and analyses.

The DS course engages all four of MCWAR’s program outcomes, most directly Program Outcome #1, to “serve as critical and creative thinkers, able to frame ambiguity, evaluate information and arguments, ask the right questions, challenge assumptions, and find creative solutions to the challenges of a complex and dynamic security environment” and Program Outcome #2, to “serve as military strategists, able to apply the framework of ends, ways, means, and risk; evaluate the integration of all instruments of national power; and evaluate the utility (and limitations) of employing force or the threat of force in the pursuit of political objectives.”

**DIPLOMACY AND STATECRAFT STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Evaluate past, present, and likely future policy and security environments and decision-making contexts using analytical frameworks, techniques, and lenses such as cognitive process, culture, etc.
2. Formulate new or revised policy objectives (ends) and policy actions (ways and means) for strategic-leaders and decision-makers, using appropriate instruments of national power.

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3. Evaluate possible second-and-third order effects, demonstrating judgment of risk and uncertainty
4. Assess leadership and decision-making in a dynamic joint, intergovernmental, interagency, and multinational environment.

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

1. **Socratic Seminars.** Seminars taught by DS faculty will be “Socratic” with substantial pre-class preparation through readings, videos, and very brief writing assignments. For a typical DS teaching day, expect several hours of preparation followed by a two or three-hour seminar. Nearly all seminars taught by DS faculty will be broken into Gold and Scarlet seminar groups.

A modified seminar form is a discussion/Q&A with an “outside” speaker (or several speakers) at Quantico or at the speaker’s institution. The speaker will make a presentation while taking questions and comments. Again, students will spend several hours preparing for seminar. Seminars with “outside” speakers are generally conducted with Gold and Scarlet merged into one group.

2. **DS Assessments** include short papers in the fall and spring, and evaluation of seminar participation in the fall and spring. Both papers will be foreign policy analysis memos with recommendations. No research will be necessary; adequate information will be acquired during DS seminars and discussions (and their associated preparation time).

3. **OCONUS Field Studies.** The capstone of the Diplomatic and Statecraft course is late-May international travel, with half the class traveling to Asia and the other half to Europe. Each trip will visit two or three countries, including visits to the relevant US embassies, foreign and defense ministries, think tanks, universities, and cultural sites. After the trips, each group will present (synthesize) key judgments and trip observations. This will take the form of a policy analysis and recommendation session for the other traveling group and to the faculty.

4. **Sequence of Instruction.** Again, the first part of the DS curriculum is the Foundations Block. In Foundations, we explore such topics as theories of international relations, decision-making paradigms, analytical techniques for policymakers, cognitive factors in decision-making, strategic communication, arms control/WMD/nuclear issues, and comparative politics.

After the Foundations Block, we turn to what might be called country studies or regional studies, with special emphasis on countries or regions with which we are currently deeply engaged and which “matter” in global politics. We pay particular attention to China and East Asia and to Russian and Eurasia. Even in the spring semester, however, there will be several historical case studies that hone techniques useful for contemporary policy analysis.

Topics are subject to change due to guest speaker availability and current events. Although these changes will be flagged, check the MCWAR calendar regularly for updates.

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<b>DIPLOMACY AND STATECRAFT LIST OF CLASSES</b>	
8201	Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis
8202	Public Diplomacy, Strategic Communications, and Information Operations
8203	Comparative Politics
8205	The Department of State/Embassies and Country Teams
8206	The United Nations and International Security (Indian Mission Field Study)
8207	Department of State Field Study
8208	ISIS: Present and Future Challenges
8209	Israel's Security and the Balance of Power in the Middle East
8210	Iran
8211	International Relations Theory with Practical Application
8213	Analytical Techniques for Decision-makers and Advisers with Practical Application
8216	US Policy toward Africa
8222	Mexico: Promise and Peril
8225	US Policy toward East Asia and the Pacific Field Study
8226	The US-Japan Alliance
8227	Security Issues on the Korean Peninsula
8228	China: Internal Politics and Leadership Trends
8229	Chinese Foreign Policy
8231	The South China Sea Dispute
8232	The People's Liberation Army (PLA)
8234	India and Security Issues in Asia and the Indian Ocean
8235	Turkey
8236	The EU Project/US Relations with the European Union
8237	NATO, European Security Issues, and American Policy
8238	Russia: Internal Politics and the Economy
8239	Russia: Foreign and Security Policies
8246	European and Asian Field Studies
8248	European and Asian Post-Field Study Briefs
8250	The Origins of the Cold War, 1941-1950
8251	The Road to Pearl Harbor, 1921-41
8252	The Atomic Bombings of Japan
8254	The Cuban Missile Crisis
8255	Arms Control and the Iran Nuclear Deal
8256	Non-Proliferation and Arms Control
8257	The Fog of War
<b>Assessments</b>	
8299A	Diplomacy and Statecraft Fall Assessment
8299B	Diplomacy and Statecraft Spring Assessment

**5. 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
	64.5	7	82		200.5	354

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**ASSESSMENT MEASURES:** Student grades will be calculated as follows:

Student seminar contribution (20% fall, 20% spring)

1500-word policy analysis memo on a topic TBD (25%) (due mid-November)

1500-word policy analysis memo on US foreign/defense policy (35%) (due mid-to late March)

**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. Surveys are electronically tallied, studied by faculty, including members engaged in courseware revision, and eventually archived for use in future institutional research.