

Marine Corps War College
Economics and National Power

Economics and National Power: Course Overview

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The economics classes within the MCWAR curriculum are designed to provide students with a broad-brush knowledge on a number of crucial economics related topics. To the greatest degree possible the classes will focus on what future strategists and senior warfighters need to understand about economics, as they prepare for future assignments.

Throughout history national power and success in war has rested upon a firm economic base. This is very clear in our own case, as for the past century American power and influence has directly correlated to our economic strength. Today, however, even a casual glimpse of the headlines demonstrates that our economic strength is eroding and is on a path towards collapse in the not very distant future. Moreover, the rules of the game are changing at an ever-accelerating rate. Anyone with a Ph.D. in economics more than a decade old, who has not kept up, would be bewildered at the current economic environment.

This course will not make military officers professional economists, it will, however, provide a thorough grounding in the crucial economics related issues of our time. It will also place these issues into the wider context of National Security Strategy.

ECONOMICS AND NATIONAL POWER LEARNING OUTCOMES: Each lesson will contribute to the students achieving the following Economics and National Power (ENP) Learning Outcomes:

1. Comprehend the fundamentals of monetary, fiscal, and trade policy.
2. Examine the strategic impact of economic forces on the global security environment.
3. Analyze the impact of economic considerations on national security, strategic decision-making, and warfare.

RECURRING THEMES:

1. The character of war changes over time, but the nature of war is enduring.
2. Economics underpins all strategic power and undertakings.
3. The “human dimension” is nearly as crucial in economics as it is central to war, politics, and diplomacy.
4. Context matters; many factors (social, cultural, economic, geographic, etc.) shape the way that states and non-state actors employ economics in pursuit of their goals.
5. Consistent success in war and peace requires the integrated application of all instruments of national power.
6. Effective strategists understand the relationships between ends, ways and means in pursuit of political objectives...particularly in the economic sphere.

Marine Corps War College
Economics and National Power

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

1. **Overview.** The ENP course provides the student with an extensive set of seminars dealing with topics that shape national and international economic concerns, as they relate to strategists and policymakers. Each lesson contributes to the students understanding of this complex of ideas, as well as their interaction amongst each other, and national security interests.

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 outlook calendar for updates.

ECONOMICS AND NATIONAL POWER LIST OF CLASSES	
8601	Nation at Arms: A History of Finance and Power
8602	Economic Systems and Macro Principles
8603	Economics Roadmap of the Future
8604	Current US Economic Position – Debt
8610	New York Field Study
8612	Economic Warfare with Practical Application
8613	International Economics and Finance
Assessment	
8699	Economics and National Power Assessment

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
	15	6	9		51	78

ASSESSMENT MEASURES: Student grades will be calculated as follows:

Student Seminar Contribution (40%)

Economics and National Power Writing Assignment (60%)

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.

The course director pays particular attention to student critiques, as they remain the best reflection of how students are absorbing class material. Students are required to participate in these reviews, and one hopes that they will take the appropriate time to reflect on what was presented to them and to contribute their suggestions for improvements.