

Marine Corps War College
War, Policy, and Strategy

War, Policy, and Strategy: Course Overview

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) is based, in part, on developing the student’s ability to analyze complex, abstract problems relating to war, policy, and strategy. Since it is impossible to duplicate the vague, incomplete, and contradictory events that shape the practice of war, the study of history frequently has been used as a tool for exploring the problems of war. Of course, history can be a guide but it is not the reading of history that makes great military leaders and statesmen. Instead, it is the active analysis of historical cases that provide the materials from which superior military leaders emerge.

WAR, POLICY, AND STRATEGY LEARNING OUTCOMES: Each lesson will contribute to the students achieving the following WPS Learning Outcomes:

1. Evaluate traditional and non-traditional principles of war at the strategic and operational levels of war.
2. Assess national security policies, national military strategies, and associated theater campaigns and operations.
3. Evaluate the relationship between elements of national power and the achievement of strategic end states.
4. Appraise the impact of cultural, social, and political factors on the design, development and execution of military strategy.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

1. **Overview.** The War, Policy, and Strategy (WPS) course provides the student with an extensive set of seminars dealing with topics that shape the strategic environment and the process of strategic assessments within the milieu of strategy as it is practiced today. Each lesson contributes to the students understanding of these complex ideas.

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.

WAR, POLICY, AND STRATEGY LIST OF CLASSES	
8101	War, Policy, and Strategy: The Basic Concepts
8103	Thucydides: Overview and Strategic Analysis with Polis: Road to Hegemony
8107	Clausewitz: Books 8 and 1
8110	Why the North Won the Civil War with For the People Wargame and Antietam-Gettysburg Field Study
8111	Asian Military Thought
8115	The Collapse of Strategy with The Lamps are Going Out Practical Application
8121	The Coming of WWII in Europe, 1919-1941
8122	Geopolitics and War: World War II Case Study
8124	War Termination
8125	The Cold War
8136	The Story So Far...

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8138	Great Power Competition: Strategic Rivalries
8142	A World Transformed: The 19th Century and Today
8144	Modern Warfare/Information Operations Practical Application
Assessments	
8199A	War, Policy, and Strategy Fall Assessment: HEXWAR Project
8199B	War, Policy, and Strategy Spring Assessment: Confronting A Great Power

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
	65	52	10		153	261

ASSESSMENT MEASURES: Student grades will be calculated as follows:

- Fall student seminar contributions (25%)
- Spring student seminar contribution (25%)
- War, Policy, and Strategy Fall Assessment: HEXWAR Project (25%)
- War, Policy, and Strategy Spring Assessment: Confronting A Great Power (25%)

Notes: In seminar, quality of the contribution is of greater importance than the quantity; likewise, sustained contribution is more important than sporadic involvement. Written assessments will be “open book” exams conducted over multiple days.

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.