

Introduction to Naval Science

NS 1321

Fall 2026

Instructor:

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Course Description:

This course provides students with a general introduction to the culture, organization, and missions of the United States Navy (USN) and United States Marine Corps (USMC). Students will be introduced to the Naval Service, its role within the Department of Defense, and the various warfare communities and career paths available to Navy and Marine Corps officers.

Course Learning Objectives:

Topics covered during this course include, but are not limited to:

1. The organizational structure of the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps.
2. The warfare components of the Navy and Marine Corps and their respective roles and missions.
3. The organization and structure of the Naval Service, from its position within the Department of Defense to individual warfare communities and career paths.
4. The basic principles and elements of leadership.
5. The United States Navy and United States Marine Corps Core Values.
6. The professional expectations, customs, and responsibilities associated with service as a naval officer.

Upon completion of this course, students should have a foundational understanding of the Naval Service and be able to describe its organization, missions, warfare communities, and professional expectations.

Guidelines for Completing and Submitting Homework Assignments

- All assignments shall be typed on a computer and submitted electronically via Canvas.
- You must work on *all* of your assignments independently, unless specifically directed to work in a group. Think of each assignment as an open-book, open-note exam.
- All written submissions must be formatted according to SECNAV M-5216.5, Department of the Navy, Naval Correspondence Manual, June 2015. Specifically, see pages 7-16 to 7-17 (link below). SECNAV M-5216.5 will be posted as a PDF file on Canvas:
<https://www.marines.mil/Portals/59/Publications/SECNAV%20M%205216.5.pdf>
- All assignments are to be turned in at 0730 on the date designated in the class schedule.
- One **full** grade level will be deducted from assignments for the first day an assignment is late and a **half** grade each additional day.
- If you are sick, out of town, or for any other reason unable to turn in an assignment notify the instructor as soon as possible. Be prepared to provide documentation supporting the reason you were unable to turn in the assignment.

Description of Graded Components

- **QUIZ:** A short (no more than 5 questions) test of knowledge about the required reading, previous lesson, or discussion. We will begin class daily with a quiz.

- **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:** Using SECNAV M-5216.5, draft a Standard Letter discussing: the Navy or Marine Corps community that most appeals to you; the mission of the community; why the community appeals to you; and provide three characteristics you possess that would benefit your chosen community.
- **GROUP PRESENTATION:** Pick a current issue that your Sailors and Marines are facing in the fleet today and present it to the class in a 20 minute presentation.
- **MIDTERM:** A comprehensive examination evaluating your understanding of the topics covered in class, assigned readings, and previous discussions through the midpoint of the course. The examination may include multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or other objective questions designed to assess both knowledge and comprehension of course material.
- **FINAL:** A comprehensive examination evaluating your understanding of the major concepts, topics, and material presented throughout the course. The final will assess your ability to recall, understand, and apply knowledge gained from lectures, discussions, readings, and other assigned course materials.

At Georgia Tech, final course grades are awarded on a scale of A-F with no +/- grades permitted.

Grading Breakdown

Quizzes / Participation: 20%

Written Assignment: 15%

Midterm: 25%

Group Presentation: 15%

Final: 25%

Attendance

Attendance is required for all class sessions. This course is designed around classroom instruction, discussion, and participation, and regular attendance is essential to achieving the course learning objectives. Students are expected to arrive on time, be prepared for class, and remain for the duration of the scheduled class period.

Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for notifying the instructor as soon as possible and, when appropriate, providing documentation for an excused absence. Being absent does not relieve a student of responsibility for material covered in class, assignments due, or announcements made during the missed class period. Students are responsible for obtaining missed notes, materials, and information from a classmate or Canvas.

Participation

Participation is an important component of this course. Students are expected to actively engage in lectures, discussions, activities, and other classroom exercises. Effective participation includes asking and answering questions, contributing thoughtfully to discussions, listening respectfully to classmates, and demonstrating preparation for class.

Participation also includes professional conduct. Students are expected to remain attentive throughout class, refrain from using electronic devices for non-course-related activities, and demonstrate the professionalism, maturity, and respect expected of a future naval officer.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Academic Support

Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.

Professional Disposition

My goal as your instructor is to provide you opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to succeed in a professional environment. **Don't wait until you graduate to start acting like a professional. Start now.**

Just as you evaluate your instructors at the end of the semester, I will evaluate your professional performance throughout the semester. I will observe your conduct and provide feedback as appropriate. I will be looking for the following:

- **Attendance:** Attendance is required. Be responsible and communicate with the instructor when circumstances prevent you from attending class.
- **Punctuality:** If you arrive at the scheduled start time, you are late. Arrive a few minutes early, settle in, and be prepared to begin class at the scheduled time. You are expected to

remain attentive and engaged until I dismiss the class. Do not begin packing up your materials in anticipation of the end of class.

- **Attention:** Pay attention in class. Sleeping, side conversations, reading material unrelated to class, texting, and working on unrelated material are not acceptable. When another student asks a question or makes a comment, listen carefully. Your fellow students deserve the same respect and attention that you expect from the instructor.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. If you have an opinion or question, contribute it to the discussion rather than discussing it privately with a neighbor. Do not be afraid of being wrong. Learning requires taking intellectual risks, asking questions, and being willing to recognize when your understanding is incomplete or incorrect. If you do not understand something, ask.
- **Maturity:** Take responsibility for your decisions and obligations. Do not make excuses or request extensions unless there is a legitimate reason. The standards established in this syllabus apply to all students.
- **Responsibility:** You have the syllabus. Many questions about course requirements, deadlines, and expectations can be answered by reviewing it. Develop the habit of finding information and solving problems independently whenever possible.
- **Communication:** Use a professional tone in email correspondence. You should start with “Ma’am.” Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are important. Be direct and to the point. Military acronyms are acceptable. You should close with “Respectfully” or “Very Respectfully.”
- **Honesty and Integrity:** This is absolutely the wrong class in which to attempt to cheat. I work hard to provide every student with an equal opportunity to succeed. The consequences for academic misconduct at Georgia Tech can be significant. For students participating in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, violations of academic integrity may also have professional consequences.

	PHASE 1: MIDN NROTC	
25-Aug	Mission ROD Educational Reqs., PRB, Advisor Counseling	
27-Aug	Uniform Regulations and Appropriate Civilian Attire	
1-Sep	Naval Admin, N-S-J Codes, ALNAVS, ALMARS and MAR /NAVADMINs	
3-Sep	Navy Core Values / Ethos / Oath of Office	
	PHASE 2: DOW Structure	
8-Sep	Mission and Organization of the DOW	
10-Sep	Army / Air Force / Coast Guard / Merchant Marine	
15-Sep	UCMJ / Code of Conduct	WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT
	PHASE 3: Navy Specific Topics	
17-Sep	Navy Mission, Organization, and Reserves	PHASE 1 & 2 QUIZ
22-Sep	Navy Rank Structure / Uniforms	
24-Sep	Naval Traditions, Customs, and Courtesies	
29-Sep	Organization of Command, Ships, and Units	
1-Oct	Surface Warfare Community	
8-Oct	Aviation Community	
13-Oct	Submarine Community	PHASE 3 QUIZ
15-Oct	MIDTERM	
	PHASE 4: Marine Specific Topics	
20-Oct	Marine Corps Mission, Organization and Reserves	
22-Oct	Marine Corps Rank Structure / Uniforms	
27-Oct	Marine Corps Traditions, Customs, and Courtesies	
29-Oct	Marine Corps Aviation	
3-Nov	Marine Corps Ground	PHASE 4 QUIZ
	PHASE 5: Navy and Marine Corps Team	
5-Nov	MEU / ARG	
10-Nov	MAGTF	
12-Nov	Amphibious Operations	
	PHASE 6: Presentations	
17-Nov	GROUP 1&2	PHASE 5 QUIZ
19-Nov	GROUP 3&4	
1-Dec	GROUP 5&6	
3-Dec	GROUP 7&8	
8-Dec	FINAL EXAM	

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