

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## **POL 354: U.S. Defense Policy**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Introduction to the concepts and issues in the analysis of U.S. defense policy. Topics include development of contemporary defense policy, analysis of the external environment, strategic considerations, the use of force, and defense decision making.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/22/2011 - Present

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. Development of post-war U.S. defense policy.
2. Interests, threats, and strategy.
3. The uses and limits of force.
4. Defense decision making.
5. Nuclear strategy.
6. Limited War.
7. Arms control and proliferation.

### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Articulate major elements of post-war U.S. defense policy. Explain and assess the logic underlying those policies.
2. Discuss the range of U.S. interests, the potential threats to those interests, and the strategic dimensions of crafting policy to defend interests.
3. Discuss the strategies and principles underlying different uses of force in defense, and apply those to the analysis of the use of force.
4. Describe and explain the defense decision making process. Apply decision making concepts to explain decisions.
5. Articulate and critique the logic underlying U.S. nuclear strategy and arms control policies.
6. Discuss the political-military issues involved in waging limited war.

### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

None

### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted