Schedule of Events (ALL TIMES EST)

Day 1, Tuesday January 23

0800-0820: Introduction/Schedule overview

0820-0940: Overview of Operations in the Information Environment (Paul, Barry, Acosta, all in-person)

0940-1000: Break

1000-1050: Introduction to China’s OIE Strategy (McClenon: Virtual)
This block will give an overview of the concepts and organizations involved in Chinese information operations and will situate Chinese OIE strategic thinking in the context of China’s national humiliation/national rejuvenation narrative.

1050-1100: Break

1100-1150: Introduction to Russian OIE Strategy (Maness: in-person)
This block will cover an overview of the history and current doctrine of the Russian Federation for the cyber and information environments

1150-1300: Lunch

1300-1350: Narratives and Messaging: (Naficy: Virtual??)
In this block of instruction, students will engage with research, theory, and applied examples of narrative influence.

1350-1400: Break

1400-1450: Media Interpretation (Iatrou: Virtual)
This discussion focuses on the multitude of filters that alter the characteristics of the perceived environment and subsequently our behavior.

1450-1500: Break

1500-1600: S&T aspects of OIE (5G, AI, Satellites (Space), Cyber) – Emerging technology and the information environment (Volpe, Maness: in-person)
A quick introduction to emerging technologies, such as 5G cellular technology, artificial intelligence, space and satellite internet technology, and emerging cyber operations as a result will be the topics of this hour; how dual use nature of modern technology shapes competition.

End of Day 1

Day 2 (narrowed audience with more details and discussion)
0800-0900: Russia deep dive (Paul: in-person)
Here we will look at the history of Soviet and post-Soviet information strategy, the Russian way of information war, and how the U.S. and the West missed Putin’s warnings about his desire for a restoration of the Russian empire, starting with his invasion of Ukraine.

0900-0910: Break

0910-1010: China deep dive (McClenon: virtual)
This block will briefly overview common misperceptions about Chinese information operations, and then highlight a few studies that illustrate the importance of cognitive, social, and psychological differences for understanding and defending against Chinese information operations.

1010-1030: Break

1030-1130: Anthropological Insights on OIE (Naficy in person/virtual?)
This section aims to provide analytical tools for thinking about culture and the ways in which interacting with different cultures affects U.S. actions abroad, including military operations, democratization, economic development and foreign relations.

1130-1230: Lunch

1230-1330: Social Network Analysis (Everton: In person)
This course examines the underlying nature of trust and influence, especially as they shape and are shaped by social networks. Students will acquire a theoretical foundation for these concepts and how they apply to a broad spectrum of activity, including military operations, underground movements, information and intelligence operations, and governance and the media.

1340-1440: Psychology of OIE (Houck: Virtual)
What are effective influence techniques and how do you defend against them? By discussing the underlying psychology of influence, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the conditions under which information is most likely to persuade individuals, groups, and nations.

1440-1450: Break

1450-1600: EW, Cyber and Space shallow dive (Iatrou, Maness, Volpe: Virtual, in-person x2)
In this segment we’ll discuss the scope of the electromagnetic operational environment; the operational significance and interplay of electromagnetic radiation, weather and terrain; and the challenges to ensuring our use while denying their use of the spectrum.

Introduction to cyber strategies, such as disruptions, short and long-term espionage, degradations, and deception and how they affect the information environment. How are cyber technologies fundamentally changing the information environment and is the United States prepared?
How is the space domain changing the information environment? How is AI and satellite technology affecting both intelligence and information?

End of Day 2

Day 3 (same audience as day 2)

0800-0940: Planning and Assessments (Paul, Acosta: in-person)
How should OIE planning be integrated with other aspects of operational planning? What special considerations does OIE raise for planning? How can different information-related capabilities work in combination, and how do they relate to each other? What challenges relate to intelligence support to OIE? How can OIE be assessed and evaluated?

0940-1000: Break

1000-1200: (with breaks): Guided discussion on relationship between OIE and Integrated Deterrence (interagency cooperation): Maness, Barry, Paul, Acosta, all in person

1200-1300: Lunch

1300-1400: Guided discussion (cont.)

1400-1415: Break

1415-1600: Narratives and Influence (Naficy: virtual?)

How can nations cultivate the “will of the people” towards strategic objectives? This block of instruction focuses on resilience and OIE in the context of comprehensive defense. We will understand the causal mechanisms that enable one actor to influence another and how these mechanisms can be integrated into military operational concept, understand the operational considerations to employ an influence mechanism to support a military operation, apply the influence mechanisms to a scenario-based military concept, and articulate the results of a scenario-based influence concept to a decision maker.

End of Day 3

Biographies

Ryan C. Maness (Ph.D., University of Illinois, Chicago 2013) is an assistant professor and the academic associate for the curriculum on information strategy and political warfare (698) at the Naval Postgraduate School. He is also the director of the DoD Information Operations Center for Research at NPS. His research includes operations in the information environment, specifically in cyberspace, cyber strategy, and power dynamics and interactions among states in cyberspace.
Christopher Paul (Ph.D., UCLA, 2001) is the LtCol Kevin M. Shea USMC Chair for Information at the Naval Postgraduate School. In addition to teaching and advising students in the information strategy and political warfare (698) and information warfare (595) curricula at NPS, Paul provides expertise and research support related to operations in the information environment, information warfare, the information joint/warfighting function, counterpropaganda, cyber operations, and related policy to a range of Department of Defense and U.S. Government offices, organizations, and commands.

Julia McClenon is a cultural and behavioral ethnographer (anthropologist) and sociolinguist, with a focus on Asia, China, and specific diaspora in Asia and America. She is an interagency civil servant with experience in both the Department of Defense and the Department of State. She was previously commissioned as a Foreign Service Officer of the U.S. diplomatic corps. For State Department, she was Chair of the Consul General's Civil-Society Working Group on Religion in China.

Sean Everton is a Professor in the Defense Analysis Department and the Co-Director of the CORE (Common Operational Research Environment) Lab at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). He specializes in using social network analysis to track and disrupt dark networks (e.g., criminal and terrorist networks), and he has published in the areas of social network analysis, sociology of religion, diffusion, economic sociology, and political sociology.

Tristan Volpe is an assistant professor in the Defense Analysis Department at the Naval Postgraduate School and a nonresident fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He studies how technology shapes coercion, cooperation, and competition among nations.

Dr. Shannon Houck is an Assistant Professor in the Defense Analysis Department at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). She is a Social Psychologist with expertise on the science of influence and persuasion, psychological resilience and resistance, and extremism. Prior to joining NPS, she was a faculty member at Syracuse University from 2016-2020. She is the author of over 40 scholarly articles and book chapters, and her research has been featured on popular news outlets such as the New York Times, Psychology Today, and USA Today.

Steven Iatrou is a Senior Lecturer in the Information Sciences Department at the Naval Postgraduate School. His Research Interests include Command and Control, Mass and Social Media, Social Influence, and Naval Communications Technologies. His Teaching Interests include Information Operations, Command and Control, and Information Systems.

Siamak Naficy is a Senior Lecturer in the Defense Analysis Department at the Naval Postgraduate School. An anthropologist (PhD at UCLA, 2010) with a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary approach to social, biological, psychological, and cultural issues. Interests range from the anthropological approach to conflict theory to sacred values, wicked problems, cognitive science, and animal behavior.