



NAVAL  
POSTGRADUATE  
SCHOOL

# New Distance Learning Graduate Certificate:

## Great Power Competition Curriculum 255 February 5, 2021

Monterey, California  
[WWW.NPS.EDU](http://WWW.NPS.EDU)



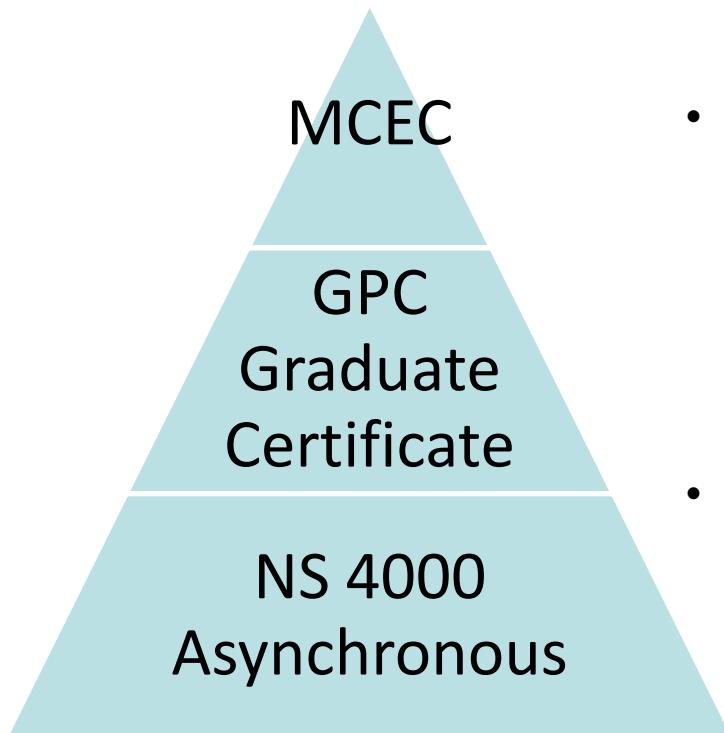
# GPC Certificate Summary

- Who: The National Security Affairs (NSA) Department at NPS is soliciting applications for students to form a Distance Learning Cohort. Targeting Active-Duty Officers whose career path might not otherwise accommodate resident graduate programs at NPS and would benefit from this coursework.
- What: 13 credit graduate DL certificate in Great Power Competition. Can be applied to a future one-year in-residence Masters in 688 Strategic Studies.
- When: The nine-month nonresident program runs from the Summer 2021 through the Winter quarter of 2022. Classes are from early July to late March.
- Where: 100% online remote learning with synchronous and asynchronous material. Synchronous seminar on Fridays for two hours tentatively 11-13 PST.
- Why: Meets DoD and Navy strategic requirements and initiatives to expand NPS educational opportunities to non-resident officers.





## Building Blocks to Mid-Career Education Continuum



### GPC Graduate Certificate

- 13-credit distance-learning certificate
  - A. Summer 2021: GPC: Current Policy and Strategy (1)
  - B. Summer 2021: GPC in Modern History (4)
  - C. Fall 2021: Russian Foreign Policy (4)
  - D. Winter 2022: Chinese Foreign Policy (4)
- 4-credit courses (mix of asynchronous and synchronous delivery)
  - Asynchronous lectures
  - Reading assignments/ papers
  - Synchronous online discussion sessions
  - ~8-10 hours per week



# The Courses in the Certificate

- NS4000 GPC: Current Policy/Strategy (Summer 2021 Jul-Sep)
- NS3005 GPC in Modern History (Summer 2021 Jul-Sep)
- NS4642 Chinese Foreign Policy (Fall 2021 Oct-Dec)
- NS4425 Russian Foreign Policy (Winter 2022 Jan-Mar)
- The Learning Outcomes for this certificate are:
  1. To understand the nature of great power competition historically and its current manifestations.
  2. To understand the core motivations behind Chinese and Russian political, economic, and military policies, as well as the challenges they pose to the United States.
  3. To understand the tools China and Russia use to further their interests in various regions of the world outside their borders and in critical competitive domains, such as cyberspace.
  4. To understand the range of possible U.S. and allied responses to Chinese and Russian behavior.



# NS 4000 Seminar: GPC-Current Strategy and Policy

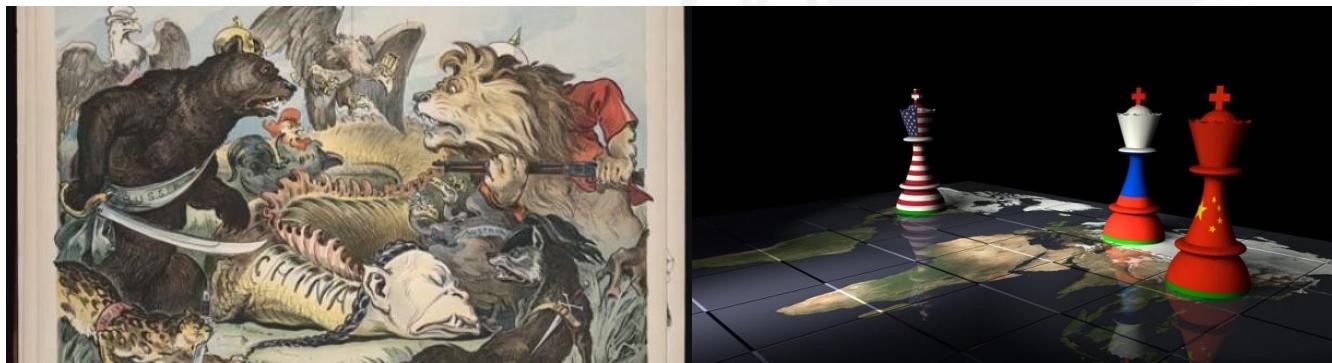
- Offered Summer Quarter 2021 (July-September)
- One-credit, pass/fail course in a lecture/seminar format.
- 35-minute lectures followed by short quizzes. Optional readings will be provided to all students.
- Learning Outcomes:
  1. Understand the core motivations behind Chinese and Russian political, economic, and military policies.
  2. Understand the tools China and Russia use to further their interests in various regions of the world and in critical competitive domains, such as cyberspace.



~ 2 hours per week



- 4-unit course offered in Summer quarter (July-September)
- This course studies the history of great power conflict in the twentieth century, emphasizing the role of great powers in the evolution of the modern international system.
- **Learning Outcomes:**
- This course is designed to improve your understanding of the following general themes: the role of great powers in the creation of international order; the origins of great power wars; the economic dimensions of great power conflict; great power conflict and revolutionary war; the distinctive requirements of peace-making among great powers.



~ 8-10 hours per week



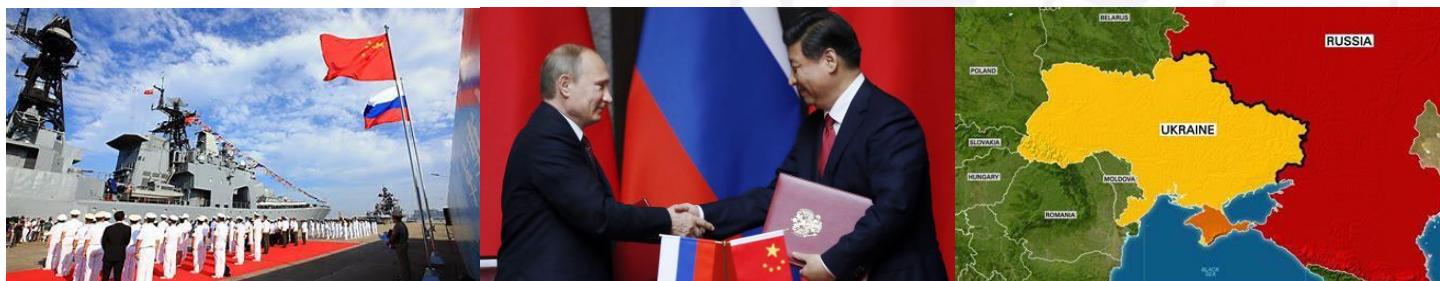
- 4-unit course offered in Fall quarter (October-December)
- Course surveys the history of the People's Republic of China.
- Learning Outcomes:
  1. Acquire a deeper knowledge of the historical legacies shaping Chinese foreign policy and the major empirical content and events of Chinese foreign policy during the Cold War.
  2. Acquire a deeper knowledge of the development of China's relations with the United States, East Asia, and the world during China's rise.
  3. Explore the main drivers for China's grand strategy and foreign policy (historical and contemporary) and improve ability to understand Chinese perspectives on its international environment and foreign policy choices.
  4. Conduct in-depth research and analysis on a topic of interest to the student related to Chinese foreign policy.



~ 8-10 hours per week



- 4-unit course offered in Winter quarter (January-March)
- This course seeks to provide an understanding of Russia's foreign policy traditions, interests, patterns of behavior, current trends, and possible future directions.
- Learning Outcomes:
  1. Understand the impact of Russian culture, history, economics, politics, and geography on Russian foreign policy.
  2. Understand the range of policy tools used by the Russian leadership in the pursuit of the country's foreign policy interests.
  3. Demonstrate an ability to present a Russian perspective effectively in a relevant foreign policy decision-making scenario.
  4. Demonstrate a knowledge of Russia's priorities in its relationship to the United States as well as options for U.S. policy-makers in dealing with Russia.

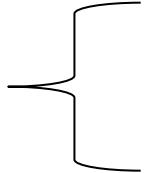


~ 8-10 hours per week



- Eligibility requirements include an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited 4-year college or university, and a 2.6 grade point average or higher on a 4-point scale. Prospective student packages include a completed application to NPS (see next slide), a Participation Agreement signed by your commanding officer/supervisor, and a one-page personal applicant statement of preparedness and motivation. This letter should include applicant's professional information to include designator/MOS, rank, current duty assignment, and current duty station. Participants should have a projected rotation date no earlier than April 2022. Completed packages with the three parts indicated below are **due by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. Personal statements should be sent to the NSA Program Officer at [nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu](mailto:nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu). The NSA Department is looking to select between 40 students for the cohort Jul 21 – Mar 22 cohort and will notify selectees in mid-May 2022.

Complete Package



1. NPS completed online application
2. Email signed Participation Agreement and send transcripts to admissions
3. Email one-page personal statement to NSA Program Officer



# NPS Admissions Process

- To apply to NPS, applicants should go to <https://nps.edu/web/admissions>. Once registered, applicants should select GPC Certificate Program, curriculum number 255 with start date of 2021/4. Upon application submission, applicants must arrange for delivery of official transcripts to the NPS admissions office from each institution attended for all undergraduate and graduate education. Admissions also requires a participation agreement signed by your commanding officer/supervisor which is embedded into the admission website. NPS applications must be submitted online to NPS **no later than 30 March 2021**. Delayed receipt of official transcripts and signed participation agreement could result in delay or rejection of application. Applicants will be notified by NPS via e-mail regarding their acceptance to the program.
- Once complete with online application to include a signed participation agreement and transcripts ordered, send your personal statement in an email to NSA Program Officer at [nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu](mailto:nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu). This must be complete by **19 April 2021**.
- Per OPNAV Instruction 1520.23C, Naval officers participating in this program must agree to remain on active duty for a period of one year following completion of the certificate program. This obligation is discharged concurrently with any other service obligation already incurred. This agreement does not obligate the Navy to retain the officer on active duty. NPS is mission-funded to provide tuition-free graduate education to active-duty Navy and Marine Corps officers (in application, the tuition POC is NA).



- For Army/Air Force students, tuition of \$7300 will be payable upon enrollment. Personal funds or tuition assistance cannot be accepted by NPS.
- Applicants will need their tuition POC contact info inserted into their application prior to their application being considered complete.
  - [Tuition@nps](mailto:Tuition@nps)
- Applicants with no tuition POC will not be considered.
- Navy and Marine Corps are mission funded and no tuition is required. Leave tuition POC in application blank or “NA”.



# Selection Criteria

- Qualified students will be prioritized selection based on the following criteria:
  - Balance among communities and service.
    - 25-30 Navy/Marine Corps
    - 10-15 Army/Air Force
  - Service/Sponsor inputs
  - Deployment status/ location during studies
    - Prefer CONUS non-deployment status
  - Potential to return to NPS and complete a full degree
- Selection will be done by a panel of military officers and academic faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School in coordination with program sponsor.



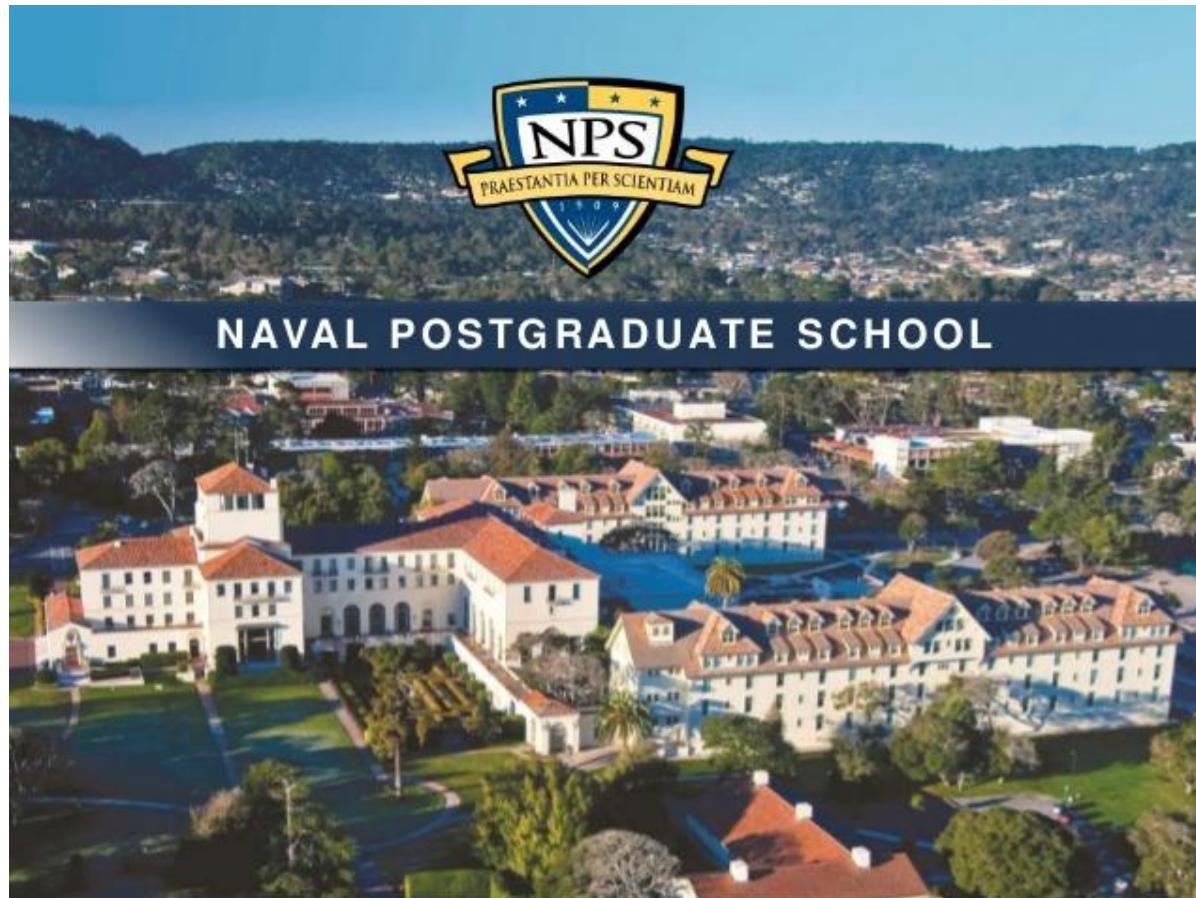
- Online application deadline 30 March 2021
- Complete package due 19 April 2021
  - see slide 9 for definition of complete package
- NPS Admissions:
  - [admissions@nps.edu](mailto:admissions@nps.edu)
- NSA Program Officer:
  - [nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu](mailto:nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu)





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# Backup Slides





# Participation Agreement

- Button/link to form will appear on last page of online application.
- After Commanding Officer/Supervisor signs form, send completed form as an attachment via email to [admissions@nps.edu](mailto:admissions@nps.edu)

Additional Requirements

Applicant Comments and Background Info  
None

Participation Agreement (PA)

Complete the Authorizing Official (AO) information, print, and provide the agreement to your AO for signature. *This may be done later if you don't have your AO's information on-hand.*

By submitting this application, I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided here is true and correct. I also understand that any misrepresentation may result in ineligibility or a delay in processing my application.

Submit Program Application



# Application Confirmation Email

When you get this email your application is complete, next send participation agreement and transcripts to admissions, then finally your personal statement to NSA Program Officer

Thank you for your interest in an NPS program. This is confirmation that your online application has been received for the program shown below:

Quarter	Type	Program
Not Sure	Resident - Masters	Not Sure

As a reminder we require official sealed transcripts of all degree and non-degree college course work completed to date. This requirement includes: community college credits, Associates, Bachelors, Masters, and Postgraduate degree work. Transcripts should be sent directly to NPS from the school(s) attended.

Our mailing address for transcripts is:

Admissions Office  
Naval Postgraduate School  
1 University Circle, Herrmann Hall Room 061A  
Monterey, CA 93943-5006

Another option is to have your official transcripts electronically delivered. Please check to see if your academic institution is a participating member. If you elect to have your official transcripts electronically delivered, our email address is: [admissions@nps.edu](mailto:admissions@nps.edu).

When applying to a Masters program, please consult the following link for additional admissions materials required to complete your application:  
<https://my.nps.edu/web/admissions/masters>

In order to verify receipt of transcripts: [Visit your applicant dashboard](#) where you can view the status of a submitted application. The Transcript received Status (TS Recv'd) will be displayed to the right of each school.

For any additional questions please email [admissions@nps.edu](mailto:admissions@nps.edu).

R/  
Admissions Staff,  
Naval Postgraduate School



# Learning Outcomes

- This certificate will prepare students to apply critical thinking and analytical skills to support high-level decision making in both operational and staff assignments during a new era of GPC. With our National Defense Strategy shifting away from small-scale deterrence and counterterrorism efforts, it is critical for Naval and Marine Corps officers to understand the concepts, factors, and geopolitical forces of GPC in the modern world. The certificate will provide students timely academic knowledge on the political and strategic challenges posed for the United States by the emergence of GPC with China and its re-emergence with Russia. Upon completion of the certificate, students will be able to analyze the factors shaping the new era of geopolitical competition among the major powers and potential U.S. responses across all dimensions of power, including diplomacy, economic competition, influence campaigns, and traditional military force.



# Format of classes

- Masters Certificate in GPC. The certificate program is a nine-month part-time program delivered using a mix of distance learning methods. Students will take one course per quarter for three consecutive quarters beginning in July of 2021, completing the certificate in March 2022. Students will also need to complete a self-paced one-credit seminar asynchronously before the end of the program to receive the certificate. Should students later be selected to come to NPS in-residence for a degree in National Security Affairs, students can apply these credits to their degree and shorten their time on station in Monterey.
- Each quarter the offered class requires both synchronous and asynchronous coursework. For the asynchronous portions each week, including reading, recorded lectures, writing, and participation in online discussions, students will have the flexibility to do coursework at times of their choosing. For the synchronous portions, a web-based video teleconference will be held each Friday at a regularly scheduled time to accommodate for the students in the cohort (normally based upon CONUS duty stations). However, with support from their command, the program can be delivered virtually anywhere to any qualified applicant. Students can expect to spend between 8-10 hours each week to complete all requirements.



# Curriculum 688 Security Studies

- 688 Strategic Studies is a multi-disciplinary degree program grounded in the fields of history, international relations, comparative politics, and political economy, and requires completion of a Master's thesis as the capstone degree requirement. Satisfactory completion of the four-course Naval War College JPME sequence is required for Navy officers. Students who do not need or desire to complete JPME are expected to develop a coherent four-course elective sequence in its place. The program of study lasts five-quarters (15-months) and may begin in any academic quarter. Please refer to the Academic Calendar for quarterly start dates.
- Students who complete GPC certificate could come to NPS and get this degree plus JPME Phase One in 12 months of in-residence time (9 months if JPME complete). This is in line with time spent in Newport at Naval War College.
- More info on this curriculum here:  
<http://nps.smartcatalogiq.com/Current/Academic-Catalog/School-of-International-Graduate-Studies-SIGS/Department-of-National-Security-Affairs-NSA/Strategic-Studies-Curriculum-688>