



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

121 BLAKE ROAD

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21402-5000

USNAINST 5450.14A  
7/ProDev

04 DEC 1997

USNA INSTRUCTION 5450.14A

From: Superintendent

SUBJ: POLICY CONCERNING NE203 INSTRUCTORS

1. Purpose. To revise the policy regarding the assignment of Naval Academy senior officers by various cost centers for the purpose of teaching the course NE203: *Ethics and Moral Reasoning For Naval Leaders*.
2. Cancellation. USNAINST 5450.14. No special markings appear because this instruction is a complete revision and should be read in its entirety.
3. Background
  - a. During Academic Year 1996-1997 the core ethics course was taught for the first time to all midshipmen third class in the Brigade. The course is taught by philosophers and senior (O-5 or O-6) officers. The philosophers provide the theoretical underpinnings in lectures delivered to multiple sections of midshipmen. The senior officers provide the practical underpinnings by applying theory to situations encountered in the Fleet and the Fleet Marine Force. Because the Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department (LE&L) is not staffed with senior officers to teach the course, additional officers must continue to be provided by other cost centers at the Naval Academy.
  - b. The course syllabus includes classical readings in philosophy as well as modern readings and numerous case studies which deal with ethical issues pertinent to the profession of arms. Since most senior officers will not have had the background in the classics or in their modern explications, the philosophers will provide summer sessions to prepare the military instructors to lead their seminars. In addition, there will be weekly teaching seminars during the academic year led by the philosophers to ensure the military instructors have the opportunity to review material pertinent to that week's seminars.
4. Action
  - a. Divisions and departments will provide 32 senior officers each semester to instruct the course NE203: *Ethics and Moral Reasoning for Naval Leaders*, according to the following schedule: Commandant of Midshipmen, 15 sections; Academic Dean and Provost, 12 sections; Superintendent, 5 sections. Military instructors in these numbers are required for both the fall and spring semesters.
  - b. Officer instructors should plan to be available for weekly teaching seminars during the academic year and for a preview of the course materials, concepts, and practical application of pedagogical methodologies during several weeks of the summer. Schedule of summer sessions will be published by the Chair of the Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department.
  - c. Certain specific billets are designated as NE203 instructors in each cost center. Undesignated requirements, if any, are left to the discretion of pertinent cost center supervisors. If there are volunteers in addition to those specified billets for a given cost center, the Chair, Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department may, at his or her option, arrange corresponding reductions among the various cost centers. Designated billets are specified below.

Commandant's Staff (15 Sections)

All Battalion Officers  
Director, Professional Development  
Chair, LE&L

04 DEC 1997

Associate Chair, LE&L  
Chair, Seamanship and Navigation  
Chair, Professional Programs  
Head, Physical Education  
Distinguished Professor of Leadership  
Masters Program Coordinator  
One additional section taught by a senior military officer from the  
Commandant's Cost Center

Academic Dean and Provost (12 Sections)

Director, Division of Engineering and Weapons plus three additional sections taught  
by senior military officers from Engineering and Weapons

Director, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences plus three additional sections  
taught by senior military officers from the Humanities and Social Sciences Division

Director, Division of Mathematics and Science plus three additional sections taught  
by senior military officers from the Mathematics and Science Division

Superintendent's Staff (5 Sections)

Director, Character Development Division  
Director, Institutional Research  
Three additional sections taught by senior military officers from the  
Superintendent's cost center

d. Not later than 30 April of each academic year, cost centers are to provide to  
the Course Coordinator of NE203 the names of military instructors who will teach in the  
following academic year. Normally, instructors should plan on teaching both semesters  
of the academic year to ensure a cadre which has the benefit of the full summer program  
of precourse preparation. In those cases where the nominees will be teaching only the  
fall semester, the name of the spring semester replacement should be provided as well;  
and such persons should also plan to attend the summer preparation sessions. Where  
unexpected early departures become known, a replacement instructor should begin  
attending academic year teaching seminars as a fall-back means of preparation for the  
spring semester.



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Distribution:  
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(10 add'l copies for each DivDir)