



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
101 BUCHANAN ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-5107

ACDEANINST 5450.14  
COMDTMIDNINST 5450.14  
16/LEAD  
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From: Academic Dean and Provost  
Commandant of Midshipmen

Subj: POLICY CONCERNING NE203 INSTRUCTORS

1. Purpose. To update the policy for the execution of the NE203: Ethics and Moral Reasoning for the Naval Officer.
2. Cancellation. USNAINST 5450.14A
3. Background. The NE203 course was established in Academic Year 1997 to address within the curriculum ethical issues that may be faced by military officers in their careers. The course facilitates the development of midshipmen into officers who actively choose to be committed to excellence, to be people and leaders of character, and to be ethical decision makers. The course syllabus includes classical readings in philosophy as well as modern readings and numerous case studies with ethical issues pertinent to the profession of arms. NE203 brings together faculty members who are professionally trained philosophers and ethicists with experienced current and former naval officers in one course. Philosophers provide the theoretical concepts of moral reasoning. Experienced current and former naval officers integrate ethical decision making within the naval profession by applying theory to situations that may be encountered in the Fleet and the Fleet Marine Force.
4. Qualifications
  - a. The Leadership, Education, and Law (LEL) Department will solicit participation from eligible active duty and retired military officers.
    - (1) Eligible military experience is defined as, at a minimum, a Department Head or community equivalent tour that emphasized operational experience. Preference will be given to those who have previously held Command.
    - (2) Academic qualifications for current and former naval officers volunteering to teach NE203 will be a minimum of a post-graduate degree with preference for a terminal degree. Strong preference will be given to those holding a degree with an emphasis on knowledge and application of ethical theories.
    - (3) Pedagogical preparation for current and former naval officers volunteering to teach NE203 include either the three week summer seminar taught by full-time faculty members (philosophers) and the course director, or auditing the entire course for the semester prior to teaching, including weekly preparation sessions. Participation in the summer seminar is preferred as will provide better ability to present/reinforce the key ethical concepts and will extensively review the case studies used in class.

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5. Selection, Assignment, and Preparation of NE203 Instructors

a. Each semester, the Chair of Leadership, Ethics, and Law will provide to the Academic Dean via the Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD), Division Director a proposed list of the current and former naval officers that are recommended as volunteers to teach NE203 in the coming semester, as well as endorsement from each officer's chain of command, a qualifications statement with evidence that each has met the military experience, academic credentials, and pedagogical preparation requirements listed above. The Academic Dean and Provost will review the recommendations and approve/disapprove the candidates prior to any assignment.

b. Current and former naval officers approved to teach NE203 must attend all Monday lectures associated with their assigned sections as well as the weekly preparation sessions led by the faculty philosophers and course director.

c. In the first semester teaching, volunteers will team teach a discussion section in conjunction with one of the faculty philosophers. This will:

(1) Allow them to develop their understanding of the ethical theories around which the course is built.

(2) Allow them to acquire teaching experience mentored by seasoned faculty philosophers, and thereby facilitate their ability to excel in the classroom environment.

d. NE203 Course Director will evaluate the teaching effectiveness of all NE203 instructors, including current and former naval officers, on a continuous basis.

(1) NE203 instructors who do not meet standards in the classroom will not teach in future semesters without proof of remediation.

(2) Teaching effectiveness for all NE203 instructors will be reviewed with AcDean leadership each year during the discussion of performance summaries with LEL.

  
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Distribution:  
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