



PICT2012

Modern Warfare

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Snr Lecturer

Yves-Heng Lim

yves-heng.lim@mq.edu.au

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

50cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the dynamics of modern warfare. War is a complex thing and force continues to be employed extensively by a range of state and non-state actors with major implications for national, international, and human security. The unit provides students with the theoretical tools required to make sense of the different forms and levels of modern warfare as well as the operational concepts and approaches which underpin its conduct.

The unit critically considers a range of pressing issues and debates relating to the practice of warfare, with a particular emphasis on the impact of new technologies, the role of information, and ethical considerations. Through detailed analysis of contemporary military operations, students will learn to assess the utility of force by examining its political effects and consequences.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Demonstrate understanding of the enduring intersection of politics and warfare, and explain the role of strategy in connecting the two.

ULO2: Demonstrate knowledge of the considerations that inform the planning and conduct of military operations (including logistics, doctrine, tactics, and law) and apply

that abstract knowledge to real-world cases.

ULO3: Identify and critically analyse different forms of modern warfare.

ULO4: Discuss the influence of new technologies and the role of information on the character of modern warfare.

ULO5: Examine the human impact of modern warfare on both combatants and civilians.

ULO6: Demonstrate the ability to write clear and concise analyses for a policy audience.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Op-Ed	50%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Policy Brief	50%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Op-Ed

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 31 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

An op-ed is a concise, persuasive commentary written for a broad public audience. It requires students to analyse the issue's significance, craft a focused argument, and use accessible evidence to shape how readers understand the topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the enduring intersection of politics and warfare, and explain the role of strategy in connecting the two.
- Identify and critically analyse different forms of modern warfare.
- Discuss the influence of new technologies and the role of information on the character of modern warfare.
- Demonstrate the ability to write clear and concise analyses for a policy audience.

Policy Brief

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

The policy memo is a written brief addressed to a high-level policy-maker who is considering, but not committed to, the use of force in a particular situation to advance the government's interests. The memo will identify and analyze the political and strategic factors that should inform the policy-maker's decision, and recommend a particular course of action.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the enduring intersection of politics and warfare, and explain the role of strategy in connecting the two.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the considerations that inform the planning and conduct of military operations (including logistics, doctrine, tactics, and law) and apply that abstract knowledge to real-world cases.
- Identify and critically analyse different forms of modern warfare.
- Discuss the influence of new technologies and the role of information on the character of modern warfare.
- Examine the human impact of modern warfare on both combatants and civilians.
- Demonstrate the ability to write clear and concise analyses for a policy audience.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to lectures prior to seminar or tutorial, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments.
- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to on-line activities.
- In most cases students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in

order to pass the unit.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's library site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.
- This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.
- Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

- All text-based assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
- Assessment tasks must be submitted as a MS word document by the due date.
- Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.
- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

LATE ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION PENALTY

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a **5% penalty (of the total possible mark)** will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up **until the 7th day** (including weekends). **After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded** even if the assessment is submitted. **Submission time** for all written assessments is set at **11.55 pm**. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to written reports and recordings only. Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs) will be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application.

REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

- Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>
- In accordance with the Grade Appeal Policy, individual works are not subject to regrading.

STAFF AVAILABILITY

- Department staff will endeavour to answer student enquiries in a timely manner. However, emails or iLearn messages will not usually be answered over the weekend or public holiday period.
- Students are encouraged to read the Unit Guide and look at instructions posted on the iLearn site before sending email requests to staff.

Unit Schedule

Class Schedule PICT 2012 Modern Warfare

Semester Week	Lecture Date	Topic	Assessment
Week 1	30 July	Introduction No tutorials this week Lecture delivered as scheduled	
Week 2	6 August	Understanding War	
Week 3	13 August	What is Strategy	
Week 4	20 August	Operations and Strategic Forms	Quiz 1: covering weeks 1, 2 & 3 Friday 22 August
Week 5	27 August	Maritime Warfare	
Week 6	3 September	Air and Space Warfare	
Week 7	10 September	Nuclear deterrence and warfare	Quiz 2: covering weeks 4, 5 and 6 Friday 12 September

Week 8	17 September	Coercion and the Diplomacy of Violence	
Mid-Semester Recess	Monday 22 September to Sunday 5 October		Policy Memo Due: Wednesday 24 September
Week 9	8 October	Political Warfare NO TUTORIALS THIS WEEK	Quiz 3: covering weeks 7, 8 and 9 Friday 10 October
Week 10	15 October	Counter-Insurgency	
Week 11	22 October	Law and Ethics of Warfare	
Week 12	29 October	War and Society	Quiz 4: covering weeks 10, 11 and 12 Friday 25 October
Week 13	Week beginning 3 November	NO LECTURES OR TUTORIALS	Essay/Operations Analysis Due: Wednesday 5 November
Exam Period	Monday 10 November to Friday 28 November		

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)

- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)