



Course **Objectives**

- Analyse and interpret core principles from "The Art of War" in the context of management strategy and decisionmaking.
- Apply critical thinking frameworks to evaluate complex challenges and formulate effective, ethical responses.
- Demonstrate resilient leadership skills when facing uncertainty, setbacks, or high-pressure situations.
- Integrate Sun Tzu's principles into collaborative team planning and crossdepartment problem-solving.
- Translate ancient strategic wisdom into actionable approaches for contemporary governance and policy work.

Course **Details**











Course Synopsis

This two-day experiential course explores the timeless strategic wisdom of Sun Tzu's "The Art of War". The programme blends classical text study with practical application, enabling learners to sharpen their thinking and strengthen their leadership resilience.

Day 1: Critical Thinking – Learners will dissect key passages from "The Art of War" to understand the strategic mindset. Through case studies, scenario planning, and facilitated debates, they will learn to question assumptions, identify underlying drivers of complex issues, and design sound, forward-looking solutions.

Day 2: Resilient Leadership – Building on strategic thinking, the focus shifts to leadership in adversity. Drawing from Sun Tzu's principles on adaptability, morale, and unity of command, learners will engage in simulations and reflective exercises to enhance their capacity to lead with composure, adaptability, and foresight.

Throughout both days, practical parallels will be drawn between military strategy and business management contexts such as inter-department collaboration, crisis management, and policy implementation. Learners will leave equipped with actionable tools, a deeper strategic lens, and the confidence to navigate complexity with clarity and resolve.

Course Outline

DAY 1

Critical
Thinking:
Strategy
Starts with
Clarity

Module 1 - Seeing the Whole Battlefield

- Sun Tzu's concept of "knowing the terrain" as a metaphor for understanding the policy and operational landscape.
- Systems thinking and mapping stakeholders.

Module 2 – Knowing Yourself and the Opposition

- Self-awareness in decision-making.
- Anticipating resistance and diverse perspectives.

Module 3 - The Power of Preparation

- Sun Tzu's "victory before the battle is fought."
- Data gathering, evidence-based analysis, and scenario planning.

Module 4 – Challenging Assumptions

- Critical questioning frameworks (e.g., "5 Whys").
- Identifying blind spots in policy formulation.

DAY 2

Resilient Leadership: Leading Under Pressure

Module 5 - Leading in Uncertainty

- Sun Tzu's principle of adaptability.
- Decision-making under incomplete information.

Module 6 – Maintaining Morale and Unity

- Building trust and cohesion in teams.
- Communicating purpose during challenging times.

Module 7 – Turning Crisis into Opportunity

- Strategic pivots and resourcefulness.
- Learning from setbacks.

Module 8 - Sustaining the Leader

- Personal resilience practices for long-term service.
- Balancing decisiveness with reflection.