



**THE ACADEMY EDUCATES, TRAINS AND INSPIRES MEN
AND WOMEN TO BECOME OFFICERS OF CHARACTER.**

MILITARY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES MAJOR

Suggested Course Sequence

| 3rd-Class Year | 2nd-Class Year | 1st-Class Year |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Chem 200 | Aero Engr 315 | AstroEngr310 |
| Econ 201 | BehSci 310 | Academy Opt |
| English 211 | Biology 315 | English 411 |
| EngrMech 220 | ECE 315 | Mgt 400 |
| History 300 | Math 300 | MSS 498 |
| Law 220 | MSS 415 | MSS Opp |
| MSS 200 | MSS 490/491 | MSS Opp |
| MSS 365 | MSS Domain | MSS Opp |
| MSS Strategy 1 | MSS Strategy 2 | MSS Elective |
| Physics 215 | Philos 311 | Soc Sci 412 |
| Pol Sci 211 | SocSci 412 | |
| Philos 310 | Sys Opt Geo 310 | |

MILITARY STRATEGIC STUDIES (MSS)

Offered by the Department of Military Strategic Studies (DFMI).

MSS 200. Airpower and the Military Profession. This course provides cadets the professional military educational cornerstone for development as an Airman through responsible strategic thinking. Drawing on a wide range of operational and strategic art, cadets evaluate air, space, and cyber capabilities and theories, adaptively formulating and applying concepts in contemporary contexts. This course seeks to develop ethical and effective Air Force leaders who can form creative solutions to complex problems.

MSS 200S. Airpower and the Military Profession. This course is the Scholar's version of MSS 200. Provides cadets the commissioning education cornerstone for strategic thinking about contemporary airpower and service as an Airman in the military profession. Drawing on a wide range of operational and strategic art, cadets evaluate air, space, and cyber capabilities and theories, adaptively formulating and applying concepts in contemporary contexts. This course seeks to develop ethical and effective Air Force leaders who can form creative solutions to complex problems. This course is intended to be taken during the cadet's second semester; it may also be taken in a cadet's fourth semester.

MSS 201. UAS Operations. This course introduces the fundamentals of airpower using the RQ-11 Raven small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) through a robust classroom and field educational environment to develop knowledge, skills, and piloting abilities. Flying sorties are integrated with classroom activities over 40 lessons, 15 sUAS sorties, and 10 simulator missions. Graduates of MSS 201 are encouraged to attend the summer RQ-11 qualification course at Hurlburt Field, Florida followed by instructor pilot training at USAFA to serve in instructor and advanced leadership roles in the USAFA sUAS program.

MSS 302. Airpower Command and Control. Cadets evaluate doctrine and processes involved in developing combined effects strategies that integrate Intelligence-Surveillance-Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities and employ airpower in diverse scenarios. Cadets develop and execute missions to meet specific objectives at the operational

and tactical levels, and practice commanding and controlling operations in a realistic environment shared with MSS 201. The course combines operations, leadership, and strategy through experiential learning.

MSS 362. Military Innovation and Future Concepts. Seminar examines processes of invention, innovation, and transformation that shape institutions and organizations preparing for emergent threats. While considering theories of peacetime and wartime innovation, cadets examine future problem sets and seek various solutions from the technological to the cultural. Cadets develop a deeper understanding of 1) the problems the military will face during their careers; 2) potential solutions to these problems; and 3) pathways to match resources to objectives through strategy. Cadets also apply concepts of military innovation to current capabilities in all operating domains.

MSS 365. Developing the Air Force Strategist. Develops foundational knowledge and thinking skills for contemporary challenges facing Air Force strategists. Cadets explore propositions of air, space, and cyberspace power, doctrine and theory, and examine alternative approaches to the conceptualization and employment of military capabilities, and consider current and emerging Air Force capabilities and requirements. Integrates research methods with which to analyze military and strategic issues.

MSS 367. Weapons, Warfare, and Mass Disruption. The seminar examines how the military element of national power integrates all domains to counter and/or deploy weapons of mass effect through deterrent, offensive, and defensive operations to achieve desired objectives. This seminar studies the strategies and weapons of WME, as well as the combined effects of other weapons including cyber.

MSS 371. Joint Targeting and Strategy. This course provides a foundation in methodologies, theories, and operational challenges of military targeting to fulfill national security objectives. Strategies address kinetic and non-kinetic methods including direct and indirect targeting using airpower. Analytic approaches link national-level strategy to decisions about weaponeering, desired effects, and assessments. Cadets evaluate academic and doctrinal concepts relevant to mission and campaign-level operations, and adaptively apply them in scenarios. Our learning focus is to practice intellectual initiative, flexible planning, and strategic thinking.

MSS 372. Wargaming Airpower. This course integrates academic concepts and doctrine related to game theory, modeling and simulation, course-of-action development, and formal wargaming to provide a foundation for evaluating strategy and technology. The thought processes developed during this course are generalizable to the strategic, operational, and tactical level of war. Cadets will learn to evaluate strategy and technology in exercises designed to develop basic wargaming skills. Our learning focus is to practice intellectual initiative, flexible planning, and strategic thinking.

MSS 381. Air Warfare Operations and Planning. Develops foundational knowledge, critical thinking, and decision making skills for contemporary operations and planning. Cadets explore the tactical, operational, and strategic levels of air warfare through mission planning and flying sorties in the Air Warfare Lab (flight simulator), the reasoning behind planning and executing an air campaign, and strategic consequences of employing military capabilities. MSS 381 will also emphasize Air Force contributions to joint operations and the integration of warfighting domains.

MSS 415. Joint Operations Strategy in Regional Contexts. This seminar course focuses on strategic military assumptions, processes, and interactions across and within U.S. military operational domains. Within the context of contemporary and emerging strategic technologies and service attitudes toward technology and its operational effects, cadets evaluate current and emerging operational environments, developing requisite knowledge, analytical, and decision-making skills. Cadets apply the capabilities of U.S. military services across domains, illustrating strategy, doctrine, technology, and service culture within diverse threat contexts. The course integrates special operations and coalition forces and includes joint/coalition/interagency operational simulations. Emphasis is on teamwork.

MSS 415S. Joint Operations Strategy in Global Contexts. A scholar's version of the MSS 415/416 course. Students scrutinize global challenges and regional dynamics faced by the U.S. military, critically evaluate contemporary debates through the application of strategic concepts, and examine means of recalibrating the joint force in complex operating environments.

MSS 416. Joint Operations Strategy and Technology. This seminar course focuses on strategic military assumptions, processes, and interactions across and within regions of interest to the United States military. Cadets evaluate current and emerging operational environments in Combatant Command Areas of Responsibility, developing requisite knowledge, analytical, and decision-making skills. Cadets apply the capabilities of all U.S. military services across domains, illustrating strategy, doctrine, technology, and service culture within diverse threat contexts. The course integrates special operations and coalition forces and includes joint/coalition/interagency operational simulations. Emphasis is on teamwork.

MSS 470. Information and Cyberspace Operations. Examines Information Operations and Cyberspace capabilities and strategies by means of a thorough study of Influence Operations, Network Warfare Operations and Electronic Warfare Operations. Analyzes the current and emerging influence of Information Operations on force structure, strategy and operational capabilities together with an assessment of the crucial role of information dominance across the spectrum of war.

MSS 477. Airpower for Combined Effects. Students relate air campaign planning and airpower strategy and operational concepts in robust scenarios. Content includes weapons platforms, sensors, and munitions, as well as roles, missions, and types of manned and unmanned aerial warfare in contemporary operating environments. Students adaptively plan and adjust air operations to combine effects in multiple simulations.

MSS 480. Operational Art in Surface Warfare. Examines theory, war as art and science, major paradigms, and laboratory applications in contemporary contexts. Students study strategy and operational concepts in land and maritime warfare, the role of professional staffs, and power projection. Emphasizes current challenges exercised via laboratory simulations requiring original solutions. Students develop mental agility to adapt to complex operating environments.

MSS 485. Space as an Element of National Power. Seminar discusses conceptual frameworks to understand the context, theory and application of space as an element of national power. Students contextually understand the intellectual foundations of space strategy and theory for American and foreign space powers, as well as contemporary and notional future space capabilities. Students explore selected concepts and capabilities in the Space Operations Education Lab.

MSS 490. Operational Art and ISR Analysis in Asia and the Pacific. This course introduces and applies types of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) analysis to contemporary threats in Asia and the Pacific. Analytic methods include kinetic and non-kinetic, individual and group, technological and social approaches to understanding this complex operational environment. Cadets gain cultural understanding and practice decision making in realistic scenarios.

MSS 491. Logistics and Strategy in the Americas. This course introduces and applies logistics strategies for military operations in North, Central, and South America. Cadets leverage regional knowledge of the strategic environment to conduct joint logistics planning in support of security force assistance to partner nations against transnational threats.

MSS 493. Special Operations in Eurasia. This seminar introduces special operations forces (SOF) doctrine, concepts, capabilities, and limitations conducted across Eurasia. Students will analyze the effectiveness of special operations in achieving strategic effects through case studies and cultural context that emphasize SOF-unique missions including direct action, counter-terrorism, and unconventional warfare. Cadets leverage regional

knowledge to develop feasible special operations courses of action for contemporary conflict challenges.

MSS 494. Irregular Warfare in Africa and the Middle East. This course introduces cadets to irregular warfare strategies Africa and the Middle East. Cadets will explore and evaluation analytic frameworks to develop operational approaches to current and potential complex strategic challenges. Case studies emphasize regional knowledge and adaptation of military operations to the local situation.

MSS 495.Special Topics. Selected topics related to military doctrine, operations and strategy.

MSS 498.Capstone Thesis in Military& Strategic Studies.This course culminates the Military & Strategic Studies curriculum, integrating previous coursework to contribute knowledge to the context, theory, and application of military & strategic power. Based upon the selected research topic, students will be individually assigned a faculty advisor with knowledge/expertise in the chosen topic. Cadets create a final project, presenting the results to applicable audiences. Project approval is based upon the cadet's research topic and faculty advisor recommendation.

MSS 499. Independent Study. Individual study and/or research under the direction of a military strategic studies instructor.