Aerospace Studies

Aerospace Studies is a voluntary course sequence delivered in conjunction with the AFROTC program on the SIUC campus. Successful completion of the AFROTC program leads to a commission as an officer in the United States Air Force. Students who do not intend to obtain a commission may enroll in the academic portion of the Aerospace Studies curriculum. Enrollment in the academic portions of the Aerospace Studies curriculum is unrestricted, and students incur no military obligation. Only those students who apply for and meet the eligibility criteria for the AFROTC program are permitted to enroll in the laboratory portions of the Aerospace Studies curriculum.

The Aerospace Studies/AFROTC program is divided into the General Military Course (GMC), designed for students with three to five years remaining until graduation, and the two-year Professional Officer Course (POC), for which AFROTC cadets are competitively selected.

The AFROTC GMC prepares students for the POC and provides them with an education focusing on the Air Force Core Values. The GMC courses are designed to provide the basic knowledge, understanding, and experiences, required to compete for selection into the POC. The student learns about followership, leadership, character development, and the values necessary to lead Airmen. Students interested in participating in the AFROTC GMC may enroll, but are subject to certain physical, medical, and other eligibility criteria as specified by the Department of Defense.

Acceptance into the AFROTC Professional Officer Course is highly competitive and requires the applicant to meet all Air Force officer accession standards. Students selected for the POC incur a military obligation. They are paid a monthly tax-free subsistence allowance.

Students selected for continuation into the POC attend a four-week field-training course during the summer prior to entering the POC.

Students interested in an Air Force flying career (Pilot, Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Combat Systems Officer, or Air Battle Manager) are not required to pursue any specific degree. Students interested in an Air Force flying career should select an academic major in a career field which interests them. They are not selected for an Air Force flying career. Leadership Laboratory is a supervised laboratory taken concurrently with the Aerospace Studies courses.

Only cadets enrolled in the AFROTC program may participate in the Leadership Laboratory. Non-AFROTC students taking Aerospace Studies courses are not allowed to enroll in the Leadership Laboratory. While enrolled in the GMC, cadets develop leadership potential by participating in practical leadership situations, participating in and leading drill and ceremonies, learning military customs and courtesies, and engaging in regular physical training.

POC cadets develop leadership skills by assuming command and staff responsibilities, supervising GMC cadets and implementing the goals and training objectives of the AFROTC Leadership Laboratory.

Well-qualified cadets enrolled in the AFROTC program are eligible to compete for scholarships for their remaining years at the University. In addition to tuition, books, and fees, the scholarship provides a monthly tax-free subsistence allowance. Tuition waivers are also available on a competitive basis through the Illinois State ROTC Scholarship program. Scholarships do not include costs associated with room and boarding. In addition to the AFROTC commissioning program and courses offered for academic credit, the Department of Aerospace Studies sponsors many extracurricular activities. The Aerospace Club is open to all members of the student body. The Arnold Air Society, a national honorary service organization, is open to selected AFROTC cadets. The AFROTC Honor Guard is open to AFROTC cadets on a
Aerospace Studies Minor

A minor in Aerospace Studies is structured to broaden the background of students so they may learn more about the Air Force, its role in society, its history, and its officers. With a minor in Aerospace Studies, the civilian leaders of tomorrow will have a better understanding and appreciation of the vital role the Air Force performs in today’s world. AFROTC cadets are also welcome to declare Aerospace Studies as a minor.

A minor in Aerospace Studies consists of a minimum of 16 semester hours, including AS 101, 102, 201, 202 (one semester hour each), 301, 302, 401 and 402 (three semester hours each).

Declaration and/or acceptance of Aerospace Studies as a minor does not constitute acceptance into the General Military Course, the Professional Officer Course, or any other association with the Air Force or AFROTC. A student who is not an AFROTC cadet who wishes to work toward a minor by attending the Aerospace Studies academic courses will be listed within the Department of Aerospace Studies as a special student. He or she may not attend any other AFROTC functions or classes, nor will the student be considered for any AFROTC scholarships, stipends, or privileges.

Aerospace Studies Courses

AS101 - The Air Force Today I

101-1 The Air Force Today I. Part 1 of a 2-part course, this survey course is designed to introduce first-year students to the United States Air Force and provide an overview of the basic characteristics, missions, and organization of the Air Force. Students will also focus on communication skills. Course is open to all students. If the student is a member of the AFROTC Program, concurrent enrollment in AS 101A is required.

AS101A - Leadership Laboratory

101A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included; a pre-participatory sports physical must be completed prior to entering the fitness program. First-year students are introduced to basic Air Force concepts and practices. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 101 is required.

AS102 - The Air Force Today II

102-1 The Air Force Today II. Part 2 of a 2-part course, this survey course is designed to introduce first-year students to the United States Air Force and provide an overview of the basic characteristics, missions, and organization of the Air Force. Students will also focus on communication skills. Course is open to all students. If the student is a member of the AFROTC Program, concurrent enrollment in AS 102A is required.

AS102A - Leadership Laboratory

102A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included; a pre-participatory sports physical must be completed prior to entering the fitness program. First-year students are introduced to basic Air Force concepts and practices. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 102 is required.

AS201 - Evolution USAF & Space Power I

201-1 The Evolution of United States Air Force and Space Power I. Part 1 of a 2-part course, designed for second-year students, this course features topics on Air Force heritage and leaders; introduction to air power through examination of the Air Force Core Functions; and continued application of communication skills. Course is open to all students. If the student is a member of the AFROTC Program, concurrent enrollment in AS 201A is required.
AS201A - Leadership Laboratory 201A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included; a pre-participatory sports physical must be completed prior to entering the fitness program. Course helps second-year students prepare for the Air Force summer training program between the second and third years of the Air Force ROTC program. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 201 is required.

AS202 - Evolution USAF & Space Powr II 202-1 The Evolution of United States Air Force and Space Power II. Part 2 of a 2-part course, designed for second-year students, this course features topics on Air Force heritage and leaders; introduction to air power through examination of the Air Force Core Functions; and continued application of communication skills. Course is open to all students. If the student is a member of the AFROTC Program, concurrent enrollment in AS 202A is required.

AS202A - Leadership Laboratory 202A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included; a pre-participatory sports physical must be completed prior to entering the fitness program. Course helps second-year students prepare for the Air Force summer training program between the second and third years of the Air Force ROTC program. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 202 is required.

AS258 - Work Experience 258-1 to 12 Aerospace Studies Work Experience. Credit granted for military service. The department director may accredit up to the entire General Military Course (GMC) (4 hours for non-AFROTC students and 12 hours for AFROTC cadets). Students seeking accreditation must have received an honorable or general discharge. Credit to be determined by departmental evaluation. Students seeking accreditation for any period of military service must provide their DD Form 214. Restricted to students with 6 semester hours of AS courses with a C or better and permission of the instructor.

AS259 - Occupational Training 259-1 to 12 Aerospace Studies Occupational Education Training. Credit is awarded for certain documented aerospace education or training related to the student's educational objectives. Credit will be established by departmental evaluation. Restricted to students with 6 semester hours of AS courses with a C or better and permission of the instructor.

AS301 - AF Leadership Studies I 301-3 Air Force Leadership Studies I. Part 1 of a 2-part course, for third-year students, this course focuses on advanced skills and knowledge in management and leadership. Special emphasis is placed on enhancing leadership and communication skills. Course is open to all students. If the student is a member of the AFROTC Program, concurrent enrollment in AS 301A is required.

AS301A - Leadership Laboratory 301A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included. Third-year students demonstrate practical application of leadership concepts learned during previous summer training program. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 301 is required.

AS302 - AF Leadership Studies II 302-3 Air Force Leadership Studies II. Part 2 of a 2-part course, for third-year students, this course focuses on advanced skills and knowledge in management and leadership. Special emphasis is placed on enhancing leadership and communication skills. Course is open to all students. If the student is a member of the AFROTC Program, concurrent enrollment in AS 302A is required.

AS302A - Leadership Laboratory 302A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included. Third-year students demonstrate practical application of leadership concepts learned during previous summer training program. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 302 is required.

AS401 - Natl Security Affrs/AD I 401-3 National Security Affairs/Preparation for Active Duty I. Part 1 of a 2-part course, designed for fourth-year students, this course provides a foundational understanding of the role of military officers in American society. It is an overview of the complex social and political issues
AS401A - Leadership Laboratory 401A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included. Fourth-year students demonstrate practical application of leadership concepts through leadership of the cadet corps. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 401 is required. Not for graduate credit.

AS402 - Natl Security Affrs/AD II 402-3 National Security Affairs/Preparation for Active Duty II. Part 2 of a 2-part course, designed for fourth-year students, this course provides a foundational understanding of the role of military officers in American society. It is an overview of the complex social and political issues facing the military profession. Course is open to all students. If the student is a member of the AFROTC Program, concurrent enrollment in AS 402 is required.

AS402A - Leadership Laboratory 402A-2 Leadership Laboratory. Weekly laboratory consisting of Air Force customs and courtesies, health and physical fitness, and drill and ceremonies. A mandatory fitness program is included. Fourth-year students demonstrate practical application of leadership concepts through leadership of the cadet corps. Course is only open to students who are members of the AFROTC Program and concurrent enrollment in AS 402A is required. Not for graduate credit.

Aerospace Studies Faculty

Hansen, Craig A., Lieutenant Colonel, USAF. Adjunct Professor of Aerospace Studies, MAS (Operations Management), Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, 2005.
Holt, Michael J., Major, USAF. Adjunct Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies, MPA (Public Administration), American Military University, 2013.

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