AEROSPACE STUDIES

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Aerospace Studies is the academic component of the Yale Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 009. Typically, students pursue the Aerospace Studies curriculum in tandem with AFROTC program requirements, including military leadership preparation and physical training. After completing all Air Force ROTC requirements and Yale College academic degree requirements, cadets commission as officers into the Air Force upon graduation from Yale College, serving in a variety of military specialties such as aviation, intelligence, logistics, and medicine. The Aerospace Studies program and the AFROTC prepare students to excel as Air Force leaders and to operate effectively in a dynamic military environment.

For additional information about Yale’s Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program, visit the program website or send questions to Lt Col Holly Hermes. (holly.hermes@yale.edu)

COURSES FOR NONMAJORS
Enrollment in Aerospace Studies courses is not limited to cadets; courses are open to any Yale student.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

The Aerospace Studies core curriculum introduces topics such as the profession of arms, military history, military communication, national security, and the philosophy of warfare. The Department of Aerospace Studies presents this content in the context of military leadership to prepare students for active duty service. Most Aerospace Studies courses count for enrollment credit only; they do not count toward the thirty-six course credits required for the Yale bachelor’s degree.

Students in the AFROTC program must successfully complete eight USAF courses total, typically taking one course per semester, in addition to the requirements of their Yale College major. The Department of Aerospace Studies offers these requisite courses: USAF 101, 102, 200, 201, 301, 302, 401, and 402. When the Department of History offers HIST 221, Military History of the West since 1500, cadets may use it to fulfill the first term of the 200-level AFROTC requirement and also count it toward the bachelor’s degree. AFROTC scholarship recipients must also complete either three credits in a language or six credits in any combination of mathematics, physics, chemistry, or engineering. Cadets become involved in the management of their own cadet wing through a mandatory two-hour leadership laboratory each week.

Credit/D/Fail No course taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the program in Aerospace Studies.

The educational training program of Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 009 at Yale emphasizes student involvement and the development of leadership skills. Enrollment in Aerospace Studies (USAF) courses is not limited to cadets; courses are open to any Yale student. All uniforms, textbooks, and supplies are provided by the Air Force. Classes are conducted as seminars and call for active student discussion.

Cadets become involved in the management of their own cadet wing through a mandatory two-hour leadership laboratory each week. They are also assigned corps positions, with increasing responsibility over their four years. In addition, students in the program participate in physical training, leadership projects, visits to Air Force bases, orientation flights, and normal college extracurricular activities. In all, cadets can expect to dedicate six to eight hours a week to the program.

After completing all Air Force ROTC and academic degree requirements, cadets on scholarship and those in the Professional Officer Course accept a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force, with a minimum active-duty service commitment of four years.

Aerospace Studies courses offered in 2020–2021 include:

• USAF 101, Heritage and Values of the U.S. Air Force I
• USAF 102, Heritage and Values of the U.S. Air Force II
• USAF 200, Team and Leadership Fundamentals I
• USAF 201, Team and Leadership Fundamentals II
• USAF 301, Leading People and Effective Communication I
• USAF 302, Leading People and Effective Communication II
• USAF 401, National Security, Leadership Responsibilities and Commissioning Preparation I
• USAF 402, National Security, Leadership Responsibilities and Commissioning Preparation II

The following Yale College course also meets requirements for the Air Force ROTC program:

• HIST 221, Military History of the West since 1500

For additional information about the AFROTC program at Yale, visit the Yale Air Force ROTC website, or send questions to AFROTC Detachment 009 (airforce@yale.edu). More general information about the AFROTC is available on the national Air Force ROTC website.
FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF AEROSPACE STUDIES

Professor  Colonel Thomas McCarthy, USAF (Adjunct)

Lecturers  Captain Estelle Baik, USAF, Lieutenant Colonel Holly Hermes, USAF, Lieutenant Colonel Kristen Snow, USANG

View USAF Courses