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's 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 courses total, typically taking one course per semester, in addition to the requirements of their Yale College major. The Department of Aerospace Studies offers seven of these requisite courses: USAF 101, 102, 202, 301, 302, 401, and 402. The Department of History offers the remaining course, HIST 221, required to complete the AFROTC program. HIST 221, Military History of the West since 1500, fulfills the first term of the 200-level AFROTC requirement and also counts toward the bachelor’s degree. AFROTC scholarship recipients must also complete either three credits in a foreign 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.

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

Courses

* USAF 101a and USAF 102b, Foundation of the U.S. Air Force  Estelle Baik
Introduction to the U.S. Air Force and how it works as a military institution, including an overview of its basic characteristics, missions, and organizations. Students attend one 50-minute lecture and one 110-minute laboratory each week. For enrollment credit only; cannot be applied toward the 36-course-credit requirement for the Yale bachelor’s degree. Grades earned in this course do not count toward GPA or eligibility for General Honors.

* USAF 202a, The Evolution of U.S. Air and Space Power  Estelle Baik
The development and employment of American air and space power from the Korean Conflict to the present. The distinctive capabilities and functions of air and space power; Air Force heritage and leaders; continued application of communication skills. Prerequisites: USAF 101, 102, and HIST 221. For enrollment credit only; cannot be applied toward the 36-course-credit requirement for the Yale bachelor’s degree. Grades earned in this course do not count toward GPA or eligibility for General Honors.

* USAF 301b and USAF 302a, Air Force Leadership Studies  Holly Hermes
Advanced study of leadership concepts and ethics, management and communication skills, and Air Force personnel and evaluation systems. Emphasis on the enhancement of leadership skills. Case studies and exercise of leadership and management techniques in a supervised environment. Prerequisite: USAF 202. For enrollment credit only; cannot be applied toward the 36-course-credit requirement for the Yale bachelor’s degree. Grades earned in this course do not count toward GPA or eligibility for General Honors.

* USAF 402a, National Security Affairs and Preparation for Active Duty  Staff
Overview of the complex social and political issues facing the military profession. Designed to provide seniors with a foundation for understanding their role as military officers in American society. Prerequisites: USAF 301, 302 and field training. For enrollment credit
only; cannot be applied toward the 36-course-credit requirement for the Yale bachelor’s degree. Grades earned in this course do not count toward GPA or eligibility for General Honors.

**HIST 221b / GLBL 281b, Military History of the West since 1500**  
Paul Kennedy

A study of the military history of the West since 1500, with emphasis on the relationship between armies and navies on the one hand, and technology, economics, geography, and the rise of the modern nation-state on the other. The coming of airpower in its varied manifestations. Also meets requirements for the Air Force and Naval ROTC programs.  

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