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 or Space 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 and Space 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.

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. USAF 411 and USAF 414 do count toward graduation credit.

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 courses: USAF 101, 102, 200, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402, 411, and USAF 414. When the Department of History offers HIST 221, Military History of the West since 1500, cadets may use it to fulfill the one term of the 200-level AFROTC requirement (USAF 202) and also count it toward the bachelor’s degree. 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.