Military Studies (MILS)

MILS500 Research Methods in Military Studies (3 semester hours)
Learn basic research methods skills for conducting scholarly research and communicating information in well-written academic papers. The course provides an overview of research approaches and focuses on the detailed procedures for conducting qualitative case studies, which is the foundation for most basic military studies related research conducted in academic, government, and business applications. The student will produce a master’s level research paper as the final output by learning and producing elements of the research paper over the span of the course. This course prepares the student for success in subsequent courses that require scholarly research and graduate-level written papers and enables students to be well prepared to produce a research proposal and a comprehensive research paper in the final CAPSTONE course. This course is required as the first course in the MA in National Security Studies Program.

MILS510 Strategic Military Leadership (3 semester hours)
This course provides an understanding of strategic leadership as applied to military and civilian aspects of government. Through a broad examination of strategic leadership principles and theories, and relevant case studies, students explore the interaction of strategic leaders with the media, civil society, and the nation’s political leaders. Students learn how successful strategic leaders have used transformational leadership skills to innovate, motivate, and transform people and enterprises. (Prerequisites: MILS500 or NSEC500)

MILS512 Great Military Leaders (3 semester hours)
This course is an in-depth analysis of the characteristics of leadership common to great military leaders. It focuses on those personalities and decision-making skills that are inbred and/or learned by the great leaders. Students compare and contrast the characteristics of great military leaders and choose a specific leader to assess the persona of that individual. Special emphasis is on investigating the biographical literature and what sources reveal about personality and leadership style.

MILS514 The Making of Strategy (3 semester hours)
This course addresses the application of strategy and process of the making of strategy, both of which deal with the preparation and use of military power to serve the ends of politics. The treatment is chronological, as determined by the various case studies, and two themes run throughout: the relationship of strategy and the strategic level of war to other levels of war, especially policy and the political level of war; and the difficulty inherent in the process of the making of strategy. Note: Not available for students who have previously taken MILS520.

MILS521 Strategy, Tactics, & the Operational Art (3 semester hours)
This course is a comprehensive study that explores the strategic, operational, and tactical dimensions of war through an examination of military theory in the context of historical experience. Purpose is to promote critical thinking about war based on the clash of ideas and critical inquiry and analysis. Toward that end, students examine some of the masters in the art of war in terms of their ideas and influence regarding strategy, tactics, and especially operational art.

MILS534 Air and Space Power Theory: Strategy and Tactics (3 semester hours)
This course provides an overview of air and space power theory through the examination of major aspects of air and space power in their historical and contemporary contexts. Students will study the use of air power in past conflicts, examine contemporary roles of air and space power, and determine the evolving near-term roles of air and space power in warfare. (Prerequisites: MILS500 or NSEC500 for students on previous catalog versions)

MILS541 Campaign and Battle Analysis (3 semester hours)
This course analyzes selected American campaigns and battles in order to gain an understanding of the nature and conduct of war at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Using proven methodologies, students study the challenges of diplomacy, leadership, strategy, operations, tactics, logistics, as well as issues of command and control that always confront commanders and staff officers on campaign and during battle. By analyzing past campaigns and battles, students will sharpen their analytical skills and gain a greater appreciation of the value of military history.

MILS560 Joint Warfare Theory and Practice (3 semester hours)
This course covers the theory and practice of joint warfare, by examining major conflicts since the mid-19th and joint warfare in the 1980s and 1990s. Students assess, through case studies, the impact of the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 on the Department of Defense and U.S. national security strategy.

MILS561 Joint Warfare Planning and Implementation (3 semester hours)
This course is a study of the contemporary factors essential and necessary to function effectively in joint or coalition warfare exercises at joint or combined headquarters. Students learn steps, techniques and concepts for effective joint operations planning and implementation appropriate to the operational or strategic levels of war.

MILS562 Joint Warfare Command and Control (3 semester hours)
This course examines doctrinal aspects of command and control through a study of joint warfare theory in the current Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) curriculum. Emphasis is on Joint Vision, Joint Expeditionary Task Forces, Joint Air Support, and Accelerated Cumulative Warfare. Students use the Joint Military Operations Historical Collection series to explore antecedents to modern applications from the Battle of Vicksburg to Operation Uphold Democracy.
MILS563 Case Studies in Joint Warfare (3 semester hours)
This course offers a series of case studies in joint warfare from World War II to the present. Students examine the U.S. military experience with joint operations, combined operations, and coalition warfare and assess the changing nature of joint warfare in the Cold War, post-Cold War, and post-9/11 global environments in light of specific operations against nation-states and non-state/transnational actors, such as terrorist networks. Special emphasis is on analysis of how joint and combined doctrine has evolved and influenced the American way of war.

MILS570 Seminar in Asymmetrical Warfare (3 semester hours)
This course is an in-depth seminar in asymmetrical warfare in relation to the U.S. military history and operational experience. Students explore the changing nature of asymmetrical warfare in terms of current theory, conjecture, and definition. Key issues of asymmetry and adaptation are assessed in relation to insurgency, counterinsurgency force doctrine, and action-reaction-counteraction cycle. Special emphasis is on the value of approaches that employ innovative tactics, weapons, or technologies across the spectrum of military operations.

MILS572 Special Operations Forces Application (3 semester hours)
This course examines the history and mission of United States special operations forces and roles within operational and tactical environments. Students explore special operations doctrine and tactics from past to present in the global war on terror. Students compare and contrast the use of special operations forces for pre-conflict, operations, and post-conflict scenarios in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Philippines.

MILS580 Seminar in Unconventional Warfare (3 semester hours)
This course is a seminar in the operational art of unconventional warfare through a broad spectrum of military and paramilitary operations. Students examine operations of long duration, predominately conducted by indigenous or surrogate forces, organized, trained, equipped, and supported by external sources. Attention is given to insurgency, guerrilla warfare, low-visibility, covert, or clandestine operations as well as the indirect influencers of subversion, sabotage, and intelligence activities.

MILS583 Insurgency and Revolution (3 semester hours)
This course is a critical analysis of the origins and structures of insurgency and revolution. Various theories and analyses are presented and tested against the historical record. Students assess how these ideas have assisted or hindered the study of and interaction with specific groups of insurgents and revolutionaries. Special emphasis is on revolutionary movements as represented by the Bolsheviks, the Chinese Communists, the Viet Minh/Viet Cong, and militant Islamist insurgents.

MILS620 Studies in Future War (3 semester hours)
This course considers the nature of future military conflict, the history of future war doctrine, and the impact of current conflict on the conceptualization of the “next war.” Students examine current, past, and future low-intensity as well as high-intensity conflicts, and the appropriate use of military force in the power projection role to influence a diplomatic resolution to a conflict. Rogue nations, and related cultural clashes, and religious factors are related to planning for future war.

MILS635 Air Power in Joint Warfare (3 semester hours)
This course is a study of the air component of joint warfare in the modern age. Students address the air component strengths and weaknesses in working in interagency, inter-service environments as seen through analysis of several modern military operations.

MILS655 Naval Power in Joint Warfare (3 semester hours)
This course is a comprehensive study of the naval doctrines, strategies, and force components involved in joint warfare in the modern age. Students address the naval component strengths and weaknesses in working in interagency, inter-service environments as seen through analysis of several modern military operations.

MILS671 The Non-State Soldier (3 semester hours)
This course is a study of militant foreign ethnic/religious groups not outwardly affiliated with a sovereign state. Students address specific individuals and groups as case studies in order to draw out the implications and principles associated with actual non-state military, terrorist, events and actions. Focus is on the individuals and cells that carry out the military and terrorist plans to further insurgencies and revolutions.

MILS680 Special Topic: Military Studies (3 semester hours)
This course, when offered, is a one-time offering on an area of special interest that will vary. NOTE: Open to graduate students as an elective. NOTE: Open to graduate students as an elective. Any substitution as a Concentration or Major course must have Dean Approval through your academic advisor.

MILS689 Independent Study: Military Studies (3 semester hours)
This course is an opportunity for Military Studies students to pursue an independent research project or examine a specific area of history under the mentorship of a single professor. Students must complete 24 credits of study before taking this course. The course will typically involve a major research paper; there will be no examination. Students will submit a proposal prior to the start of the project, and a rough draft of the paper, both of which will count toward the final grade. Prerequisite: University approval and Upper Level standing. Prior to registering, students should first contact the professor with whom they wish to mentor their independent study, coordinate an agreement on the grading requirements, and then NOTIFY their academic advisor with the name of their professor.
MILS698 Comprehensive Exam in Military Studies (0 semester hours)

THIS COURSE WILL REQUIRE A TEST PROCTOR. This course prepares graduate students for the Comprehensive Examination in the Master of Arts in Military Studies program. The purpose of this course is to provide a structured weekly review of key concepts, theories, and knowledge skill sets in their degree and particular concentration. Students are required to submit responses to a number of assignments over the course period prior to taking the exam. Students apply historical methodology in preparation for the exam and consult texts, journal articles, print & media reports, and documentaries, as well as collaborate with other students enrolled in the course to help them prepare for the exam. Assignments serve as a means of final preparation for the student and calibration with the course instructor, who will grade the exam. IMPORTANT: You must have COMPLETED all other courses in the program and have a GPA of 3.0 in order to register for this course. As a Military Studies student, you must pass this comprehensive exam in order to have your degree conferred. The comprehensive exam must be taken by the course end date or a failing grade will be posted. If you fail your first course attempt to pass the comprehensive exam, you will need to get approval to register for a second attempt of the course and BOTH final course grades will show in your transcript.

MILS699 Military Studies Capstone (3 semester hours)

Preparation for the Master of Arts in Military Studies Capstone (Thesis) seminar begins on day one of a student’s graduate program of study. The theories, research methods and analytical skills, and substantive knowledge obtained through their master’s curriculum provide the basis for the thesis project. Students are required to develop primary and secondary source materials on the research topic and address the writing requirements as described in the syllabus and classroom assignments. The thesis proposal must provide a clear description of a question or problem and a proposed method of answering the question or solving the problem. Guidance on the format of the research seminar proposal and a sample proposal are contained in the APUS Thesis Manual. NOTE: This course may not be taken until all other courses are COMPLETED and student has a 3.0 GPA. THIS COURSE IS 16 WEEKS.