



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
West Point, NY 10996

Minor in Terrorism Studies

Coordinated by the
Combating Terrorism Center
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Rationale for a Minor in Terrorism Studies

Studying terrorism requires an inter-disciplinary approach; the nation needs knowledgeable leaders in the discipline from both humanities and science backgrounds. This program is interdisciplinary, with emphasis on political science and comparative politics, developed as a component of the newly-dedicated General Wayne A. Downing Terrorism Studies Program. As various departments develop new courses, they may be included on the list of electives available to fulfill the Minor on Terrorism Studies, broadening cadets' exposure to the diverse and complex issues within the new national security environment.

About the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point

The Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point endeavors to develop an internationally recognized center for terrorism studies to understand better the foreign and domestic terrorist threats to security, to educate future leaders who will have responsibilities to counter terrorism, and to provide policy analysis and assistance to leaders dealing with the current and future terrorist threat. For more information, please visit the CTC website at <http://ctc.usma.edu>

Prerequisite – SS307: International Relations

The core course in international relations (SS307) is a required prerequisite, providing cadets with a basic theoretical framework. This prerequisite and five-course sequence will expose

cadets to the wider national security context, and provide them with a solid grounding in terrorism studies for their careers working in the new national security environment.

Because SS307 provides the foundations for thinking critically about security issues, cadets should not begin the minor until they are able to concurrently enroll in SS307. Cadets can enroll in selected electives concurrently with SS307, but can only begin taking other required and elective Social Science courses after completing SS307.

Course Requirements for a Minor in Terrorism Studies

The terrorism studies minor consists of two required courses (SS474: Terrorism and Counterterrorism and SS464: Homeland Security), and three electives, fitting within the cadet's 8TAP, with no double counting of course work.

Required Courses – SS474 and SS464

SS474: Terrorism and Counterterrorism. The cornerstone of the Minor in Terrorism Studies is SS474. This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to address the challenges of terrorism in the current and future global security environment. Cadets analyze the differing perspectives of terrorism given a variety of political and strategic contexts to better understand terrorist motivations, strategies, means and ends. The course examines the unique challenge terrorism poses to liberal democratic states, policymakers and military professionals, and explores how a liberal democratic state can best fight terrorism in this new threat environment.

SS464: Homeland Security. SS464 provides future leaders with a broad understanding of the homeland security challenge. Cadets will learn about the major policy and institutional reforms underway in the homeland security policy area, examine whether these changes are improving or will improve U.S. security, and develop their own views on the direction of national homeland security policy. By the end of the course, students will gain a solid intellectual foundation to think critically and creatively about America's efforts to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce our vulnerability to terrorist attack, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that may occur.

Required Electives

Cadets may pursue two tracks in the terrorism studies minor: the Strategic Track, or the Regional/Cultural Track. For the Strategic Track, cadets choose two strategic electives and one regional/cultural elective. For the Regional/Cultural Track, cadets choose two regional/cultural electives, and one strategic elective.

Cadets may choose from an extensive, flexible, interdisciplinary list of possible electives (see following page), thus designing their program to complement their other coursework. Cadets will gain exposure to both strategic terrorism-related courses and regional/cultural application by choosing one elective from each category. Cadets can then essentially focus slightly more on strategic issues, or on regional/cultural issues, by choosing their third elective from either category. This provides cadets with the ability to focus their studies according to their interests. As departments develop or delete courses offered, the list of electives will change. The Combating Terrorism Center will work closely with Department DACs to regularly update the list of courses that can be counted toward a Minor in Terrorism Studies.

Cadets may also choose from a variety of seminars, colloquia, summer AIADs for credit, and independent studies in any department, when topics are offered that are relevant to the Terrorism Studies Minor. Approval authority for inclusion of these courses is the Terrorism Studies DAC in the Department of Social Sciences, who will coordinate with the offering department.

Strategic Electives

CS482	Information Assurance
EV487	Environmental Security
HI381	History Of Unconventional Warfare
HI383	Middle Eastern Warfare
IT460	Information Warfare
LW482	National Security Law
MS360	Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict
NE456	Nuclear Weapons & Weapons Effects
PL383	Social Psychology
SS476	Conflict & Negotiation
SS478	Bradley Professor Course

SS483	National Security Seminar
SS486	International Security Seminar
SS491	Advanced Terrorism Studies

Regional/Cultural Electives

EV372	Geography Of Asia
EV373	Geography Of Latin America
EV374	Geography Of Middle East & Africa
HI374	History Of Africa
HI379	History Of Latin America
HI380	History Of The Middle East
HI391	History Of World Religions
LW410	Comparative Legal Systems
MS455	Comparative Military Systems
PL371	Introductory Sociology
PL384	Sociological Theory
ss366	Comparative Politics
SS372	Politics & Govt Of China
SS374	Politics & Govt Of The Koreas & Japan
SS381	Cultural And Political Anthropology
SS383	Politics & Governments Of The Middle East
SS384	Politics & Governments Of Latin America
SS475	Democratization
SS485	Politics & Development Of Sub-Saharan Africa

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http://www.dean.usma.edu/departments/sosh/Academic%20Program/Courses/ss493/terrorism_minor.htm