

U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

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The Minor in U.S. National Security Studies (21 Credits)

As the United States enters the second decade of the 21st Century, it faces a multitude of new and unprecedented threats to its national security interests. From the proven and suspected weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs in North Korea, Iran, and Syria, to the ongoing War on Terrorism, the collective threats to U.S. national security are serious and enduring.

Given this dangerous international environment, there is a pressing need both to improve our understanding of the threats facing the United States and to prepare the next generation of governmental leaders to meet the challenges facing the nation. This interdisciplinary minor brings together the courses across the curriculum that would help prepare the future diplomats, intelligence analysts, and academic scholars in the field of U.S. National Security.

The minor will accomplish these goals by exploring the rich, and often controversial, legacy of U.S. diplomatic and national security policies from its founding to the present, beginning with the principles of U.S. foreign policy rooted in the Constitution and tracing the evolution of U.S. national security through the Cold War and Post-Cold War eras. The minor will also examine the specific internal mechanisms by which national security policies are formulated, as well as the theoretical debates in international relations scholarship. These debates concern the nature of the international system, the role of power, calculations of national interest, and the effect of institutions such as international law in governing state behavior. Finally, the minor will study the political and historical contexts for current regional conflict areas, and the “new dimensions” of U.S. national security including WMD proliferation, ethnic conflict and conflict resolution, the “War on Terrorism,” and human, environmental, and energy security.

Program Objectives:

- Investigate the history and evolution of America’s national security interests and policies from the founding to the present, the contemporary international threats and challenges facing the United States, and the diplomatic and military mechanisms necessary for addressing these threats.
- Examine the specific internal mechanisms by which U.S. national security policies are formulated.
- Serve as a minor for those students who wish to extend their work in a major to include the study of U.S. national security.

Program Requirements:

- A minimum of 21 credits, chosen from the courses listed below, is needed to complete the minor.
- Core requirements: AMST 100 and POLS 215.
- Select four additional classes (12 credits) from the elective courses listed below. Of these 12 credits, at least three must be from AMST, GEOG, or HIST.
- A 202-level foreign language course (three credits).
- Certain internships, independent studies, study abroad courses, and special topics courses may also count toward the minor as determined by the director.

THE CURRICULUM IN U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

The following course descriptions appear in appropriate sections throughout the catalog.

Core

- AMST 100 Founding the American Experiment
 POLS 215 Comparative and International Politics

Electives

- AMST 300 The American Experiment: Global Influence
 AMST 330 Treason in America
 HIST 325 Cold War Politics and Culture
 HIST 336 American Foreign Relations
 HIST 340 America and the Second World War
 HIST 351 American Military History
 HIST 480 The United States as a World Power
 POLS 323 American Foreign Policy
 POLS 327 International Law
 POLS 338 Politics of Weapons Proliferation
 POLS 340 Might and Right Among Nations
 POLS 380 Terrorism
 POLS 402 International Relations Theory and World Issues