



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIRFORCE
AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)

27 August 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR AS 400 STUDENTS

FROM: AFROTC DET 165/AS 400 Instructor

SUBJECT: AS 4410 “National Security Affairs” Course Syllabus

1. Instructor: Captain Quintin L. Echols
Office: (404) 894-8337
Email: qechols3@gatech.edu
Office Hours: By appointment only
2. Textbooks: All materials are online at: www.holmcenter.com & Canvas.
3. Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1000L to 1115L
4. Course Description: Aerospace Studies 4410 is a survey course designed to introduce you to the national security process, regional studies, advanced leadership ethics, and Air Force doctrine. Special topics of interest focus on the military as a profession, officership, military justice, civilian control of the military, preparation for active duty, and current issues affecting military professionalism. Within this structure, continued emphasis is given to refining communication skills. For AFROTC cadets, Leadership Lab (AS 1000) is MANDATORY and complements this course by providing cadets with advanced leadership experiences, giving students the opportunity to apply the leadership and management principles of this course.
5. Course Goals: The student should comprehend the basic elements of national security policy and air and space power functions and competencies. In addition, the individual cadet should understand selected roles of the military in society and current issues affecting the military profession, as well as selected provisions of the military justice system. The student should comprehend the responsibility, authority, and functions of an Air Force Commander. The individual should apply listening, speaking, and writing skills in Air Force-specific formats and situations with accuracy and clarity. The student should comprehend the factors that facilitate a smooth transition from civilian to military life.
6. Class Preparation: I expect everyone to be prepared for each class. This includes reading assigned material, being prepared to answer instructor questions, and participating in class discussions.
7. Attendance Policy: Attendance counts towards your grade. Roll call will be taken each class. Unexcused absences or tardiness will result in points deducted from the Participation points category of your grade. Excused absence is determined as a family emergency or illness, which must be diagnosed by a doctor. AFROTC requires you to attend a minimum of 80% of all classes

to be eligible for a passing grade. The Class leader will ensure everyone in attendance signs in on the roster. The Class leader is responsible for ensuring a roster is available and ready for turn-in. You are responsible for all materials presented in the class if you are absent. Cross-town schools have different academic calendars than Georgia Tech. You must coordinate with me on potential absences due to your institution's academic calendar. If you miss a class, you must submit a Memorandum For Record (MFR) on reason for absence. **Cadets are required to be a full-time student every semester except the semester they commission/graduate. Cross-town cadets need to schedule with the instructor to make up any material missed due to university academic calendar conflicts.**

8. Course Evaluation:

Item	Weight	GRADE SCALE (%)
Participation	10%	
Air Force Decoration Activity	15%	A = 90 - 100
Background Paper	15%	B = 80 - 89
Decision Brief	15%	C = 70 - 79
Bullet Writing Activity	15%	D = 60 - 69
Hot Spot Briefing	10%	
Final Exam	20%	

*Note for AFROTC Cadets: AFROTC Academic Retention Standards (ref AFROTCI 36-2011) require that AFROTC Cadets must earn a "C-" or better in all AS classes and LLAB. Failure to achieve a grade of "C" or better in this course will result in administrative action disenrollment (contracted cadets) from the AFROTC program.

9. Assignments: You will demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively verbally and on paper.

- a. **Air Force Decoration Activity:** Each student will write one Air Force Achievement Medal. I will provide feedback for any edits prior to grade assessment.
- b. **Background paper:** You will complete a 2-page Background paper for grade. Topics will be your topics for the Decision Brief.
- c. **Decision Brief:** Each student will identify a problem and present Course of Actions (COA) to decision-makers on the most viable option. The brief will not exceed 15 minutes.
- d. **Bullet Writing Activity:** Each student will write one quarterly award on the most current AF Form 1206.
- e. **Hot Spot Briefing:** Group assignment on a region considered "Hot" i.e. China, Russia, etc. Instructor will assign groups for the 9 minute briefing.

*Note 1: Cadets will utilize AFH33-337, *The Tongue and Quill*, as a reference for all writing assignments.

10. Participation: I will award these points based on my evaluation of your performance in class and attendance. This will include any participation in class, military professionalism, bearing, attendance and punctuality.

11. Academic Integrity, Academic Freedom, USAF Core Values and Honor Codes:

Plagiarism, cheating and other misconduct will not be tolerated and may lead to dismissal from AFROTC.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Uncompromising adherence to a code of ethics, morality, conduct, scholarship, and other values related to academic activity. All students must adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Cadets are prohibited from engaging in plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation, unprofessional relationships, or any other act constituting a lack of academic integrity. Failure on the part of any individual to practice academic integrity reflects discredit both on the Air Force and on the individual and is not condoned by Air University/Holm Center/AFROTC. All individuals who violate this instruction are subject to adverse administrative action including disenrollment and expulsion from school, disciplinary action, and discharge from the service. AFROTC cadets are held to the same academic integrity standards as other Air University students; however, they are not subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). If I determine that a violation of academic integrity standards took place, I will take appropriate action under AFROTC policy guidance, up to and including elimination of non-contract cadets, initiation of disenrollment investigations for contract cadets (Reference AUI 36-2309).

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

The free exchange of opinions and ideas is essential to the educational process and, to the greatest extent possible, faculty and students are encouraged to speak and write freely. Even in this academic setting, however, the importance of Air University/Holm Center/AFROTC's military mission requires limits on some types of expression. The following restrictions apply IAW Articles 88 and 89 of the UCMJ (for those to whom the UCMJ applies) and local restrictions/requests for those who are not subject to the UCMJ: Commissioned officers, officer trainees, and cadets may not use disrespectful words toward the President, Vice President, Congress, the Secretary of the Air Force, and others. In addition, military members may not make disrespectful remarks about superior commissioned officers. Faculty, students, and staff members should make every effort to indicate clearly that the opinions they express are personal to the member, and do not represent official views of Georgia Tech University, the U.S. government, and all units in between (Reference AUI 36-2308).

GEORGIA TECH HONOR CHALLENGE

I commit to uphold the ideals of honor and integrity by refusing to betray the trust bestowed upon me as a member of the Georgia Tech community.

CADET HONOR CODE

"We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does."

AIR FORCE CORE VALUES

Air Force Core Values: *Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do.*

12. Classroom Conduct: I expect you to conduct yourself in a professional manner.
 - a. Customs and courtesies are integral to every successful officer and leader. Remember that you are examples for the GMCs and you are ambassadors for the United States Air Force and Department of Defense.

- b. We practice the Air Force Training Manual's mutual respect model in our classrooms. I will not tolerate racial, sexual, or ethnic slurs or any unprofessional behavior.
- c. Cadets are required to wear UOD and abide by cadet and military dress and appearance standards as outlined in AFI 36-2903. Special Students (non-cadets) will wear appropriate attire for the classroom.
- d. Be in your seat and ready to learn by the time class is scheduled to start. When I enter the room at the start of class, the class leader will call the room to attention and report who is absent and if the class is ready for instruction. I will tell you to take your seats. If you are tardy, quietly take your seat and report to me at the conclusion of the class.
- e. Eating and drinking are permitted during class as long as it is not a distraction and you clean up after yourself. The class leader will be responsible for ensuring the room is clean and orderly.
- f. Mobile devices may be utilized provided they are not a distraction to other students and it is used to compliment the topic of discussion.

13. Withdrawals: If you decide to withdraw from this class past the first week's drop date, **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE WITHDRAWAL FORM** from the Georgia Tech registrar, even if you are a crosstown cadet and your school has their own drop form. Like all classes, failure to drop the course means we must assign you a final grade based upon the criteria established. Georgia Tech's last day to withdrawal by **October 25, 2025**.

14. Make-Up Policy: Students may complete work missed and receive partial credit if assignments are turned in within 3 days of the assignment due date. Items turned in late will be assessed a one-letter grade penalty or 10% deduction (e.g. a "B" paper would get "C" if late). If briefings or papers require a redo, the highest grade possible is a "B." If work is missed due to an emergency or hardship I will determine if a penalty is levied.

15. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

16. Course Schedule and Outline: An abbreviated class schedule is attached (see attachment 1). There may be room in the schedule for "no class days." Therefore, the schedule is tentative and subject to change. The class leader will inform the class of any changes.

17. I want this class to be interactive for a successful learning environment. I expect you to share ideas and ask questions. This is an opportunity for continued growth and development as a future leader. I look forward to our Department of the Air Force discussions and watching you succeed in this program.

QUINTIN L. ECHOLS, Capt, USAF
Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies
AFROTC Detachment 165

Attachments:

1. Updated Course Schedule – Fall 2025

COURSE SCHEDULE (Tentative) - FALL 25

DATE	TITLE	Lesson
19 Aug	AS400 Course Overview/Class Introductions Assignments Overview	Lesson 1
21 Aug	Decision Briefing Requirements	Lesson 2
26 Aug	Civilian Control of the Military	Lesson 3
28 Aug	National Security/*Decision Brief Topics Due*	Lesson 4
2 Sep	The Department of Defense	Lesson 5
4 Sep	Unified Combatant Commands	Lesson 6
9 Sep	Unified Combatant Commands	Lesson 6
11 Sep	Joint Operations	Lesson 7
16 Sep	Joint Operations	Lesson 7
18 Sep	Agile Combat Employment	Lesson 8
23 Sep	Military Planning Fundamentals *Bullet Writing Activity (AF1206) Due*	Lesson 9
25 Sep	Defense Support of Civil Authorities	Lesson 10
30 Sep	Terrorism	Lesson 11
2 Oct	How the Department of the Air Force Deploys	Lesson 12
7 Oct	Fall Break (No Class)	
9 Oct	Space Operations *Decision Brief Background Paper Due*	Lesson 13
14 Oct	Cyberspace	Lesson 14
16 Oct	Nuclear Operations	Lesson 15
21 Oct	Capabilities and Force Packaging *Assign Global Hot Spots to Class*	Lesson 16
23 Oct	Concepts in International Relations (IR) *Air Force Decoration Due*	Lesson 17
28 Oct	Global Hot Spots Briefings	Lesson 18/19
30 Oct	Global Hot Spots Briefings	Lesson 18/19
4 Nov	Strategic Competitor: China	Lesson 20
6 Nov	Strategic Competitor: China	Lesson 20
11 Nov	Strategic Competitor: Russia	Lesson 21
13 Nov	Strategic Competitor: Russia	Lesson 21
18 Nov	The Enlisted Force* Update	Lesson 22
20 Nov	Decision Briefs	
25 Nov	Decision Briefs	
27 Nov	Thanksgiving Break (No Class)	
2 Dec	Decision Briefs/ Last Day of Class	