

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
CADET HANDBOOK**



ADVISORS NAME: _____

**YOU SHOULD BRING THIS
HANDBOOK WITH YOU EACH TIME
YOU MEET YOUR ADVISOR TO
DISCUSS YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE.**

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Mission Statement

The Department of International Studies prepares graduates who have a broad understanding of politics, and who are able to conduct informed analysis of world events by employing analytical, critical and creative thinking. International Study graduates are well prepared for, among others, careers in the military, government service as well as advanced graduate study.

The IS Department believes that your education is not confined to the classroom. The classroom is the center of our four year collective conversation. But experiences outside the classroom such as fieldtrips, overseas exposure, independent studies, and research, are essential complements. The Department will often, for example, bring in outside speakers to address topical issues. Often your attendance for these events will be voluntary, but strongly encouraged; at other times they may be mandatory. We encourage you to fully engage in the full spectrum of learning experiences VMI and the International Studies Department offers you.

Advising

You will be assigned a faculty advisor at matriculation. He or she will help guide you through the IS curriculum. The VMI advising program seeks:

1. To assure for each cadet a faculty member who is especially interested in his/her welfare at VMI, who knows him/her and his/her background well, and to whom the cadet may go, at any time, for guidance.
2. To give the parents of each new cadet assurance that their son or daughter's progress at VMI is being reviewed and periodically evaluated by a faculty member.
3. To provide detailed academic counseling.

During the "rat" year, there are scheduled lunches for advisors and advisees. These lunches are mandatory and if a rat does not attend it will be reported.

Each faculty advisor **must** approve his/her cadets' class schedule before the cadet registers for each and every semester of study at VMI. You must, therefore, contact your advisor each semester before you register for the next semester.

YOU MUST RESPOND TO ANY COMMUNICATION FROM YOUR ADVISOR OR ANY OTHER FACULTY MEMBER. IGNORING SUCH CORRESPONDENCE CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS PENALTIES.

As well, not responding to your faculty advisor or other faculty may lead to missing an essential piece of information.

Curriculum

The curriculum is the course of study a cadet must complete to get a degree from VMI.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS: 136 total hours with 30 hours of IS credits and a 2.0 in the major.

A cadet is permitted to carry up to **19.5** semester hours in a given semester. A cadet may take up to 21 credit hours if (1) he or she has a 3.0 in the previous semester or (2) he or she is a 1st classman and not on academic probation. Under exceptional circumstances, a cadet may carry up to 24 hours in a given semester, but, he or she must get approval from the Committee on Academic Appeals.

There are four components to the IS VMI curriculum.

1. The VMI core curriculum. All VMI students must complete the core curriculum (see below).
2. The International Studies curriculum. This is composed of two parts. First are the core courses and electives you must take in the IS Department (designated as IS classes). There are a total of ten: eight required and two electives. Second are required courses outside the IS Department in Economics, English, History, Modern Languages, and Sciences.
3. There is the ROTC component.
4. Free electives. Beyond the required courses, you are free to take any class to complete the 136 total hours. **The IS Department encourages you to use the flexibility in our curriculum to double major or to pick up a minor.**

During your first year at VMI (rat year), you will typically take only core curriculum classes. You will not be taking any IS classes **unless you have advance credits** (i.e. AP placement or credits from another college).

The first semester of your 3rd class year, **you must take IS 201, “Introduction to International Studies.”** This is the only prerequisite in the core IS curriculum. You must get a **75 or higher** in this class.

The only other class that has a specifically designated semester is IS 401W, “Senior Seminar,” which is taken second semester 1st class year.

The rest of your required IS classes do not have designated semesters. However, the *Synopsis of the International Studies and Political Science Curriculum*, found in the VMI Catalogue, does suggest a typical four year schedule. **HOWEVER, IT IS ONLY A SUGGESTED PLAN AND WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED EACH SEMESTER OF AN ACADEMIC YEAR CAN CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR. AS WELL, THE CURRICULUM CAN CHANGE. THAT IS WHY YOU MUST ALWAYS CONFER WITH YOUR ADVISOR BEFORE REGISTERING.**

Curriculum

A. International Studies Courses

1. A total of 30 Credits in IS must be taken.
2. As part of those 30 credits, a cadet must take:
 - a. IS 201 Introduction to International Politics*+
 - b. IS 220 International Politics **or** IS 230 Comparative Politics*
 - c. IS 320 National Security Affairs*
 - d. IS 301 Techniques of Computer Analysis*#
 - e. IS 210 American Government*
 - f. IS 310 United States Foreign Policy*
 - g. IS 340 Political Theory*
 - h. IS 401W Senior Seminar*

*All of these courses must be completed with a C or higher.

Can only be taken after IS 201 is passed with a 75 or higher

+IS 201 must be taken during the first semester of 3rd class year

3. IS Electives: A total of six credits (two classes)

B. Economics: A total of 12 credits

1. Required courses
 - a. EC 201 Principles of Microeconomics
 - b. EC 202 Principles of Macroeconomics
 - c. EC 306 International Economics*
2. Electives: one 3 credit course must be taken
 - a. EC 401 Developmental Economics
 - b. EC 404 Comparative Economic Systems
 - c. EC 410 Government and Business
 - d. BU 306 International Business

C. English**

1. Electives: A total of two 3 credit courses (6 credits): Any literature course or EN 330, EN 332, EN 340, EN 345.

D. History: Two semesters of American History (total 6 credits): HI 205 and HI 206*

E. Science**

1. One 3 credit elective from: AT 201, AT 204, BI 215, 311, 312, EL 201, EL 402 GE 201, GE 202, PY 201, PY 202, PY 322, PY 323; ANY COURSE LISTED UNDER SS (Science and Security) sponsored by a science or engineering department.
2. Any SS course taught by Science or Engineering will count as a science elective (**not yet passed by the Academic Board**)

F. Foreign Language: Either one foreign language through the 300 level or two foreign languages each through the 200 level

*All of these courses must be completed with a C or higher.

**Additions can be made to these lists

I. CORE CURRICULM (for entire Corps of Cadets)

- A. Science: Two semesters, 3 credits each. These can be taken in three different disciplines **via a two semester sequence**: Chemistry 131/132 plus labs (111/112) for a total of 8 credits; Physics 207/208 plus labs (217/218) for a total of 8 credits; Biology 101/102 (no labs), for a total of 8 credits.
- B. English 101 and 102*, 3 credits each
- C. History 103 and 104*, 3 credits each
- D. Math: Two semesters, 3 credits each (**in sequence**)
- E. Public Speaking: One semester, 1 credit
- F. Physical Education: 7 courses. (total of 3.5 credits). There is no PE course 1st semester Rat year. All courses are ½ credit except PE 300, which is one full credit.
- G. ROTC: Eight semesters, total of 12 credits
- H. Writing Intensive Courses: Two semesters (at least one inside major)
- I. PS 344, Leadership in Organization **MUST BE TAKEN FIRST SEMESTER SECOND CLASS YEAR**
- J. Six credits (two 3 credit courses) in the *Civilizations and Cultures* designation

*Must get a C or higher

Cadet Schedule

Cadet Time. Cadet Time is reserved for individual cadet use only. If a cadet is not scheduled for an authorized activity, that period becomes Cadet Time. During Cadet Time, cadets may study, use the library, computer facilities or other academic facilities, and attend to individual chain of command duties or personal affairs. On a voluntary basis cadets may participate in individual military training, physical fitness activities, and religious activities. On a cadet-initiated and selected appointment basis, cadets may receive academic tutoring, meet with their professors, take make-up examinations, meet with academic or other counselors, and schedule medical appointments.

Dean's Time (Monday, 1105 – 1215 hrs). Time for academic purposes approved by the Dean. These would include course lectures, time for academic advisers to meet with advisees, corps-wide or class-wide academic events such as the academic convocation, lectures, assessment, common examinations, or the like. The period could also be scheduled on a limited basis as a normal instruction period for courses with special scheduling limitations. This period is used to pull competing academic events out of the prime evening study period, draw all cadets to important academic events such as the academic convocation, and make available a common period for leadership and honor education. No other activity may be scheduled unless specifically approved by the Dean. Unscheduled time reverts to Cadet Time.

Military Duty

Unscheduled time reverts to Cadet Time.

Dean's Lecture Period (1945 – 2100 hrs, Wednesdays and Thursdays). Cadets may be required to attend lectures or other academic activities until 2100 hours during of the Evening Study Periods only on Wednesdays and Thursdays. When possible, mandatory lectures should not begin until 2000 hours. These activities must end by 2100 hours. Cadets may voluntarily remain to participate in further discussion with the lecturer. Mandatory cadet attendance at an evening lecture requires compensatory class time.

Late Study. Authorized in academic buildings and the Barracks Study Room for First and Second Classes until 0130 hours; Third Class until 0030 hours; and no late study is authorized for New Cadets.

Academic Duty Saturdays. Academic and academic support departments may schedule academic activities. Other departments or activities may not schedule activities from 0800 – 1200 hours without the permission of the Dean of Faculty. In coordination with the Office of the Dean, Academic departments may schedule mandatory activities for majors or other departmental subgroups. Academic departments and academic support departments may schedule any activities involving voluntary cadet attendance during that time. All unscheduled time reverts to Cadet Time.

Undergraduate Research

The undergraduate research initiative (URI) at VMI offers many opportunities for cadets. It gives you the opportunity to work with your professors one-on-one on topics of special interest to you. You can pursue your research interests through:

Independent Studies

IS cadets are encouraged to pursue independent studies. There are two types. First, a cadet may pursue a semester long research project. The final product should be substantial and methodologically sophisticated research paper. The second type is a semester long in-depth study on a topic of specific interest to the cadet. In this case, the cadet and faculty mentor must have a detailed syllabus outlining the course of study. All independent studies must be cleared with the department head.

The Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI)

SURI offers select cadets, on a competitive basis, summer scholarships to pursue research over the summer, for credit at VMI. It can be either for one or two summer terms and done either in residence at VMI or as part of an overseas program.

Overseas Study

The IS Department encourages overseas study. This can be done either through a full semester overseas or through one of VMI's summer programs. VMI has a separate Department of International Programs that will help you pursue an overseas experience. You will accrue credits toward graduation and, often, meet much of your language requirement.

YOU MUST COORDINATE YOUR OVERSEAS STUDY WITH YOUR ADVISOR AND OTHER RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS, I.E. ROTC, ATHLETICS, ETC.

Depending on issues specific to your cadetship, such as applying for rank and your progress in the curriculum, some semesters are more or less optimal for overseas study. **Plan ahead.**

The National Security Minor

The *National Security Minor* has three components.

A. Course work at VMI: Total twenty-four credits. Three required courses and four electives.

1. Required (9 credits)

- a. National Security (IS 320)
- b. Research Design for Political Science (IS 460W)
- c. *National Security Minor* Capstone Project

2. Category I: 2 PO Electives (6 credits)

- a. Intelligence and Policy (IS 322)
- b. War and Peace in Africa (IS 436)
- c. Science, Technology, and International Affairs (IS 381)
- d. The Politics of Terrorism (IS 421)
- e. Domestic Politics and International Conflict (IS 422)
- f. U.S. Security for Afghanistan and Pakistan (IS 323)
- g. The United States and Iran (IS 325X)
- h. Science and War (IS 480X)

3. Category II: 3 Non-PO Electives (9 credits): from the social sciences and humanities (non-IS) and from the engineering, math and sciences.

- i. Grand Strategy in the Twentieth Century (HI 355)
- j. Insurgency and Terrorism (HI 377)
- k. European Warfare (HI 378, HI 379)
- l. History of Air Power (HI 387)
- m. Sea Power from the Age of Sail to the Early Twentieth Century (HI 390)

- n. Applied Game Theory (EC 414)
- o. The Political Economy of Conflict (EC 415)

- p. Computer Forensics (CS 373)
- q. Biological Agents in Warfare and Terrorism (BI 240)
- r. Epidemics and Societies (BI 245X)

B. The Summer Internship Program.

The internship program will expand to include non-Washington based programs, which could include overseas internships.

C. The Capstone Experience (3 credits)

The Capstone Experience will have two components. First, the final product is a substantial research paper drawing on the cadet's course work, his/her internship and work with an assigned mentor. Second, as 1st classmen, the cadet will participate in a once a week seminar. The seminar will be built around the ideas and research of the 1st class National Security Minors. It will include a discussion of the current security issues driving debates in broader national security community.

IS Faculty Bios

COL James J. Hentz, Professor and Head, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Dr. Hentz has been at VMI since 1997. He received his Ph.D from the University of Pennsylvania, his MA from Georgetown University and his BA from Saint Joseph's College. He has contributed articles to journals and edited volumes, among others including: *Political Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Defense and Security Analysis* and the *Review of International Studies*. He is the co-editor of *New and Critical Security and Regionalism: Beyond the Nation State* (2003), editor of *Obligation of Empire: U.S. Grand Strategy for a New Century* (2004), and author of *South Africa and the Logic of Regional Cooperation* (Indiana University Press, 2005). He is editor-in-chief of the *Taylor & Francis/Routledge* journal *African Security*. In 1993/94 he was a visiting scholar at Rand Afrikaans University (Johannesburg); in 2003 he was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at the Miklós Zrínyi National Defense University, Hungary; and in the summer of 2007 he was the Duignan Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Stanford University's Hoover Institute. Dr. Hentz won the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award for the state of Virginia, from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. He is currently working on a book entitled, *War, Westphalia and Africa: Wars across States in Sub-Sahara Africa*.

He teaches classes in: Africa Politics and Security, National Security, International Political Economy, U.S. Grand Strategy, and International Politics.

Brigadier General Charles F. Brower, IV, Professor of History and International Relations, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Dr. Brower received a Ph.D in Diplomatic and Strategic History from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the Naval War College, and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy. He has published articles and chapters on diplomatic and strategic history in the Cold War in journals and edited volumes, and is the author of *World War II in Europe: The Final Year* (St. Martin's Press, 1998). His current projects include studies on national policy and military strategy in the war against Japan and American grand strategy in the administration of Ronald Reagan.

He has served as a Franklin D. Roosevelt Fellow at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, The Netherlands, and as a member of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Blue Ribbon Panel on Army Training and Leader Development. He is a member of the board of directors of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

General Brower served in a variety of troop and staff positions during his Army career, including service as a cavalry troop commander in combat in Vietnam and as the Army Aide to President Ronald Reagan. He served on the faculty at West Point for seventeen years, as VMI's Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of Faculty for seven years, and as the Institute's first Director of the VMI Center for Leadership and Ethics.

He teaches courses in American Foreign Policy, U.S. Grand Strategy, National Security, and International Politics. He has been at VMI since 2001.

COL Robert E Burnett, Professor, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Dr. Burnett received his Ph.D. and B.A. from the University of Missouri and his MA from The George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs and is a member of the National Society of Omicron Delta Kappa. He directs the VMI exchange program each June at the Miklós Zrínyi National Defense University in Budapest. Formerly, he was an associate professor of integrated science and technology at James Madison University and the Assistant Director of the Patterson School of Diplomacy & International Commerce at the University of Kentucky. He has served as a consulting graduate professor to the department of bio-defense at George Mason University and formerly worked in the Defense Industry. Dr. Burnett has conducted analysis for the Institute for Defense Analyses, the National Ground Intelligence Agency, the Joint Military Intelligence College, and the Homeland Security and National Defense Education Consortium. He has won the Wilbur S. Hinman Award for excellence in research with cadets twice at VMI (2007 and 2009).

He teaches classes in: Science, Technology & International Affairs, National Security & Homeland Defense, International Political Economy, International Politics, and The Political Economy of Biotechnology. He has been at VMI since 2005 and was a visiting professor in the Mary Moody Northen Chair at VMI in 2003.

LTC Dennis M. Foster, Associate Professor, Dept. of International Studies and Political Science

Dr. Foster received his PhD (2004) and MA (2000) from the Pennsylvania State University, and his BA (1998) from Fairleigh Dickinson University. A specialist in American foreign policy and terrorism studies, Dr. Foster's work has appeared in *International Studies Quarterly*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Review of Politics*, and *Comparative Political Studies*. He is book review editor for the *Journal of Conflict Studies*. In 2007, Dr. Foster received VMI's Thomas Jefferson Award, given annually to the Institute's top junior professor. He is currently conducting research on the psychological determinants of diversionary foreign policy, the effects of chronic terrorism on democratic institutions, and the use of conventional force to disrupt proliferation.

Dr. Foster teaches classes in American foreign policy, the politics of terrorism, international politics, and research design. He has been at VMI since 2004.

MAJ Brent D. Hierman, Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies and Political Science

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Lafayette College in Easton, PA in 2000, Brent served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan. He is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington. His dissertation examines the politics of cross-ethnic trust generation in the Central Asian context. To explore

this topic, Brent conducted a year of fieldwork in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan funded by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award. He has published articles in *Problems of Post-Communism* and *Nationalities Papers*. He has taught courses on comparative politics, ethnic politics and nationalism, and the politics of Central Asia and Afghanistan.

MAJ Ryan R. Holston, Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Dr. Holston received his Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University, his M.Sc. from The London School of Economics and Political Science, and his B.A. from Dickinson College. In 2008-2009, he was Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. His areas of focus include tradition and the philosophy of history, liberalism and modernity, romanticism and continental philosophy, moral and political pluralism, deliberative democracy, and the philosophy of law. In addition to Political Theory, he has also taught courses in the subfields of Public Law and American Politics. His articles have appeared in *Humanitas* and *Policy Review*, and he has a forthcoming article in *Political Science Reviewer*. He is also a Charter Member of The Academy of Philosophy and Letters.

Prior to his academic career, Dr. Holston served in various public policy capacities. He was Confidential Assistant to the FHA Commissioner at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a Research Assistant at the American Enterprise Institute, and Staff Assistant on the Education and Labor Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MAJ Howard B. Sanborn IV, Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Dr. Sanborn received his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Iowa, and his B.A. from Washington and Lee University. His dissertation examined the motivations of prime ministers who call early elections in parliamentary systems, such as in the United Kingdom and Japan. Recently, he co-authored an article on member behavior and committee assignments in the U.S. House of Representatives that appeared in *Political Research Quarterly*; he was also featured in the U.S. Presidential Inauguration issue of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, arguing for a measured approach to relations with China. He has presented his research at a number of conferences across the country, including the American, Midwest, Southern and Western Political Science Association meetings. Dr. Sanborn received the Stanley-University of Iowa Language Scholarship in 2005 to study Mandarin at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China. In 2006, he became lead programmer for the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll and assisted in the design and implementation of surveys throughout the campaign season; he contributed to press releases describing voter attitudes that appeared in media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, and CNN. In 2007, Dr. Sanborn collaborated on a study to

evaluate the success of legislatures in post-Soviet Europe using the New Democracies Barometer data. Currently, he is working on a project exploring the relationship between party systems and domestic terrorism and he will present a paper on the success of

democratic institutions in Taiwan this fall during the annual meeting of the American Association for Chinese Studies.

He teaches classes in: Comparative Politics, Democracy and Electoral Systems, Politics of East Asia, American Government, and Quantitative Methods. He has been at VMI since 2008.

Mr. E. Douglass Ayer, Jr., Part-time Faculty, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Mr. Ayer is a retired Foreign Service Officer. He served initially with the Department of State and then for over 20 years with the CIA. His areas of professional specialty were the Soviet Union, Eastern and Western Europe, though he also was posted in Africa. He holds Master's degrees from Harvard University and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He has been at VMI for 16 years and was one of the original faculty members of the International Studies Department when it was first established independent from the History Department 12 years ago. He now teaches part-time. His regular courses include Intelligence and Policy, Russian Politics in Transition, European Politics and International Law. For a number of years he taught Political Theory and continues to have a teaching interest in the ideologies of political movements, particularly Marxism-Leninism.

Mr. Scott E. Belliveau, Part-time Faculty, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Mr. Belliveau received a Masters of Arts in International Studies from The American University and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Virginia Military Institute in 1983. He has worked in politics and government as a research director for a national political action committee and a staff member in the U.S. Senate from 1984 to 1991. After that, he worked for seven years for the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) in Annapolis, Maryland as an acquisitions editor for the Naval Institute Press and an editor for the USNI's magazines, *Proceedings* and *Naval History*. Since 1998, he has worked for the VMI Foundation, first as Director of Communications and then as Director of Foundation Relations. He has written for many publications, including the *Journal of Military History* and *National Review On-Line*, and was a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008).

Mr. Louis H. Blair, Part-time Faculty, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Mr. Blair brings to the department four decades of Washington DC experiences including 17 years running an independent Federal Executive branch agency. His public policy classes are based in large part on his responsibilities and observations from:

- working in the Executive Office of Presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan
- serving as Majority Senior Staff Member to a US Senate committee
- being Mayor of Falls Church Virginia.

He teaches courses on modern Presidential Leadership; the US, Afghanistan and Pakistan; and Principled Public Leadership. In the spring term 2010, he will offer a class on the US and Iran. Since 2007, he has worked with the Institute Honors cadets wishing to apply for competitive post-baccalaureate awards. One of his advisees garnered for 2008 the first ever Marshall Scholarship to VMI cadet and another advisee received for 2009 a US Rhodes Scholarship - the first awarded to a cadet in 42 years.

Trained as an electrical engineer with graduate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he encourages cadets to apply analytical thinking and quantitative analysis to addressing political issues of the day.

Mr. Christopher B. Russell, Part-time Faculty, Department of International Studies and Political Science

Mr. Russell has been at VMI since 2002. He is an Adjunct Instructor in the IS Department and serves as VMI's Pre Law Advisor. He is the Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, responsible for the indictment and prosecution of all felony crimes in that jurisdiction. He is an Active Member of the Virginia State Bar and a past president of the Rockbridge/Buena Vista Bar Association. At VMI, Mr. Russell teaches courses in criminal and constitutional law. He has lectured at VMI panels and community forums on matters dealing with the Bill of Rights as well as legal ethics. He is active in community organizations as president of Rockbridge CARES, a coalition of allied professionals working to end violence, and vice-president of the Board of Directors of Project Horizon, Inc., a shelter and support agency dedicated to reducing domestic, dating and sexual violence. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University where he directs the public prosecutor program. Mr. Russell received an A.B. from Dartmouth College and a J.D., cum laude, from Notre Dame Law School.

He became an adjunct instructor with the Department of International Studies and Politics in 2000, teaching courses in American Government, The American Presidency, and The American Congress.