The Grand Strategy Minor

The Grand Strategy Minor is a dynamic interdisciplinary program that exposes students to the theory and practice of grand strategy. The minor provides students with an academically rigorous foundation to approach problems critically, holistically, and creatively, and equips students with the intellectual tools to grapple with large-scale strategic questions and issues. The minor contains a sequence of five courses across many academic departments and includes an option for international AIAD to a strategically important region. Students in the minor also engage with leading scholars and practitioners.

“Grand strategy is a purposeful and coherent set of ideas about what a nation seeks to accomplish in the world, and how it should go about doing so.”

–Hal Brands

Why Minor in Grand Strategy?

A Grand Strategy Minor at West Point is challenging and exciting. Studying grand strategy will enhance your ability to think and operate as a strategic leader, beyond the tactical or operational levels, in complex, uncertain environments. These are topics and modes of thought that Army officers are typically not exposed to until far later in their careers. As a Grand Strategy Minor, you will understand and analyze how and why states apply all of the instruments of national power to achieve broad foreign policy goals and promote core strategic interests.

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### CURRICULUM:

The Grand Strategy Minor contains five courses—two of which can double count for your major. All minors must take the two-course foundational sequence: Grand Strategy (SS457) and Topics in Grand Strategy (SS458).

In addition, students choose a Grand Strategy Track, where they take two electives to focus on a specific regional or disciplinary area of study. Tracks include: Domestic Sources of Grand Strategy; Political Economy; Non-Traditional Challenges; Military History and Strategy; Science, Technology, and Design; East Asia; Europe & Russia; Middle East & Africa; and Latin America.

Lastly, Grand Strategy Minors take a capstone course from the SOSH department, and have the opportunity to travel on a three-week for credit international AIAD.

### EXAMPLES OF TWO GRAND STRATEGY COURSES:

**SS457 Grand Strategy:** This seminar examines the key theoretical approaches to the discipline and explores how different states throughout history have practiced grand strategy. From a careful examination of strategists and strategies, we will endeavor to extract a set of principles for making grand strategy that will be useful in any future leadership role in which we may be called upon to connect desired ends with available means.

**XH397 Grand Strategy Field Study:** This summer international AIAD experience applies key grand strategy theories to contemporary strategic issues. Through travel to a region of cutting-edge strategic importance, students will dive deeper into key grand strategy issues and enhance their understanding of grand strategy. Recently, students have traveled to China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Greece, and key NATO member states.

### ADDITIONAL COURSES:

- Advanced International Relations Theory
- Public Policymaking Process
- Politics of Defense Policy
- National Security Seminar
- International Security Seminar
- Advanced Individual Study in the Social Sciences
- Colloquium in American Politics or International Relations

Plus the opportunity to participate in activities with other Grand Strategy Minors and attend events with guest speakers!