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.

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 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

Dr. Scott Silverstone
Executive Director
scott.silverstone@usma.edu
111 Lincoln Hall
CURRICULUM:

In addition, students in the Grand Strategy Minor choose a Grand Strategy Track, where they 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.

Grand Strategy Minors also have the opportunity to travel on a three-week for credit international AIAD.

EXAMPLES OF TWO GRAND STRATEGY COURSES:

SS457 Advanced Studies in 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. For the past two summers, students traveled to China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

WHY ADD A MINOR?
Adding a minor to your degree will provide you with additional tools that will contribute to your success as a future leader and enhance your critical thinking and decision-making skills in complex and dynamic environments.

A Grand Strategy Minor will enable you to experience courses within the SOSH Department, even if that is not your academic major. You can also double-count two courses toward your academic minor and major.

Grand Strategy cadets enjoy a private lunch and seminar with Hon. Michèle Flournoy, former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.