

MS 489: INDEPENDENT STUDY

Course Overview

The independent study is one aspect of the capstone achievement of the student's academic endeavor in the Military Arts and Sciences curriculum. Independent study topics address issues from the current needs of the Army and Joint Forces to the science and technology required to sustain long-term superiority of the nation's defense. Students, with their faculty advisors, provide a very unique capability for addressing warfighting problems.

Learning Objectives

- Apply the knowledge acquired from the full complement of Military Arts and Sciences courses to a specific research question.
- Develop an understanding of research methodology.
- Understand the organization of a research paper.

Course Method and Organization

MS489 allows the student, with the assistance of a faculty advisor, to select a relevant research question, conduct thoughtful research, and produce a final paper. Students select a research topic that is relevant to the force, and develop a research question that addresses a specific item of interest. Students then submit a research proposal for approval by a faculty advisor and the course director. Students research and write a research paper, which they must defend before the course director.

Course Materials

References

- *A Guide to Authors* Benjamin Frankel (November 2001)



Graded Requirements

Proposal	= 200 pts
Final Paper	= 600 pts
Instructor Points	= 200 pts

Total Points	= 1000 pts

Grading Standards

Grade Earned	Percentage		Subjective Interpretation
	Min	Max	
A+	97.0	100.0	Mastery of concepts
A	93.0	96.9	Can apply concepts to new situations
A-	90.0	92.9	Solid understanding of concepts
B+	87.0	89.9	Strong foundation for future work
B	83.0	86.9	Moderate understanding of concepts
B-	80.0	82.9	Basic understanding of concepts
C+	77.0	79.9	Acceptable Understanding
C	73.0	76.9	Questionable foundation for future work
C -	70.0	72.9	Doubtful understanding
D	67.0	69.9	Weak foundation for future work
F	< 67.0		Failed to demonstrate understanding

Blackboard

MS489 will use blackboard as a vehicle to do the following:

- Post exploratory readings
- Post links of interest to researchers
- Post announcements

Instructor Information

Major Acosta can be contacted via email at qm1971@usma.edu or by phone at (845) 938-3072.

Course Syllabus

NOTE: MS489 will meet on select 1-days at 1400.

Introduction to Research (23 AUG)

TOPIC: *Research Methodology*

READING:

- *Guide to Authors*, p. 1-7.

Proposal Seminar (13 SEP)

REQUIREMENT:

- Completed proposal form due in-class.

In-Progress Review 1 (11 OCT)

In-Progress Review 2 (9 NOV)

In-Progress Review 3 (28 NOV)

Research Paper (2 DEC)

REQUIREMENT:

- Completed paper due in-class.

Defense and Final Revisions (8 DEC)

REQUIREMENT:

- Bring a copy of your completed paper to the session.