



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE ACCESSIONS CENTER (AETC)**

20 Aug 25

MEMORANDUM FOR AEROSPACE STUDIES 300 STUDENTS

FROM: AS300 Instructor

SUBJECT: AS333 Classroom Policy, Course Objectives, and Syllabus (Fall Semester 2025)

1. This letter and attachment explain classroom procedures, provide course objectives, and list class dates along with lesson titles. Per AFROTCI 36-2011, paragraph 9.10.4, “Do not require students to purchase commercial texts.” All course materials (electronic textbooks, guides, and course slides) will be available on Canvas. All students must use their NJIT ID to gain access to Canvas. Contact the NJIT IST Helpdesk for help—refer to their website at ist.njit.edu. The Google Drive will be used as a backup to Canvas. Computer Based Training lessons (CBTs), if required, will be available via the Holm Center Curriculum Site. All students must be registered for the class, because an accurate class roster will be created and verified via NJIT after the first class session.

2. Course Objectives:

AS 300 is designed to build on the leadership fundamentals taught in AS200. The theme of this year is Leading People and Effective Communication. You will have the opportunity to utilize your skills as you begin more of a leadership role in the detachment. The goal is for each of you to have a more in-depth understanding of how to effectively lead people, and this semester will provide some of the tools to apply in detachment leadership roles. The topics covered in this course include critical thinking, change management, and familiarizing you with our enlisted force. A large emphasis is placed on effective communication, where you will hone your writing and briefing skills. Public speaking is a part of the job in the USAF, so we will be increasing your public speaking skills. You will also be introduced to Air Force bullet writing, which is an art form in and of itself. The course continues into advanced skills, ethics, and culture training that will prepare you to become an officer and a supervisor.

3. Grading Policy:

a. Cadets are responsible for all lessons assigned. Assignments are due on the day specified on the syllabus at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in an automatic zero for that assignment. **ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE AS300 INSTRUCTOR.**

b. Points towards your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Participation/Homework	20 points
Background Paper	30 points
Informative Briefing	80 points
OPB Assignment	30 points
Final Exam	40 points

Total Points 200 points

c. A final grade will be awarded as follows:

GRADE	LETTER GRADE	PERCENTAGE	COURSE POINTS	
4.0	A	89.5-100	187-200	
3.5	B+	84.5-89.49	173-186	
3.0	B	79.5-84.49	160-172	
2.5	C+	74.5-79.49	148-159	
2.0	C	69.5-74.49	140-147	Minimum required to continue in ROTC
1.0	D	59.5-69.49	119-139	
0.0	F	0-59.49	0 - 118	

d. AS300 cadets who receive a grade of D or lower in any AS course (including LLAB) will result in a conditional event and a Commander’s Retention Review (CRR). Cadets will not be permitted to continue in the ROTC program during the next semester! Per AFROTCI 36-2011, Paragraph 9.10.2.1, “Cadets may apply for re-entry, but the failed class(es) will have to be re-accomplished for AFROTC credit.”

e. Incompletes should be used for unusual or unavoidable circumstances; they will not be used for make-up of unsatisfactory or delinquent work, or as a sanction for cadets who do not return uniforms. IAW AFROTCI 36-2011, paragraph 9.10.2.2 The Det/CC must approve all "incompletes" for AS classes and LLAB. "Incompletes" should be used for unusual or unavoidable circumstances, such as an extended illness. "Incompletes" must not be used for make-up of unsatisfactory or delinquent work, or as a sanction for cadets who do not return uniforms. An "Incomplete" must be resolved NLT the end of the following term or it will constitute a failure."

4. Attendance Policy:

Cadets and all students **MUST ATTEND 80%** of the scheduled classes to receive a passing grade the expectation is to attend every class possible this applies to cadets, applicants, and participating students.

a. Tardiness – Tardiness is both unprofessional and disrespectful, and will not be tolerated. Class begins promptly, and you will be considered tardy if not in your seat by the class start time. Excessive tardiness (3 times) will result in an unexcused absence. If delayed by forces beyond your control, call the office/email ASAP to let the instructor know. An excused absence may be given with proper notification (para 4c). If you are more than 15 minutes late and do not give proper notice, you will receive an unexcused absence for that week.

b. Absences – Excused absences will be given for incidents beyond your control (i.e. sickness, family emergency, etc.). Unexcused absences will be given for incidents that resulted in lack of planning and/or prioritization (forgot to do Humanities paper that is due tomorrow so you cannot go to ROTC, vacations, etc.). Opportunities to make up ONE excused absence may be given on a case-by-case basis and objectives must be made up for the absence to be excused.

c. Proper notification Procedures - If you plan to be absent from class and/or Leadership Lab, you must email a Memorandum for Record (MFR) to your instructor, the Operations Flight Commander (OFC), and your cadet chain of command, as soon as you are aware of the absence. The MFR should include the date you will miss class and include your rationale for being absent and how you will make up any missed material. At the instructor's discretion, it will be recorded as either an excused or an unexcused absence.

d. In the case of religious accommodation requests which will result in an absence from AS class, an MFR must be submitted no later than the second week of class, and no later than two weeks before the anticipated absence.

5. Instructor Contact Information:

Capt John M. Phinney, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies
Class: Wednesday 0700-0950; Faculty Memorial Hall, Room 409
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: (207) 252-8915 E-mail: jmp297@njit.edu

6. Counseling Requirements:

I will conduct personal counseling with each of you during the semester. Each cadet will have their scheduled appointment completed by 24 Oct 2025. Your academic plan must be up to date, **signed by your advisor** & brought to the counseling appointment. All cadets will wear the service dress uniform for the counseling session. Cadets will report in and out as part of their personal counseling appointments.

7. Classroom Procedures:

Every cadet will wear the uniform of the day to class. Personal appearance standards will be in strict accordance with the policies outlined in AFI 36-2903 and the applicable AFROTC supplements.

8. Classroom Behavior:

a. As future United States Air Force or Space Force officers, you are expected to conduct yourselves as such. Disruption and disrespect toward the instructor or other students will not be tolerated. The following weekly meeting expectations are not all inclusive but should help guide your professional conduct.

- Turn all cell phones to silent and keep them stowed unless instructed to have them out
- Place all extra belongings that you bring to class neatly on your desk or under your chair
- Tobacco and alcohol products are not permitted
- Food and drinks are permitted but must not cause distraction and must be cleaned up
- Questions/participation is highly encouraged, and indicates you came to the meeting prepared to clarify any questions you have from the weekly lessons.
- Be courteous and respectful of others, and display professionalism at all times

Additionally, expectations if class is a virtual format.

- log onto ZOOM at least 5 minutes prior to class start time

- stay visible w/ camera on while class is in session. DAF dress and appearance standards still apply and include uniform and grooming standards
- stay muted when not actively speaking in class

b. This is a learning environment, challenge each other and yourself with multiple perspectives on classroom topics and world issues; however, remain courteous and allow others to fully explain themselves and at a minimum respect their take on a particular subject.

c. Failure to conduct yourself appropriately during class will result in the following actions:

First Offense: Verbal Cadet counseling

Second Offense: Cadet Wing counseling

Third Offense: Cadre counseling that may include, depending on severity, a Conditional event and the potential for disenrollment.

d. Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course, your university and the DAF. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working towards. Additionally, it is in direct violation of the AFROTC Honor Code; “We will not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate among us anyone who does”. As a member of the ROTC program and NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment and professional development by knowing and following the AF Honor Code and NJIT academic code of integrity policy found at [NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#).

As ROTC cadets and as your professor, it is our professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university or AFROTC program. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the NJIT Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu. For questions about the AFROTC Honor Code, please contact your instructor.

e. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assistance - This course expects students to work without AI assistance in order to better develop their skills in this content area. As such, AI usage is not permitted throughout this course under any circumstance.

9. Exams, Quizzes, Reading, and Assignments:

a. There will be one final exam in this class. Exams may include but are not limited to the following types of questions: multiple choice, true/false, completion, and short essay. The last may be included to evaluate the cadet’s communication skills, as well as his/her knowledge level of that material. All exam questions will be based on the AS300 Samples of Behavior (SOBs).

b. Quizzes will be given during some lessons. They may be announced ahead of time or unannounced (pop quiz). As with the exam, quizzes may include any combination of the following types of questions: multiple choice, true/false, completion, and short essay. Quiz questions will be based on the AS300 Samples of Behavior (SOBs).

c. You must read all assignments. I take the time to prepare for class, and I expect you to do the same. Reading assignments and material will enable you to intelligently ask questions, respond to questions, and participate in class discussions.

d. Following the Department of the Air Force Writing lesson, each cadet will write at least performance statement per week (350-character limit) to email to their instructor. Near the end of the term or year, cadets will transfer their performance statements onto an AF Form 715, OPB, and submit to their instructor. The intent is for cadets to develop the habit of tracking individual accomplishments, become more comfortable with the narrative-style writing, and to experience consolidating performance onto the AF Form 715. Use AFH 33-337, *The Tongue and Quill* as a reference.

e. Cadets will create a 2 page background paper. This will be evaluated using the Holm Center (HC) Form 9.

f. Cadets will deliver a 15-20 minute prepared briefing. This activity is designed to provide an additional opportunity for cadets to refine their verbal communication skills.

10. Leadership Laboratory (LLAB):

This is the military aspect of the Air Force ROTC program. You must attend LLAB. LLAB will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Performance at LLAB does not affect your Aerospace Studies course grade. In LLAB you will practice and learn military customs and courtesies, formal military formations, refine your followership and leadership skills, and gain an understanding of Air Force jobs and lifestyles.

11. I look forward to an exciting semester of learning from one another.

JOHN M. PHINNEY, Capt, USAF
Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies

Attachment:
AS333 Fall 2024 Schedule

1st Ind, AFROTC DET 490 COMMANDER

29 Aug 24

MEMORANDUM FOR AS 333 INSTRUCTOR

As the Education Officer, I reviewed this syllabus for completeness and to ensure compliance with AFROTCI 36-2011, para. 9.10. - 9.10.4.

Approved/~~disapproved.~~

MICHAEL T. MAKARYK, Lt Col, USAF
 Commander, AFROTC Det 490
 Professor of Aerospace Studies

AS333 Fall 2025 Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Notes</i>
3 Sep	- AS300 Course Overview - Foundational Competencies Reflection	Academic Engagement Assignment
10 Sep	- Social Media & Disinformation - Public Affairs & the Media	
17 Sep	- Department of the Air Force Writing - Informative Briefing Requirements	Background Paper/Informative Briefing Topics Assigned
24 Sep	- OPSEC - Leadership Series: Motivation - Creative Thinking	
1 Oct	- Creative Thinking (con't) - Inspiring Action	
8 Oct	- Inspiring Action Briefs (see Inspiring Action LP/SR)	
15 Oct	- Establishing Expectations - Feedback	Background Paper Due
22 Oct	- Personal Counseling with Instructor (con't) - *Peer Feedback*	Peer Feedback Report Due
29 Oct	- DAF Evaluation System	
5 Nov	- DAF Counseling	
12 Nov	- Performance Statement - Performance Statement Practicum	
19 Nov	- DAF Heritage Series	
26 Nov	- Communication Skills Plan I - (This is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving we will still be having class this week)	Informative Briefings
3 Dec	- Communication Skills Plan II	Informative Briefings
10 Dec	- Final Exam	AF OPB Form Due

Note: The course schedule is subject to change

Holiday
Test Day

Deadline/Assignment Due