

**MSC 4100  
Trends and Issues  
Fall 2009****Instructor**

LTC Stephen L. Knotts  
4307 Klehm Hall (581-5944)

**Course Time and Location**

1 credit hour

Classroom – 1 hr (Time TBD) – Klehm Hall room 1341

**Course Description**

MSL 4100 develops student's analytical proficiency in assessing current trends and issues that face the US Military, formulating options, supporting hypotheses and developing self awareness of their impacts. You will analyze current issues in the world and compare them to previous issues in or past to determine what could potentially come about. Classes will consist of discussions of these topics while simultaneously individual students conduct research for their final projects.

**Learning Objectives**

The overall purpose of this course is to provide you with an understanding of issues effecting the US Military and US Government and familiarize you with potential future areas of operations.

**Personal Development**

- Expand knowledge of world wide events and their potential impact on your military service
- Develop analytical and assessment skills
- Write and brief effectively

**Officership**

- Develop professional opinions and stances on issues
- Understand professional responsibilities of Officer service

**Requirements**Reading

Various current news articles and historical records

Class participation

Students are expected to participate actively in learning through critical reflection, inquiry, dialogue, and group interactions. This includes participating in class discussion, sharing personal perspectives and experiences related to discussions in class or reading and working with fellow students to complete assignments. Preparation for class in the form of completing assignments and readings are a must to ensure maximum in classroom contributions.

Mid-Term Project

A mid-term project will substitute for an exam and will consist of a briefing on an assigned topic.

Final Project

A final project will substitute for a final exam and will consist of a written Essay articulating personal views and beliefs on the topics discussed during the semester.

**Evaluation and Grading**

Class Participation*	50%
Mid-Term Project	25%
Final Project	25%

Solid performance in each area of evaluation will be necessary to earn a grade of "B". The following grading scale will be used based on 100 points possible:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
Below 70	F

Every attempt will be made to offer adequate written assessments in explaining evaluations. ***All late papers and assignments will receive a 10% reduction in grade.***

**Course Design**

This class will be conducted in an interactive manner. Everyone will be responsible for contributing to the success of the learning experience. Discussion will be instructor facilitated and student run. Time will be given in class to discuss and work on projects and papers.

**Uniform and Appearance**

You are expected to wear appropriate civilian attire and adhere to Army Regulation 670-1 with regard to uniforms and general appearance at all times.

**Collaboration**

Students are encouraged to work together with the instructor in modifying assignments, suggesting agenda, and raising questions for discussion.

**Special Needs**

The American with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires the University to provide a "reasonable accommodation" to any individual who advises us of a physical or mental disability. If you have a physical or mental limitation that requires an accommodation or an academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with me at your earliest convenience.

Accommodations for physical disabilities can only be made in compliance with the physical fitness requirements for Army ROTC cadets.

**Electronic Devices**

Cell phones, pagers, and other portable electronic communications devices will be turned off during class instruction. In the event of an EIU emergency, the instructor has a pager on and is signed into the EIU Emergency Contact System.

**Office Hours and Appointments**

Office Hours are T-Tr 1300-1600

I have an open door policy if you need to meet with me to discuss assignments, issues, or concerns. I am willing to schedule a specific time to meet with you beyond office hours. Please coordinate with the ROTC office secretary.

### **Overview of Sessions**

Session 1	Basic Introductions of class requirements and objectives. Picking of project topics and future discussion topics.
Sessions 2-6	Discussions as they pertain to current events and student desires
Session 7&8	<b>Mid-Term Project Presentations</b>
Sessions 9-14	Discussions related to project topics
Session 15	<b>Final Project Due</b>