
Locally Developed Courses

Military Studies

For the 2024-2025 School Year

Introduction to the Military Studies Course Sequence

Subject: Social Sciences - Discipline: Political Science

The Military Studies sequence provides Alberta students with the opportunity to critically examine, assess and evaluate real-world problems/conflicts, and their military solutions. In the process, students will hone their communication, leadership and decision-making capabilities as informed, responsible and competent Canadian citizens in an increasingly conflict fraught and complex global context.

Student Need

This course examines theories and practices associated with war and peace and the military's role in various contexts. Existing Programs of Studies (including Social Studies, Canadian History and World History) provide teachers with limited opportunities to engage in conversations about the role of the military in Canada and internationally. Military Studies enables students to expand upon and deepen understandings by inquiring into specific military motivations and actions in contemporary and historical contexts.

In the contemporary context, students are bombarded daily by images of human conflict via exposure to representations of conflict at school, in literature, in video games, in film and via the media. The Military Studies courses are designed to help students to understand the specific roles the military can and may play in terms of engaging in and preventing conflicts. While this course is designed to provide enrichment and enhanced understanding for all students, it may play a particularly important role for the thousands of young Albertans involved in the growing Canadian cadet movement. The extension provided in this course sequence supports students to better understand the role of the military in both historical and contemporary contexts by examining its impact in shaping collective identity, assessing justifications for war and military action, and by evaluating the ethics of military actions and structures alongside their effects on local and Indigenous populations.

Courses in the Military Studies Course Sequence

Military Studies 15 (LDC1051)

Military organizations in Canada and abroad play a significant role in cultivating patriotism, humanitarian values and peace as well as preserving a country's heritage, sovereignty, environment, economic stability and security. Through examination of multiple perspectives, factors and resources, students in Military Studies 15 will think critically to examine role of the military in shaping collective identity in historical and contemporary societies.

| No required facilities.

Prerequisites: None

Versions Available: (Each version must be locally approved by Board Motion prior to offering to students.)

Credit Level	First School Year	Last School Year
3	2024-2025	2027-2028
5	2024-2025	2027-2028

Military Studies 25 (LDC2051)

Military organizations in Canada and abroad play a significant role in cultivating patriotism, humanitarian values and peace as well as preserving a country's heritage, sovereignty, environment, economic stability and security. Through examination of multiple perspectives, factors and resources, students in Military Studies 25 will think critically to assess justifications for war and military action in historical and contemporary contexts.

| No required facilities.

Prerequisites:

- All of the following:
 - Military Studies 15 (LDC1051)

Versions Available: (Each version must be locally approved by Board Motion prior to offering to students.)

Credit Level	First School Year	Last School Year
3	2024-2025	2027-2028
5	2024-2025	2027-2028

Military Studies 35 (LDC3051)

Military organizations in Canada and abroad play a significant role in cultivating patriotism, humanitarian values and peace as well as preserving a country's heritage, sovereignty, environment, economic stability and security. Through examination of multiple perspectives, factors and resources, students in Military Studies 35 will think critically to evaluate the ethics of military action and structures, and their effects on local and Indigenous populations in both historical and contemporary international societies.

| No required facilities.

Prerequisites:

- All of the following:
 - Military Studies 25 (LDC2051)

Versions Available: (Each version must be locally approved by Board Motion prior to offering to students.)

Credit Level	First School Year	Last School Year
3	2024-2025	2027-2028
5	2024-2025	2027-2028

Curriculum Outline

Curriculum Elements		Military Studies 15-3	Military Studies 15-5	Military Studies 25-3	Military Studies 25-5	Military Studies 35-3	Military Studies 35-5
1	Topic Perspectives on War & Peace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.1	General Outcome Considering multiple perspectives, what is the relationship between the concepts of war and peace in historical and contemporary contexts?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.1.1	Specific Outcome Analyze Canadian perspectives on the terms peace, security, war and conflict.	✓	✓				
1.1.2	Specific Outcome Analyze international perspectives on the terms peace, security, war and conflict.			✓	✓		
1.1.3	Specific Outcome Assess the justifications of war in Canadian context.	✓	✓				
1.1.4	Specific Outcome Assess the justifications of war from multiple perspectives.			✓	✓		
1.1.5	Specific Outcome Articulate connections between the desire for peace and Canadian endeavours for a peaceful world.	✓	✓				
1.1.6	Specific Outcome Articulate connections between the desire for peace and international endeavours for a peaceful world.				✓		
1.1.7	Specific Outcome Evaluate the historical factors enabling and hindering the desire for war historically.		✓				
1.1.8	Specific Outcome Evaluate the factors enabling and hindering the desire for war using contemporary and international examples.				✓		
1.1.9	Specific Outcome Identify the relationships between nations in conflict and out of conflict.				✓		
1.1.10	Specific Outcome Create an awareness of the complexities of humanitarian efforts by the Canadian Army in a post 9/11 world.					✓	✓

Curriculum Elements		Military Studies 15-3	Military Studies 15-5	Military Studies 25-3	Military Studies 25-5	Military Studies 35-3	Military Studies 35-5
1.1.11	Specific Outcome Analyze the success of various operations in post 9/11 conflicts and peace keeping missions on the international stage.						✓
1.1.12	Specific Outcome Inquire into government support for the military in times of war.					✓	✓
1.1.13	Specific Outcome Inquire into government support for the military in times of tension and peace.						✓
1.1.14	Specific Outcome Create a spectrum that addresses the just war theory and its application of ethics in war.					✓	✓
1.1.15	Specific Outcome Inquire into ethical war and post-war practices in a Canadian context.					✓	✓
1.1.16	Specific Outcome Inquire into ethical war and post-war practices in an international context.						✓
1.1.17	Specific Outcome Analyze the periods of warfare and diplomacy in North America, pre- and post-contact between European and Indigenous peoples.					✓	✓
1.1.18	Specific Outcome Critically examine the historical legacy of warfare and diplomacy in North America between European and Indigenous peoples, and its impact on contemporary Indigenous communities.						✓
2	Topic Forces Shaping Military Activity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.1	General Outcome What are the social, political, environmental and economic forces that shape, and are shaped by military activity?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.1.1	Specific Outcome Evaluate the nature of the relationship between government and the military in a historic context.	✓	✓				
2.1.2	Specific Outcome Evaluate the nature of the relationship between government and the military in international contexts.			✓	✓		
2.1.3	Specific Outcome Inquire into the factors that determine the state, size, and role of Canada's military in times of peace and in times of conflict or war.	✓	✓				

Curriculum Elements		Military Studies 15-3	Military Studies 15-5	Military Studies 25-3	Military Studies 25-5	Military Studies 35-3	Military Studies 35-5
2.1.4	Specific Outcome Inquire into factors that determine the state, size, and role of the military in international contexts in times of peace and in times of conflict or war.			✓	✓		
2.1.5	Specific Outcome Analyze the role of leadership and training amongst different militaries in historical and contemporary societies.	✓	✓				
2.1.6	Specific Outcome Analyze international involvement in specific conflicts in historic and in contemporary contexts.			✓	✓		
2.1.7	Specific Outcome Investigate the changing role of technology and how it effects the nature of war.		✓				
2.1.8	Specific Outcome Investigate changing military operations around the world.				✓		
2.1.9	Specific Outcome Elaborate on the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on individuals and families, and government responses to PTSD.				✓		
2.1.10	Specific Outcome Elaborate on the role religion has played in areas of conflict prior to 1500.					✓	✓
2.1.11	Specific Outcome Elaborate the role religion has played in areas of conflict after 1500.						✓
2.1.12	Specific Outcome Theorize about the degree to which wars and other hostilities have been started, conducted, and ended for religious purposes prior to 1500.					✓	✓
2.1.13	Specific Outcome Theorize about the degree to which wars and other hostilities have been started, conducted, and ended for religious purposes post 1500.						✓
2.1.14	Specific Outcome Evaluate the degree of violence that has been inherent when religions have been conflicted internally and externally.					✓	
2.1.15	Specific Outcome Evaluate the role religion has played in coming to terms of peace in a post 9/11 world.					✓	✓
3	Topic Military Stories and Identity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Curriculum Elements		Military Studies 15-3	Military Studies 15-5	Military Studies 25-3	Military Studies 25-5	Military Studies 35-3	Military Studies 35-5
3.1	General Outcome What can stories related to the military tell us about the conservation of collective memory and the identity of multiple communities?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.1.1	Specific Outcome Analyze stories to gain an understanding of the impact of conflict and war on individuals and collective identity.	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3.1.2	Specific Outcome Assess the contributions and sacrifices made by non-military members of society during times when Canada has been involved in conflict and war.	✓	✓				
3.1.3	Specific Outcome Assess the contributions and sacrifices made by non-military members of society internationally during times of conflict and war.			✓	✓		
3.1.4	Specific Outcome Articulate the value of commemorating those impacted by war by exploring the theme of Remembrance in a Canadian context.	✓	✓				
3.1.5	Specific Outcome Compare Canadian efforts to commemorate and memorialize those impacted by war with those in international contexts.				✓		
3.1.6	Specific Outcome Explore and analyze the origins of remembrance protocols, why remembrance and memorialization happens, and what purpose it serves in Canada and abroad.		✓		✓		
3.1.7	Specific Outcome Analyze the stories from different communities and how it affected the evolving identity of Indigenous and female military personnel.				✓		
3.1.8	Specific Outcome Evaluate gender issues and gender relations in the context of conflict and war in Canada.					✓	
3.1.9	Specific Outcome Evaluate gender issues and gender relations in the context of conflict and war in an international and post 9/11 setting.						✓
3.1.10	Specific Outcome Analyze the impact of war on cultural constructions of gender, societal norms, what/who constitutes a war hero, and feminist approaches to peacekeeping and peace making.					✓	✓
3.1.11	Specific Outcome Analyze and make inferences on the impact war and conflict has on Indigenous communities during times of conflict in Canada.					✓	✓

Curriculum Elements		Military Studies 15-3	Military Studies 15-5	Military Studies 25-3	Military Studies 25-5	Military Studies 35-3	Military Studies 35-5
3.1.12	Specific Outcome Analyze and make inferences on the impact war and conflict has on Indigenous communities during times of conflict in an international setting.						✓
3.1.13	Specific Outcome Evaluate the degree of nationalism that arises from times of conflict in Canada and Indigenous communities.					✓	✓
3.1.14	Specific Outcome Evaluate the degree of nationalism that arises from times of conflict in international communities.						✓
4	Topic Media and the Military	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.1	General Outcome What can be learned by critically examining the changing relationship between the media and the military over time?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.1.1	Specific Outcome Analyze the ethical and legal considerations necessary to create, share and interpret Canadian portrayals of military events (glorification, condemnation, avoidance, exaggeration).	✓	✓				
4.1.2	Specific Outcome Apply the ethical and legal considerations necessary to create, share and interpret international portrayals of military events (glorification, condemnation, avoidance, exaggeration).			✓	✓		
4.1.3	Specific Outcome Assess the power of the Canadian media to influence war efforts.	✓	✓				
4.1.4	Specific Outcome Assess the power of the international media to influence war efforts.			✓	✓		
4.1.5	Specific Outcome Research how Canadian representations of the military and military events have changed over time (newsreels, embedded journalism, war art, music, commercials, protests etc.).	✓	✓				
4.1.6	Specific Outcome Compare how international representations of the military and military events have changed over time (newsreels, embedded journalism, war art, music, commercials, protests etc.).			✓	✓		
4.1.7	Specific Outcome Interpret media portrayals of war and contemplate their effect on Canadian personal and collective memories.		✓		✓		

Curriculum Elements		Military Studies 15-3	Military Studies 15-5	Military Studies 25-3	Military Studies 25-5	Military Studies 35-3	Military Studies 35-5
4.1.8	Specific Outcome Critically analyze media bias in reporting military events in a contemporary and historic context.		✓		✓		
4.1.9	Specific Outcome Debate the validity of War accounts as told by mainstream media in a Canadian context prior to the information age.					✓	✓
4.1.10	Specific Outcome Debate the validity of War accounts as told by mainstream media in a Canadian context post information age.						✓
4.1.11	Specific Outcome Research differing accounts of war using primary sources.						✓
4.1.12	Specific Outcome Critically analyze the justification of censorship during war and peacetime in Canada.					✓	✓
4.1.13	Specific Outcome Critically analyze the justification of censorship during war and peacetime in international contemporary contexts.						✓
4.1.14	Specific Outcome Create a validity spectrum that outlines different post 9/11 war stories as told by the media.					✓	✓
4.1.15	Specific Outcome Debate the validity of just war theory as described in mainstream media post 9/11.						✓
5	Topic Diverse Perspectives on Military Operations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.1	General Outcome What can an exploration of diverse perspectives tell us about peace operations and the effects of such missions in a historical and contemporary context?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5.1.1	Specific Outcome Critically examine the origins of peace operations and the history of Canada's involvement therein.	✓	✓				
5.1.2	Specific Outcome Critically examine the origins of peace operations and the history of international involvement therein.			✓	✓		
5.1.3	Specific Outcome Differentiate between peace operations such as peacekeeping, peace-making and peace-support in the Canadian experience and evaluate their efficacy.	✓	✓				

Curriculum Elements		Military Studies 15-3	Military Studies 15-5	Military Studies 25-3	Military Studies 25-5	Military Studies 35-3	Military Studies 35-5
5.1.4	Specific Outcome Analyze the distinctions between peacekeeping, peace-making and peace-support operations and develop convincing and well-researched arguments for/against such approaches in specific historical and real-world situations.			✓	✓		
5.1.5	Specific Outcome Evaluate the factors that enable and/or hinder the success of peace-keeping operations in specific international contexts.			✓	✓		
5.1.6	Specific Outcome Debate justifications for the use of force in historical situations.		✓				
5.1.7	Specific Outcome Debate justifications for the use of force in contemporary situations.				✓		
5.1.8	Specific Outcome Analyze how conflict exists on a continuum/spectrum (police or domestic operations, revolutionary war, peace support operations, limited war, general war/total war, nuclear war) and create positions on this continuum/spectrum.		✓		✓		
5.1.9	Specific Outcome Evaluate and create theories on the viability of Civil-Military relations during times of peace in democratic countries as well as authoritarian regimes.					✓	✓
5.1.10	Specific Outcome Evaluate and create spectrums that outline the changing relationship between the Canadian Military, government, and citizenry in a post 9/11 world.					✓	✓
5.1.11	Specific Outcome Evaluate and create spectrums that outline the changing relationship between democratic and authoritarian regimes' militaries, governments, and citizenry in a post 9/11 world.						✓
5.1.12	Specific Outcome Evaluate the impact post-war has on anthropology, sociology, international relations, developmental issues, gender issues in a Canadian context.					✓	✓
5.1.13	Specific Outcome Evaluate the impact post-war has on anthropology, sociology, international relations, developmental issues, gender issues in an international context.						✓
5.1.14	Specific Outcome Evaluate bias and degree of glorification post-war stories reflect on societal values in a Canadian context.					✓	✓
5.1.15	Specific Outcome Evaluate bias and degree of glorification post-war stories reflect on societal values in a Canadian context.						✓

Statement of Overlap with Existing Programs

Similar / Overlapping Courses	Description of Similarity / Overlap - Rationale
History of War and Warfare 15	Both courses include an analysis of the role of the military in historical contexts.
	Military Studies focuses on the role of the military in both historical <i>and</i> contemporary contexts by placing an emphasis on the development of understanding through analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time. It also includes an in-depth study of ethics, gender issues, peacekeeping, peacemaking and the role of the media. In contrast, the History of War and Warfare course includes a large focus on military operations, tactics, strategies, and technologies specific to the periods predating the introduction of mechanized warfare.
History of War and Warfare 25	Both courses include an analysis of the role of the military in historical and contemporary contexts.
	Military Studies focuses on the role of the military in both historical and contemporary contexts by placing an emphasis on the development of understanding through analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time. It also includes in-depth study of ethics, gender issues, peacekeeping, peacemaking and the role of the media. In contrast, the History of War and Warfare course places a significant emphasis on military operations, tactics, strategies, and technologies specific to the periods following the introduction of mechanized warfare.
Social Studies 10-1	Both courses offer an examination of global issues in historical and contemporary contexts.
	Military Studies provides a focused exploration of the military's role in global war and conflict. The development of this understanding is accomplished through the analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time.
Social Studies 10-2	Both courses offer an examination of global issues in historical and contemporary contexts.
	Military Studies provides a focused exploration of the military's role in global war and conflict. The development of this understanding is accomplished through the analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time.
Social Studies 20-1	Both courses include an examination of the First and Second World Wars and international conflicts.
	Military Studies provides in-depth exploration of the military's roles and responsibilities in war and conflict, spanning both historical and contemporary contexts. The development of this understanding is accomplished through the analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time.
Social Studies 20-2	Both courses include an examination of the First and Second World Wars and international conflicts.
	Military Studies provides in-depth exploration of the military's roles and responsibilities in war and conflict, spanning both historical and contemporary contexts. The development of this understanding is accomplished through the analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time.

Similar / Overlapping Courses	Description of Similarity / Overlap - Rationale
Social Studies 30-1	Both courses examine ideologies, actions and policies important to the development of active, informed and responsible citizens.
	Military Studies explores specific ideologies, actions and policies crucial to fostering active, informed and responsible citizens through the lens of the military. The development of this understanding is accomplished through the analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time.
Social Studies 30-2	Both courses examine ideologies, actions and policies important to the development of active, informed and responsible citizens.
	Military Studies explores specific ideologies, actions and policies crucial to fostering active, informed and responsible citizens through the lens of the military. The development of this understanding is accomplished through the analysis of multiple perspectives, factors, relationships and stories over time.