

2017-2018

WAR STUDIES IN SAINT CYR



Benefiting from the military training of Saint-Cyr's military academy while following an entire semester of war studies in English is possible.

SAINT-CYR'S ACADEMIC WAR STUDIES PROJECT

Since 2010, Saint-Cyr's department of war studies proposes a whole semester of training in English for its national and international cadets. This training is entirely devoted to the study of war under different angles of approach. The cadets are divided into little classes of 14 individuals and tutored by a captain. The officers that we train are not called to become mere technicians of war, but rather complete leaders. To this respect, they must develop their physical endurance, their capacity to decide but also their sensibility. As far as the intellectual training is concerned, it is based on three fundamental pillars: the study of current conflicts in which western armies are involved, the study of the political cultural and anthropological background of war, and a personal work on one's character, and potential relation to the group or the crowd. One half of the academic staff is French, and the other half British or American. The academies involved include the Sorbonne, Oxford, Cambridge, the United States Naval Academy and Saint John's College (Annapolis). In the future, well-balanced officers should be able to use the most innovative technologies but also to understand the political and cultural environment thanks to selected readings, so as to win wars rather than to wage them without purpose. Thus, one of the most important future challenges for leaders will be the ability for them to remain sometimes disconnected from the flows of information that stifle their intelligence and to step back thanks to reading. Paradoxically, the acceleration of the geopolitical pace of the world will give an advantage to those who are able to foresee future evolutions thanks to their historical knowledge of the world. In the end the most important challenge for the training of an officer is the development of his curiosity and autonomy. As a platoon leader, if he is able to pick up the right books – without help - before being sent into war operations, we consider that the academic training he has received has been a success.

Subject matters

Thirteen modules of 22 hours are given to the whole class:

- 1 – Geopolitics of war
- 2 – Leadership for officers
- 3 – Staff-ride on the landing beaches of Normandy
- 4 – Religious intelligence at war
- 5 – Current conflicts in the Middle East
- 6 – Cultural anthropology for officers
- 7 - On-going conflicts in Africa
- 8 – Russia at war
- 9 - The United-States at war
- 10 –Papers of war studies
- 11 – The character of war leaders
- 12 – The images of war
- 13 – Ethics of war

French language and civilisation

For the Foreign cadets, a specific training in French language (60 hours) and civilisation (16 hours) is given. An additional module is given on the French defence policy (18 hours)

Beginning and end of the term

The autumn term will begin in September and end up at the end of January. However, for reasons of incompatibility in the calendars, it is possible for foreign cadets to attend only one part of the semester. At the end of the training, the cadets will be given 20 ECTS.

Military activities

The cadets will be entirely integrated into Saint-Cyr's second battalion, and as a consequence, will follow the whole military training.

Academic contacts:

For all questions concerning the academic curriculum, you can contact the head of department : Dr. Thomas Flichy : tomasflichy@hotmail.com / +0033 (0) 6 65 60 32 28

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