

# Division of Humanities and Social Sciences

Economics Department  
English Department  
History Department  
Languages and Cultures Department  
Political Science Department





## Economics Department

### Economics Major

The major in economics provides an opportunity to study both microeconomic theory (the study of individuals or firms) and macroeconomic theory (the study of economies as a whole) in a supportive and engaged environment. Economics coursework encourages critical thinking and involves problem-based assignments, writing projects, presentations, and data analysis. Midshipmen with keen analytical skills, including mathematics and logic, in addition to strong writing and communication skills can be expected to perform very well in the economics major.

In addition to the three courses in the core curriculum (FE210M, FE312 and FE341), each economics major will take Economic Statistics (FE331) and Research Seminar (FE475), a capstone course that involves in-depth analysis of a research topic. Economics majors can also take a number of elective courses which include business-oriented topics, such as accounting and financial analysis, and advanced economics topics, such as public finance, monetary policy, and international trade. Within their electives and capstone experience, students are able to focus their coursework on topics of interest in a particular area of study. Midshipmen completing the economics major receive a bachelor of science degree.

The Economics Honors Program offers select students the opportunity to pursue a more challenging course of study and graduate with a designated honors degree. Those students accepted into the program will take advanced theory classes and work closely with a faculty mentor on a yearlong research project.

**Curriculum Requirements** (In addition to the requirements of plebe year)

**Professional:** NE203, NL310, NL400, NN210, NN310, NS43X;

**Mathematics:** SM223; plus either SM219 or SM230 or SM239 or SM212;

**Science:** SP211, SP212;

**Humanities:** HH215, HH216 and two electives outside the major including one at the 300/400 level;

**Language:** Four semesters of a modern language;

**Engineering:** EA400 or EN400 or EN401, EM300, EE301, EE310, ES300 and ES360;

**Free Elective;**

**Major:** FE210, FE312, FE331, FE341, FE475, and five major electives, three at the 400 level.

### [Economics courses](#)





## English Department

### English Major

The majors program in English offers study of the most significant and influential writings of civilization from ancient times to the present as well as the opportunity for independent study and for creative writing projects. A bachelor of science degree is awarded.

Majoring in English complements the highly technical training required for the Navy and Marine Corps. Good officers must be able to think independently, solve problems creatively, understand cultural differences, and, most importantly, communicate effectively. Studying literature develops these skills while, crucially, exposing students to the range of the human condition to prepare them for the challenges of leadership.

An honors program with a designated honors degree is available for selected students. Built on the premise that students wishing to excel will do so within the framework of the regular major, the honors program requires concentration in literary period courses and participation in seminars focusing on literature and the fine arts and on advanced literary topics.

In addition to the honors program, midshipmen may take advantage of the Trident Scholar program, study abroad, and poetry and playwriting competitions. For those inclined to be on the stage themselves, the Masqueraders, a highly regarded drama group, offers a major production each year.

**Curriculum Requirements** (In addition to the requirements of plebe year)

**Professional:** NE203, NN210, NN310, NL310, NL400, NS43X;

**Mathematics:** SM221 or 223; plus SM212 or 219 or 222 or 230 or 239 or 242;

**Science:** SP211, SP212;

**Humanities:** HH215, HH216 and two electives outside the major including one at the 300/400 level;

**Language:** Four semesters of a foreign language;

**Engineering:** EM300, EE301, EE310, ES300, ES360, EA/N4XY and a free elective;

**Major:** HE217, HE218, HE333, and seven major electives.

[English courses](#)



## History Department

### History Major

The major in history provides an opportunity to examine the evolution of past civilizations and to evaluate and understand the institutions, achievements, ethics and values of mankind through the ages. History majors learn to evaluate ideas critically: to sift evidence, to draw conclusions and to express their conclusions clearly and concisely. A clear understanding of the events of the past provides a more acute awareness of contemporary issues and problems, as well as a context and a process for evaluating those problems. The program includes introductory courses on the values and ideas of western civilization in a global context and on the history of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. A bachelor of science degree is awarded.

In addition to the three history courses in the core curriculum (HH104, HH215 and HH216), each history major will also take Perspectives on History (HH262) and a Seminar in Advanced Historical Studies (HH462). These courses introduce the students to historiography and the techniques of historical research and writing and enable them to pursue a historical issue in depth. To ensure disciplinary breadth, the department also requires each history major to select upper division courses from four of the five of the following fields of historical study: American, European, Regional (non-Western), Thematic/Interdisciplinary and Naval/Military.

The Honors program in history offers students with superior ability in history the opportunity to pursue a more challenging course of study and graduate with Honors in History at Commissioning. Those students accepted for the program will work closely with a faculty adviser and develop a major research paper (HH509) in the fall of first class year. The History department also requires Honors History majors to take two special seminars, HH507 (Honors Historiography) and HH508 (Honors Colloquium).

**Curriculum Requirements** (In addition to the requirements of plebe year)

**Professional:** NN210, NE203, NL310, NN310, NL400, NS43X;

**Mathematics:** SM223; plus either SM230 or SM219 or SM212;

**Science:** SP211, SP212;

**Humanities:** HH215, HH216 and two electives outside the major including one at the 300/400 level;

**Language:** Four semesters of a foreign language;

**Engineering:** EA400 or EN400 or EN401, EM300, EE301, EE310, ES300, ES360;

**Free Elective;**

**Major:** HH262, HH462, and eight major electives

[History courses](#)



## Language and Cultures Department

### Courses, Majors and Minors

The department offers courses at all levels in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. Midshipmen majoring in economics, English, history or political science must complete or validate a total of four semesters of a given language and may continue their study of a foreign language at the advanced levels or begin a new language. In other majors, midshipmen who validate a year or more of a language may take language courses at the 200, 300 or 400 levels in that language as humanities or social science electives or as a free elective. In some cases, midshipmen may qualify for advanced placement into upper-level courses by means of a validation exam or an interview with a member of the Languages and Cultures faculty. Beginning with the class of 2013, a Division I or II major may receive humanities and social science elective credit for Arabic, Chinese, Japanese or Russian courses validated or taken at USNA, as specified in section 2a of Academic Dean and Provost Instruction 1531.10 (26 January 2011).

The department offers majors in Arabic and Chinese. The Arabic and Chinese majors consist of ten three-credit courses in Arabic or Chinese language and culture, taught completely in the language, and four three-credit collateral courses, two of which must be outside the major. The major in Arabic allows students to achieve an intermediate to advanced level of language proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic, the lingua franca of the twenty-three countries of the Arab world, while also familiarizing them with many aspects of Arabic cultures, a broad sketch of Arabic cultural history, and major current issues in Arab societies. The major in Chinese provides the opportunity for midshipmen to develop an intermediate level of proficiency in Chinese language for communication, come to a substantial understanding of fundamental aspects of Chinese culture, and develop a comprehensive perspective and an analytical approach toward China (Mainland and Taiwan): its society, people and language.

The department also offers minors in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. In French, German and Spanish the minor consists of 12 credit hours at the 300/400 level taken or validated at the Naval Academy. In Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Japanese, the minor consists of 12 credit hours at the 200/300 levels.

The Language Study Abroad Program offers extraordinary opportunities for summer overseas language study in all of the languages taught at USNA.

[Language Studies courses](#)



## Language and Cultures Department

### Arabic Major

The major in Arabic allows students to achieve an intermediate to advanced level of language proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic, the common tongue of the 23 countries of the Arab world, while also familiarizing them with many aspects of Arabic cultures, Arabic cultural history, and major current issues in Arab societies. Communication in speaking and writing and appropriate cultural interaction and idiomatic expression are emphasized at all levels. Students study the language of the media; one of the major Arabic dialects; historical, religious and political discourses; and literature and other cultural manifestations from all ages of Arabic culture and all areas of the Arab world. Fourteen three-credit courses are required for the major: 10 mandatory language courses and four collateral courses concerning other aspects of the Arab world, two outside the major. Summer and semester study abroad programs in the target cultures are strongly recommended for Arabic majors. These language and cultural enrichment programs allow students to apply their skills in real-world situations and to complete their degrees with significant experience in the Arab world.

Students emerge from the program with a working knowledge of Arabic for use in many different situations. They will have gained an awareness of the multiple ways in which the spoken forms of dialect Arabic vary from standard Arabic, and the important political and cultural implications of language policy in the Arabic world. In addition, they will have acquired a growing appreciation of the achievements of Arabic cultural history and its contributions to modern global civilization, as well as a nuanced understanding of the relationship of the Arab world to the United States and other partners of exchange in the world today.

**Curriculum requirements (Arabic Major:** (In addition to the requirements of plebe year)

**Professional:** NE203, NL310, NL400, NN210, NN310, NS43X;

**Mathematics:** SM223, plus either SM230 or SM212;

**Science:** SP211, SP212;

**Humanities:** HH215, HH216, and two electives outside the major, including one at the 300/400 level;

**Engineering:** EM300, EE301, EE310, ES300, ES360, EA400 or EN400 or EN401;

**Free Elective;**

**Major:** Ten courses in Arabic language and culture, taught completely in Arabic, and four collateral courses, two of which must be outside the major.



[Arabic courses](#)

## Chinese Major

The major in Chinese provides the opportunity for midshipmen to develop proficiency in the most widely spoken language on earth, Mandarin Chinese. Midshipmen achieve an intermediate level of proficiency in Chinese language for communication, come to a substantial understanding of fundamental aspects of Chinese culture, and develop a comprehensive perspective and an analytical approach toward China (Mainland and Taiwan): its society, people and language. Fourteen three-credit courses are required for the major: ten mandatory language courses and four collateral courses, two outside the major. One month of study abroad in China is strongly recommended. Because of language-specific difficulties in Chinese such as lexical tones, the non-phonetic character writing system, abundant homophones, flexible syntax and word formation, and a highly condensed written discourse style, the language courses begin in the plebe year and continue through eight consecutive semesters.

Majors in Chinese emerge from the program able to read or listen to long sentences or short paragraphs, with thorough comprehension, on topics of daily life and everyday Chinese culture. They are also able to use vocabulary items consisting of the 1500 most common Chinese characters, along with sufficient complexity of syntactic and discourse structures to express ideas on the topics of routine daily discourse with acceptable fluency and accuracy. Additionally, they understand the fundamental concepts and structures that distinguish Chinese from English or other languages, and the relationship between language structures and aspects of culture. The collateral courses will enable them to present and discuss China-related issues from an informed, knowledgeable perspective.

**Curriculum requirements (Chinese Major):** (In addition to the requirements of plebe year)

**Professional:** NE203, NL310, NL400, NN210, NN310, NS43X;

**Mathematics:** SM223, plus either SM230 or SM212;

**Science:** SP211, SP212;

**Humanities:** HH215, HH216, and two electives outside the major, including one at the 300/400 level;

**Engineering:** EM300, EE301, EE310, ES300, ES360, EA400 or EN400 or EN401;

**A free elective;**

**Major:** Ten courses in Chinese language and culture, taught completely in Chinese, and four collateral courses, two of which must be outside the major.

### [Chinese courses](#)





## Political Science Department

### Political Science Major

The Political Science major provides prospective naval officers with theories and approaches to understanding domestic and international politics. This wide-ranging, interdisciplinary program develops analytical skills through required introductory courses and advanced electives. The mandatory foundation sequence includes courses in United States Government, International Relations, Political Science Research Methods and a Capstone Research Seminar. Midshipmen select from three concentrations: International Relations and National Security, Comparative Politics or American Government and Law.

Upper level courses explore law, political theory, political institutions, policy analysis, foreign policy and international security as well as key regions – Europe and Russia, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. The major is enhanced with courses in foreign languages and electives in history and economics. Summer internship programs in Washington D.C. and overseas and the possibility of graduate work in intelligence or national security affairs expand educational opportunities.

Each spring, the Political Science Department and the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences sponsor the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC), which is run by midshipmen. NAFAC has become one of the foremost undergraduate conferences in the country, drawing students from more than 140 colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. Students hear the ideas of elected officials, policy makers, senior diplomats, military leaders and journalists. Along with NAFAC, the Department sponsors Model United Nations Club and the USNA Debate Team.

The bachelor of science degree is awarded. An honors program with a designated honors degree is available for selected students.

**Curriculum Requirements** (In addition to the requirements of plebe year)

**Professional:** NE203, NL310, NL400, NN210, NS310, NS43X;

**Mathematics:** SM223; plus either SM230 or SM212;

**Science:** SP211, SP212;

**Humanities:** HH215, HH215A or HH215M; HH216 and two electives outside the major including one at the 300/400 level;

**Language:** Four semesters of a foreign language;

**Engineering:** EA400 or EN400 or EN401, EM300; EE301, EE310, ES300, ES360;

Free elective;

**Major:** FP210 or FP230, FP220, FP471, and seven major electives.

### [Political Science courses](#)