Course Description (from catalog)
Advanced Problem Solving is a course for cadets who have completed the Military Science Requirements. The course is designed on the Army’s Outcomes Based Training and Education (OBT&E) model. The student and instructor will develop the expected outcomes, and the student will develop a plan with goals and objectives to achieve the expected outcome.

Rationale (Course Design). This course is designed to be student-centric with the onus of learning on the student, facilitated by the instructor. Army Officers are expected to be life-long learners who take responsibility and personal initiative for their learning. You must properly conduct your pre-class assignments to gain an understanding of the foundation on each subject in the course. Doing so will allow your instructor to spend the majority of the class time on specific areas that are least understood from the lessons, rather than your instructor teaching the subject from scratch. Your instructor has a wealth of experience and knowledge to share in the classroom—do your homework so your instructor can spend more time sharing his personal knowledge and experiences with your class. Class will be conducted in an interactive manner with ample opportunities for discussions and practical exercises. Everyone will be responsible for contributing to the success of the learning experience.

Learning Objectives
The ROTC Course Outcomes are derived from the four Army Learning Areas (ALA) and General Learning Outcomes (GLOs) to develop objectives designed to prepare the newly commissioned second lieutenant for success at the Basic Officer Leader Course B (BOLC B) and as a junior officer at their first unit of assignment (FUA).

The four ALA’s and Course Outcomes are:

1. Army Leadership and Profession
   • Proficient in leader attributes and competencies.
   • Proficient in character, competence, and commitment as Trusted Army Professionals.

2. Mission Command
   • Demonstrate proficiency in mission command philosophy.
   • Demonstrate proficiency in mission command leader and commander tasks.
   • Demonstrate proficiency in mission command staff tasks.
   • Demonstrate proficiency in mission command systems.

3. Human Dimension
   • Demonstrate capacity in creative – critical thinking.
   • Demonstrate proficiency in communications skills.
   • Demonstrate proficiency in cultural awareness, cross cultural competencies in the strategic environment of 2025 and beyond.
   • Pursue Comprehensive Fitness / Resiliency Skills and Performance Enhancement Skills.
   • Pursue lifelong learning, self-assessment, and goal setting.
4. Professional Competence
   - Demonstrate proficiency in Army and Joint doctrine.
   - Support Army policies, programs, and processes.
   - Technically and tactically competent.

The overall course objectives will continue to build on the ALA’s as noted above by providing additional focus areas in leadership, creative and critical thinking in the Army environment, professional ethics, among others, and how those topics relate to solving Army problems.

**Major Course Requirements**

**Lesson Assessments.** Lesson Assessments will be given throughout the semester to assess your progress in learning the principles and practices related to the course material.

Case Study Briefing. As a future officer, you will be required by your superior to present briefings. Cadets will be assigned a specific contemporary leader to research. Students may request to conduct the case study on a leader of particular interest, subject to instructor approval. Students will present an Information Brief as a way to prepare you for the future requirements and refine public speaking skills. This brief will follow the format contained in FM 5-0, Commanders and Staff Organization and Operations, 5 May, 2014, Chapter 7, Military Briefings.

Writing Skills. After being assigned a subject, write a three to five page essay, (typed and double-spaced). Students may request topics of interest, subject to instructor approval.

Quizzes. Quizzes may be utilized by the instructor to test critical material and validate student progress.

**Class Participation.** You 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 principles discussed in class or reading and working with fellow students to engage in class exercises.

This class will be conducted in an interactive manner. Everyone will be responsible for contributing to the success of the learning experience. Lectures are expected to be interactive—ask questions. You will have extensive small group discussions and exercises scattered throughout the class. Time will be given in class to discuss and work on projects and papers. This program includes class lessons as well as outside activities such as Leadership Labs, FTXs and PT training. Contracted Cadets are required to participate in the full program.

High Impact Practices (HIPS) utilized during this course: Common Intellectual Experiences, Collaborative Assignments and Projects, Diversity/Global Learning, and Service / Community Based Learning.

**Mid-Term Assessment.** Reflecting on the feedback you received from any peer evaluations and counseling, write a three to five page personal development plan that you can implement during your spring semester or BOLC B. Your paper will outline your plan to sustain your excellent ratings and what actions you will take or implement to improve your satisfactory and needs improvement ratings you received.

**Final Assessment.** Write a 5-paragraph Operations Order (OPORD) based on an OPORD provided by the cadre. Scoring will focus on appropriate detail for your assigned organization and thoroughness.
APFT. As a future officer, you are expected to set the example for physical fitness according to Army regulations. You will be required to take a “Record” APFT at the beginning of the fall semester and a “diagnostic” APFT at the end of the semester.

NOTE: Contracted Cadets are required to participate in ALL ROTC activities as stated in their contract.

Reading. Students are responsible for material contained in required readings. You will be expected to show mastery of the reading material during classroom discussions and may be tested on the material at various times through exams, quizzes, practicum, and assignments.

-SROTC Cadet eBook located on ROTC Blackboard: https://rotc.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab_tab_group_id=_18_
-Doctrinal Publications are available online at: http://www.apd.army.mil/
-Oral Practicum (Capstone Exercise). For MSL402 L31-34 Oral Practicum, you will be required to answer questions from a comprehensive list on the 20 AWFCs covered throughout MSL401 and 402 coursework.

Evaluation and Grading.

Lesson Assessments 40%
Mid-Term Assessment 20%
Class Participation 10%
APFT 10%
Final Exam (OPORD) 20%

All late papers and assignments will receive a 10% reduction in grade. The following grading scale will be used based on 100 points possible.

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D

Required or Recommended Readings
A comprehensive listing of Army resources that directly apply to the course material can be found below. Specific reading requirements will be identified on the Blackboard course site for each session. A more exhaustive list of applicable resources is provided at the end of this syllabus.

Required Materials:
Readings available online at:

   - Army Doctrine Publications (ADP)
   - Army Doctrine Reference Publications (ADRP)
   - Field Manuals (FM)
   - Leader Guide (LG)
   - Army Regulations (AR)
   - Training Circulars (TC)
   - Other Resources
2. https://rotc.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp
   - Cadet eBook
   - Leadership Development Program Handbook
Optional Materials:
PlatoonLeader Forum- The PlatoonLeader forum is an interactive social networking site for the professional development of junior officers. This site provides Cadets the opportunity to engage one’s peers, learn from the experiences of others, and develop relationships in a virtual environment. MSLIV Cadets are strongly encouraged to register and participate on this forum. The link to PlatoonLeader is located on the ROTC Blackboard website under the Interesting Links block or at: http://platoonleader.army.mil/.

Course Policies

Attendance/Tardiness. If you are going to miss a class or be late, call the instructor or leave a message before class. This is a professional courtesy to both your classmates and the instructor. Cadets will attend class with all needed material and in proper attire. When wearing the uniform, the cadet must wear the complete uniform and conform to Army Regulation 670-1. The ACU’s will be the uniform for Monday and Friday lecture class and labs. Changes to the uniform plan will be made to the training schedule if required. The cadet will be counseled formally at the end of the semester.

Late work and Make-up Exams. If a test is missed or assignments turned in late, it is the cadets responsibly to make it up before the beginning of the next scheduled lecture class and coordinate with the Instructor regarding assignments. Failure to do so will result in a “zero” for a grade.

Extra Credit. Students will NOT have opportunity to receive extra credit on assignments.

Cell phones and Electronic Device Usage. Cell phones will be turned off or put on vibrate or silent mode during all classes. Laptops, electronic notebooks are allowed to be used as note taking devices. Surfing the web will not be allowed during class, unless it is class related.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.)

Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to the course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic dishonesty, and with giving sanction to any student involved. Penalties that may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty include one or more of the following:
1. Written reprimand.
2. Requirement to re-do work in question.
3. Requirement to submit additional work.
4. Lowering of grade on work in question;
5. Assigning grade of ‘F’ to work in question;
6. Assigning grade of 'F' for course;
7. Recommendation for more severe punishment, such as dismissal from the program or from the University.
See the University Catalog for more information.

Dropping a Class. I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best
course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. This course follows the university calendar, and students should familiarize themselves with critical dates such as the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W.”

**Uniforms and Appearance (See Islander Battalion Uniform Policy).** You are expected to wear ACUs (Army Combat Uniform) to all classes and labs IAW the training schedule. You will adhere to Army Regulation 670-1 and associated ALARACT messages with regard to uniforms and appearance changes. On Wednesdays, cadets will wear the Army Service Uniform. Uniform requirements will be noted on the published training calendar and changes will be discussed in class.

**Collaboration.** You are encouraged to work together with your fellow MSL IV Cadets and seek guidance and help from your instructor and other ROTC cadre.

**Classroom/professional behavior.** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Statement of Civility.** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Grade Appeals*.** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**Disabilities Accommodations*.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the
classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Statement of Academic Continuity.** In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Religious Accommodation.** The Army places a high value on the rights of its Soldiers to observe tenets of their respective religions or to observe no religion at all.

The Army will approve requests for accommodation of religious practices unless accommodation will have an adverse impact on unit readiness, individual readiness, unit cohesion, morale, good order, discipline, safety, and/or health.

Requests for religious accommodation generally fall into five major areas:

- Worship practices.
- Dietary practices.
- Medical practices.
- Wear and appearance of the uniform.
- Grooming practices.

For more information please refer to AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 6 November 2014, Chapter 5, paragraph 5-6.

**On-line Conduct.** As members of the Army Team, our individual actions and interactions, on and off duty, online and offline reflect on the Army and our values. Every Soldier and Army Civilian is responsible to uphold the Army standards and values; applying all aspects into our lives. This includes our online conduct when communicating with any form of electronic media.

Any type of online misconduct such as; harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, or retaliation that undermines the dignity and respect of another individual, is not consistent with Army Values, will NOT be condoned and the offender may be subject to criminal, disciplinary, and/or administrative action.

It is every individual’s (Soldier, Army Civilian, contractor, and Family member) duty to understand the laws and regulations pertaining to Online Conduct. It is every leader’s responsibility to enforce those laws and regulations pertaining to Online Conduct.

For more information please refer to AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, para 1-4, 4-19 and Chapter 7 and AR 600-100.

**Inappropriate Relationships.** Per Army Directive 2016-17 (Protecting Against Prohibited Relations During Recruiting and Entry-Level Training and IAW Department of Defense Instructions (DoDI) 1304.33 (Protecting Against Inappropriate Relations During Recruiting and Entry Level Training). The Army and all Army personnel (including any Army military, civilian, or contractor personnel) will treat each prospect, applicant, recruit, and trainee with dignity and respect as they pursue their aspiration of serving in the military. Army policy prohibits inappropriate relations between recruiters and prospects, applicants, and/or recruits and between trainers providing entry-level training and trainees. At a minimum and as required, the prospect, applicant, recruit, trainee, recruiter, or trainer will complete the following
administrative actions. Commanders may add requirements to this list.

(1) Trainers providing entry-level training will sign a DD Form 2982 that acknowledges their understanding of the prohibitions listed in paragraph 5d and their responsibilities regarding the policies to avoid the inappropriate behaviors and relations outlined in this directive. The DD Form 2982 will be recertified annually. The form will be locally filed and kept for 1 year after the trainer has left the unit.

(2) At the onset of the first training session, trainers will brief trainees on the policies in this directive and provide information that trainees can use to contact someone in leadership if they wish to report any issue related to a trainer’s inappropriate conduct.

(3) Trainees will sign a DD Form 2983 to acknowledge their understanding and responsibilities as outlined in this directive no later than the first day of entry-level training. The DD Form 2983 will be locally filed and kept until 6 months after the trainee has left the unit.

**NOTE:** See ROTC Blackboard BOLC A Curriculum and Course Materials (Protecting Against Inappropriate Relations) for Army Directive 2016-17 and DoDI 1304.33 and Policy Letter materials.

**Overview of Class Sessions (Syllabus, Course Outline)**
TBD