Description

This course is designed to demonstrate your accumulated training in International Studies in a single original project of your choice, subject to the instructor’s approval and under the supervision of a Honors Committee. The completed thesis should bring together your theme, your region, your foreign language expertise, and your overseas experience in a paper of approximately 50 pages. By completing I406 students will be able to clearly articulate their research argument in a well-written and orally presented project.

Learning Goals

- To improve skills in writing, oral presentation and research
- To recognize, explain, and juxtapose academic arguments within the context of your own research
- To evaluate competing positions in academic debates and to use evidence-based arguments to develop and defend your own position
- To respond to criticism by your Honors Committee Members

HONORS THESIS REQUIREMENTS

- **Length of thesis:** thesis should not exceed 50 pages, excluding appendices, images, and bibliography. Emphasis is given to quality of argument, sound methodology, and strength of proposed analysis. References should be extensive, surpassing the recommended I400 number.
- **Class meetings:** I406 meets with a section of I400. Your I400 instructor is responsible for your progress in the class; however, the I400 instructor will not be assigning a grade for your rough and final drafts. Those grades will be assigned by your Honors Thesis Director and communicated to your I400 instructor.
- **Meetings with your Honors thesis committee:** You are required to hold regular meetings with your Honor Thesis Advisor- follow the Mentor Meetings schedule as required in I400. You should also arrange a meeting with your Third Reader prior to setting your Honors Thesis Defense. The student should meet with the thesis director at least three times during the semester as follows:
  - First meeting: approximately 2nd week of classes
  - Second meeting: approximately 7th week of classes
  - Third meeting: approximately 11th week of classes

The thesis director should review the student’s Expanded Statement, Literature Review and Methodology (with Bibliography attached), Complete Rough Draft and Final Draft.

The thesis reader reviews the student’s Complete Rough Draft and any other thesis section drafts in consultation with and at the student’s request.

The International Studies Director of Undergraduate Studies reviews the student’s Complete Rough and Final Drafts.

- **Mentorship:** The student should form an Honors Committee chaired by the Honors Thesis Director and comprising of two additional members. See Appendices I and II.

- **Honors Thesis Defense**
  - In consultation with the Honors Thesis Director you will specify a date and time to give an oral presentation of your research findings followed by a Q&A by the Honors Committee members. You will also be given the opportunity to submit an abstract for consideration in the International Studies Capstone Symposium.
  - Set the date after the completion of your rough draft as indicated in your I400 syllabus.
  - Present your findings using Microsoft PowerPoint, Prezi or other appropriate medium. Plan a 15-20 minute talk, guiding the audience through the contents of your work. Pay attention to form and style. Your presentation should be professional, informative, clear and concise.

- **Final Paper:** Submit your final draft to the Honors Committee after your defense and incorporate committee recommended revisions as needed. Your final paper should be professional and ready for publication.

- **Evaluation:** In order to be granted Departmental Honors, the student needs a grade of A- or better. The final grade will be assigned by the Honors Thesis Director in consultation with the International Studies Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Honor Thesis Reader and your I400/I406 instructor.
Appendix I: Instructions for the Thesis Director

Overview
In the senior year, students write a thesis or compose a project that integrates their thematic and regional concentrations. Students enroll in I-406, which is joint-listed with I-400. It is recommended that they enroll in one credit hour of INTL I-415 in the semester prior to completing I-406. Students maintain a grade point average of at least 3.5 in the major and a 3.3 overall.

Responsibilities of the Honors Thesis Director
The Honors Thesis Director:
- Meets with the student and identifies the viability of the project/thesis
- Chairs the Honors Thesis Committee that is comprised of the INTL Director of Undergraduate Studies and a third faculty member who serves as the Reader
- Sets the defense date for the Honors Thesis in consultation with the student and committee members
- May guide the student in INTL-I415, Independent Readings
  - The result of I405 course could be an annotated bibliography or an outline for the proposed honors thesis (I406)
- Supervises the progression of INTL-I406, Honors Capstone
  - Reviews the Introduction and Bibliography
  - Comments on the Literature Review and Methodology
  - Comments on the rough draft
- Assigns the grade for INTL-I406 in consultation with the International Studies Director of Undergraduate Studies and the instructor of the Capstone joint-listed course

Responsibilities of the Student
- The student identifies a tentative topic that integrates his or her International Studies thematic concentration and regional concentration
- The student creates a committee that consists of a thesis director, the International Studies Director of Undergraduate Studies, and the Reader
- The student produces a senior thesis of approximately 50 pages.
- The student comes prepared to meetings and provides the thesis director with a reasonable amount of time to review the materials before meeting.
- The student defends his or her thesis to the committee at the end of the I406 Honors Capstone class no later than December or May.
- The student earns an A- or better on the thesis to secure departmental Honors.

The Department of International Studies could not be successful without you. Thank you for your service to our students.

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Appendix II: Instructions for the Thesis Reader

Overview
The International Studies major draws on almost every department in the College of Arts and Sciences to provide students with an understanding of the international arena. In the senior year, students write a thesis or compose a project that integrates their thematic and regional concentrations. Departmental Honors are granted to students who have completed INTL-I406, Honors Capstone Thesis.

Responsibilities of the Honors Thesis Reader
The Honors Thesis Reader:
- Has some expertise related to the student’s proposed thesis topic
- Is a member of the Honors Committee with the Honors Thesis Director and the International Studies Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Provides mentoring and guidance in the progression of INTL-I406, Honors Capstone as needed
- Reads the final draft of the thesis
- Attends the student’s defense
- Consults with the Honors Committee Members to grade the thesis

Responsibilities of the Student
- The student identifies a tentative topic that integrates his or her International Studies thematic concentration and regional concentration
- The student creates a committee that consists of a thesis director, the International Studies Director of Undergraduate Studies, and a third reader
- The produces a senior thesis of approximately 50 pages.
- The student comes prepared to meetings and provides the thesis reader with a reasonable amount of time to review the materials before meeting.
- The student defends his or her thesis to the committee at the end of I406 Honors Capstone class in either December or May.
- The student earns an A- or better on the thesis to secure departmental Honors.

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Director of Undergraduate Studies