

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES GUIDED RESEARCH THESIS CAPSTONE GUIDELINES

This document is intended to guide students and mentors through the Guided Research Thesis Capstone.

One of the tasks for the student could be to attempt to understand and/or solve a real-world global problem by **applying learned theories and concepts** and/or prescribing practical remedies. The thesis must incorporate historical background and multiple disciplinary perspectives and reflect multicultural complexity. In all cases, the thesis should have a truly international or global (as opposed to a merely foreign) scope. The specific challenge for the student will be to identify and describe the problem in its broadest possible context, while also manipulating imaginatively and convincingly a combination of factors to formulate a coherent point of view, compelling thesis argument, and/or a plausible solution. Research must also make effective use of foreign language materials, either as primary documents or secondary sources.

This research thesis may be satisfied by an Honors College thesis, if it meets all the specifications and goals stated here.

Deadlines for Enrolling in and Completing Research Thesis Capstone:

- 1) Semester Prior
 - a) Complete Thesis planning form
 - b) Submit the Thesis planning form to IS Director by November 1 for Spring capstone or April 1 for Fall capstone
 - c) Upon approval of proposed thesis project, find a faculty thesis mentor from your disciplinary track and another from your language concentration.
 - d) Complete paper registration by December 15/May 15 to enroll in ISP 495 with your disciplinary track mentor; complete enrollment in ISP 497 with your language concentration mentor

2) Capstone Semester

Students will enroll in the two courses concurrently that comprise the research capstone.

0187-495: Guided Research Thesis

Student will work with faculty mentor on focusing the research topic

- Meet every other week with your disciplinary track mentor completing the sequential components of the thesis over the course of the semester (25% of grade)

- Complete a 20-30 page paper (75% of grade), exclusive of bibliography, that:

- 1) Focuses on an international or global issue or problem
- 2) Utilizes and applies concepts from your disciplinary course work
- 3) Includes a minimum of 15 scholarly sources or official documents
- 4) Includes track language sources (primary/secondary) in consultation with language mentor.

0187-497: Guided Research Thesis Summary in the Foreign Language Studied

The foreign language summary of your final analytic paper, submitted for 10 pages, is not meant to be only an exercise in writing in a foreign language. Rather, its purpose is to give evidence of clear thinking and the extent to which you can express succinctly and convincingly, in a condensed format and in the

foreign language studies, the intellectual goals of the thesis and its argument.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES THESIS CAPSTONE PLANNING FORM

(Fill in to the best of your knowledge. The goal of these questions is to get a sense of your ideas and to promote serious consideration on your part. It is understood that this information may change.)

Due Nov. 1 or April 1

Name:

Date:

Cell phone:

Email:

Date of expected graduation:

Why are you interested in writing a thesis? What would you like to learn?

What disciplinary courses have you taken and with which professors that relate to these interests?

Describe a specific topic that you are interested in studying.

How is your proposed topic related to international or global relations?

Do you have faculty mentors in your language concentration and disciplinary track in mind? Who are they and why would you like to work with them?

Provide an initial list of 3 scholarly sources, that you have read, which relate to your topic.

What are your post-baccalaureate plans?

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES THESIS CAPSTONE ASSESSMENT

While the International Studies faculty has agreed that the content and goals of each paper will vary among tracks and students, the faculty has agreed that all final papers (in both English and the foreign language) will be assessed based on the student's ability to:

- 1) Demonstrate familiarity with the background of topic and place it in context.
- 2) Identify and characterize the topic from multiple perspectives/disciplines using theories and concepts from students' coursework.
- 3) Employ and integrate research materials from at least two languages.
- 4) Show evidence of cultural awareness and its integration into the problem treatment.
- 5) Arrive at a defensible conclusion and cogent solution.
- 6) You will also be assessed on your ability to demonstrate functional linguistic proficiencies as well as cross-cultural knowledge of another civilization.