

International Studies Honors Thesis

Instructions for the mentor and third 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. Because of the vastness of international topics, students focus on both a thematic and regional concentration. In the senior year, students write a thesis that integrates these two concentrations. For example, a student focusing on the theme Human Rights and Social Movements and region Latin America might combine the two to focus on the issue of street children in Brazil. While most students spend a semester on their senior theses, **students pursuing departmental Honors must focus on their project for two semesters.** In the first semester, students read and research while in the second they write their paper.

Examples of past Honors thesis titles include:

- The Basque and Catalan Nations and their Relationship to Spain
- Freedom of Press in Russia: Stepping Forward or Turning Back?
- Haitian Restaveks: The Struggle to Eliminate Child Labor

Student eligibility and obligations

- The student maintains a grade point average of at least 3.5 in the major and a 3.3 overall.
- 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 director of International Studies, and a third reader.
- The student must take INTL-I405 Honors Independent Readings and I406 Honors Capstone with the goal of producing a senior thesis of approximately 50 pages.
- The student comes prepared to meetings and provides the thesis director and reader with a reasonable amount of time to review the materials before meeting.
- The student makes arrangements with the thesis director to review the problem statement, bibliography and rough draft at a time convenient to the thesis director, but within the confines of the class deadlines.
- The student presents 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.

Responsibilities of the thesis director

- The mentor has some expertise related to the student's proposed thesis topic.
- ⑩ The thesis director oversees a semester of I405 Honors Independent Readings.
 - ○ The result of I405 course could be an annotated bibliography or a paper separate from the paper produced for I406.
 - ○ The grade should be reported to the department of International Studies, intl@indiana.edu, before grades are due.
- The thesis director provides additional guidance during I406. This includes, but is not limited to: reviewing the project statement in the first week of classes, reviewing the bibliography in the fourth week of classes, and reading a rough draft of the student's paper and providing comments in the ninth week of classes.
- The thesis director, along with the director of the International Studies Program and a third reader, reads the final draft of the paper and attends the student's final presentation of the thesis.

Responsibilities of the third reader

- The third reader has some expertise related to the student's proposed thesis topic.
- The third reader reads the final draft of the paper, attends the student's final presentation, and consults with other members of the committee to grade the thesis and presentation.

The International Studies Program could not be successful without you. Your service is valued and will be formally acknowledged at the International Studies faculty reception in the spring.