

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IS: 4991 HONORS THESIS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
INFORMATION FOR FACULTY MENTORS AND IS STUDENTS

The International Studies Program is grateful to the many faculty members across campus serving as faculty mentors to our majors.

Faculty eligible to supervise IS: 4990 Intl Studies Senior Project include the following: tenured, tenure-track, clinical, or (with approval of the DEO of the International Studies Program) visiting or adjunct faculty, at the rank of lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor. [Click here](#) for visiting /adjunct faculty approval process.

The Basics:

- IS honors thesis is 3 s.h. of graded coursework; faculty mentors submit grades for each honors thesis via MAUI.
- IS honors thesis may be either a 30 – 50 page research paper or a creative project; the topic must clearly relate to one (or both) of the student’s Honors International Studies B.A. track(s).
- Faculty and students must arrange meeting times (ideally bi-weekly), which will allow the student to not only complete the project but also to adhere to the semester’s deadlines (please contact intlstudies@uiowa.edu with any questions/concerns about these deadlines).
- Faculty mentors are encouraged to evaluate students’ semester-long effort, not just the final product.

Deadlines (for semester during which student is enrolled in IS honors thesis):

- Before the end of week two, faculty must sign Registration Preapproval form.
- Before the Wednesday of week 7, faculty must sign Progress Report.
- Before the UI Honors Program/ Registrar deadline in week 8, faculty must sign student’s “Application for Graduation with Departmental Honors in CLAS.”
- Before the Friday of week 16, faculty must sign IS cover sheet so that student can submit one copy of their honors thesis to the International Studies Program.
- Before the Friday of week 16, faculty must sign Honors Title Page so that student can submit one copy of their honors thesis to the UI Honors Program.
- Faculty will submit a grade for IS:4991 Honors Thesis Intl Studies on MAUI before the grade submission deadline for the semester.

Expectations for IS:4991 Honors Thesis Intl Studies include:

- Students will approach faculty with a preliminary research proposal; present sound reasoning for requesting to work with faculty; and demonstrate an intellectual curiosity for their topic.
- Students will take the initiative for scheduling and attending meetings with faculty. Faculty and students will work to define goals for each meeting; students will come prepared to meet those goals.
- Faculty mentors will help students form a strong topic with a set of provocative research questions, in part by discussing their own steps in generating an idea, conducting research, developing an argument, using and documenting sources, and revising.
- Faculty will provide students insight into the process for conducting research in their own field (i.e. standard reference works, bibliographies, major journals and web resources, key concepts and thinkers, methodologies), while also recognizing the multidisciplinary perspective inherent to the field of International Studies.
- Students will be well informed about deadlines and communicate that info to their faculty mentor.
- Faculty and students with any questions about IS:4991 Honors Thesis Intl Studies will contact the International Studies Program at intlstudies@uiowa.edu .

Human Subjects in IS:4991 Honors Thesis Intl Studies:

- All honors theses meet the definition of “research” (they are designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge).
- Every IS honors thesis which involves “human subjects” requires IRB review and approval—no exceptions!
- Students begin by submitting an [IRB determination form](#) and upon completion of the process must submit proof of the review process to the International Studies Program.
- Students with questions must contact IRB at 319-335-6564.