

University of Iowa

International Studies B.A.

Thinking about a Creative Project for IS: 4990 Intl Studies Senior Project? Please keep this information in mind

- The Senior Project may either be a 15-20 page research paper or a creative project.
- The Senior Project must focus on an international topic and clearly relate to a student's International Studies B.A. track.
- Students planning to complete a creative project are required to make an appointment with the International Studies academic advisor well in advance of the drafting of their Senior Project proposal (consult the International Studies website under "Academic Advising" for contact info).
- When you have completed your creative senior project you will submit the following to the International Studies Program:
 - A **copy/recording** of your creative project, and/or **documentation of the creative process**
 - A **one-paragraph abstract** describing the purpose, key outcome or discoveries, and the significance of the project
 - **Careful citation** of all quoted or summarized material including footnotes and bibliography in the form appropriate for the discipline of this particular project (consult with your Faculty Mentor for guidance)
 - A **5-page discussion** of the aesthetic issues addressed in the project and the relation of the project to international issues

CREATIVE SENIOR PROJECT EXAMPLES

Three non-fiction essays

Student is exploring the relationship between memory and trauma in writing, based on her personal experiences with immigration, Muslim identity, the deportation of her parents, and the death of her father overseas.

Multimedia presentation

Student traveled to Tanzania to study the types of complications that arise during pregnancy in three rural communities there and is creating a multimedia presentation based on her on-site research. She chose this type of creative project because she wants to present her work to a broader audience.

Oral histories

Student is conducting extended interviews with a variety of girls and women of mainland Chinese heritage now living in Iowa City to study their views, experiences, and perspectives as Chinese American women living in Iowa. The interviews will be taped, transcribed, and edited into oral histories which the student hopes to post on the web and offer for newspaper publication.

One-woman play

Student researched French prostitution and wrote and performed a one-woman play on the subject. She submitted a copy of her play as well as a short paper explaining her research, process, and results.

Fictional short story

Student is writing a fictional short story of the state of Zulia seceding from Venezuela; he is basing his story on real events and accounts but inventing a successful secession, which has not actually happened, as a commentary on the state of affairs in Venezuela and US foreign policy towards Latin America.

Dress

Student is studying the importance of traditional dresses in Ghanaian culture and sewing her own dress as part of the process. She will be generating both a short research paper and the dress.

Series of in-depth articles (features)

Student is focusing on the changes in West Liberty, IA, caused by international immigration to that city. She plans to produce a series of papers that could be published in a newspaper or magazine or be the beginning of a book.

Business plan

Student traveled to Tanzania to study community-based tourism programs. Her goal is to establish an NGO that promotes community-based tourism in the country, and she will be writing a business plan for the NGO as her senior project.

Artwork Displays and Events

Student created a senior project around a series of artwork focused on opening dialogue about violence against women and specifically the problem of honor killings in Palestine. The student arranged for a month-long display in the library and also hosted public events like a teleconference with the artists in Palestine and a group discussion. She also submitted a 17-page paper outlining issues such as the background of the artwork, the history of the issues it was addressing, its significance in modern Palestinian society, etc.

Documentary

Student created a 30-minute documentary highlighting issues associated with being multiracial in the United States. He investigated the roots of an Asian American family, including its history in Asia and its transition to the US, and discussed multiracial issues both for Asian Americans in the US and US-born Asian Americans who travel to Asia. Student also submitted a brief paper explaining his methods and outcomes.