DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Guidelines for Honors Thesis

Seniors wishing to graduate with honors in the Department of International Studies are required to complete an honors thesis. The purpose of the honors thesis is to give students the opportunity to explore in detail an area or topic which will be important later in their lives or careers and to encourage them to synthesize the diverse offerings taken in an interdisciplinary program. The honors thesis must be 30-50 pages in length. A 3.5 overall GPA is required to participate in this project.

The honors thesis may be combined with Honors College or other departmental exit project requirements as long as the minimum honors thesis requirements are met. A proposed topic for an honors thesis must be approved by a faculty adviser as well as by the Undergraduate Program Director or Department Head of the Department of International Studies. The completed thesis must be awarded a grade of “B+” or better by the adviser (“pass” for Honors College thesis) and be approved as meeting thesis guidelines by the Undergraduate Program Director of International Studies. This includes the use of foreign language sources for all projects, including the Honors College thesis. The deadline for submitting a final, graded clean copy of the thesis is one week prior to the end of the term. Students are encouraged to consult with their faculty adviser to find out how much time the faculty member needs to read and grade the thesis. Earlier submissions are encouraged.

There are several ways of completing the honors thesis. The student may register for any combination of the following for a total of up to six credit hours:

- Enroll in an approved 4 credit hour 400-level class on the subject of the thesis. The professor offering the course must sign the written statement acknowledging his/her agreement to serve as the honors thesis adviser. The professor thereby agrees to meet with the senior on a regular basis to guide the student’s work and evaluate the thesis paper. The thesis is written in addition to any other course requirements except when substituted for a less difficult term paper.

- Register for INTL 405 Reading and Conference or INTL 403 Thesis, under the supervision of an IS faculty member or another faculty member who has indicated in writing his/her willingness to serve as the honors thesis adviser. Seniors may complete an independent research paper on an original topic that conforms to all other honors thesis guidelines. A student may also register for INTL 401 Research during the first term of the project, but not during the final term, since INTL 401 is only offered P/N.

- Students may also write their thesis as part of a practicum by registering for INTL 406 Field Studies (if the internship is overseas) of INTL 409 Practicum (if the internship is done in the U.S.) and fulfilling all honors thesis requirements. This option is especially attractive for students doing internships which afford them unique research opportunities. In such cases the senior should work with an approved adviser in the field as well as an

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IS faculty adviser. If appropriate arrangements are made well in advance, the honors thesis can be completed while a student is studying or working abroad.

- Students may write an honor’s thesis without registering for credits if they have already fulfilled UO and program requirements. The students are still required to work with an approved adviser and meet all other requirements for completion of an honors thesis. The honors thesis must be awarded a grade of “B+” or better to be approved by IS.

Students registering for INTL 401 Research, INTL 403 Thesis, INTL 405 Reading, INTL 406 Field Studies, or INTL 409 Practicum, need to pick up a Permission to Register for Individualized Study form at the International Studies departmental office (175 PLC.) The form should be filled out and signed by the faculty member who will oversee their work, and returned to the IS office. Once the form is returned, students will be preauthorized to register for the independent study. Students will then need to phone DuckWeb to register.

Honors theses should be written in thesis style, such as described in A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate Turabian. Citation style for the thesis may be the student’s choice but must remain consistent.

Further questions or concerns about the honors thesis may be directed to the IS undergraduate advisers (346-3122, ispuga@uoregon.edu).

**Requirements for Honors Thesis**

Faculty Advisers (readers of the thesis) should check to see that the following requirements are met:

- One page abstract
- Table of Contents
- Must relate to student’s geographical area of focus or address an international or cross-cultural topic
- Foreign language references (at least two specifically cited in the paper)
- Length, 30-50 pages
- Footnotes, endnotes or embedded citations, e.g. (Thurber 1978:3). Is consistent in style used.
- Bibliography
- Spiral bound, with clear front cover and black back cover

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