

GUIDELINES FOR HONORS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

1. General Information

International Studies majors interested in Departmental Honors should contact the faculty advisor of the International Studies program during their junior year. Prospective honors students should have an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher, or alternatively, complete the capstone seminar (INTS 400) with a grade of A– or better.

Honors students must register for two consecutive semesters of course work on the thesis. The first semester consists of a readings course/independent study in the home department of their thesis advisor (e.g., ANTH 499, ECON 451, HIST 496, POLS 499, SOC 490). This course is the preliminary work/research for the thesis, and it may count as one of the student's electives in either the thematic or area studies concentration. During the second semester, the student must enroll in INTS 402 while completing the research and writing the thesis under the direction of their thesis committee. The committee should consist of at least two ISI-affiliated faculty members, including the student's thesis advisor and one ISI team member (i.e., ISI Director, Associate ISI Director, or ISI Instructor).

Note that the Honors option adds 3 credit hours to the INTS major.

2. Honors Thesis Guidelines

Notification of program: Students planning to pursue the Honors option are required to notify the International Studies program by sending an e-mail to isi@unm.edu prior to enrolling in the readings course/independent study. The e-mail must include the name(s) and contact information of the thesis advisor(s) who have agreed to supervise and direct the Honors thesis and, if available, the thesis topic.

Choice of topic: The honors thesis should address an international or global issue or research question related to the student's thematic and/or area studies concentration. It should demonstrate the student's familiarity with and critical assessment of the relevant academic literature, and make a contribution to that literature using appropriate field-specific and/or interdisciplinary methodology. Subject to approval from their thesis committee, students may choose to expand their capstone research paper into a full-length thesis.

Thesis length and format: The thesis should be 30-35 pages in length and follow the appropriate formatting and style guide (e.g., APA, ASA, Chicago, MLA).

Thesis proposal: Working with their thesis advisor during the first semester, the student will prepare a thesis proposal that includes (1) the research question(s) to be addressed, (2) a detailed outline of the thesis, (3) the annotated bibliography or list of references, and (4) the methodology to be used to analyze the research question(s). The proposal is due 3 weeks before the end of the semester and must be submitted to the thesis committee for evaluation. The student will be allowed to register for INTS 402 in the second semester once the committee has approved the proposal.

Final thesis and presentation: During the second semester, while enrolled in INTS 402, the student will complete the research and write the honors thesis. Students will also present their work to the thesis committee in a public forum at the end of the semester. The complete draft of the thesis is due 6 weeks before the end of the semester and must be submitted to all members of the thesis committee. The final presentation will be scheduled about 3 weeks before the end of that semester, at which time committee members may require changes and/or edits to the thesis. The final version of the honors thesis is due 1 week before the end of the semester.