

University of Kentucky, Major in International Studies

STUDENT GUIDELINES

for signing up for

INT 495

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES RESEARCH PROJECT & SEMINAR

(3 credit hours)

YOU MUST READ ALL THESE INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDER TO ENROLL IN INT 495.

RECOMMENDATION: Print this out, sit back in a chair, read through it, and then proceed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An independent research project in an area of international studies under the direction of a faculty mentor/supervisor, conducted under the guidance of the INT 495 seminar. A research project plan will be drawn up by the student and the faculty project mentor and submitted to the Director of International Studies for approval. Only upon approval by the IS Director may the student enroll in the INT 495 seminar.

INT 495 is designed to provide a “capstone” or conclusion to the International Studies Major. Its objective is to provide an opportunity to conduct independent research on an IS theme and area selected by the student so that she or he integrates the linkages between the themes, areas, and disciplinary foci of study. The research project is conducted under the guidance of (1) a faculty mentor, and (2) under the auspices of the INT 495 capstone research seminar.

Learning Outcomes:

- (1) To introduce you to conducting independent, original research.
- (2) To engage you in critical analysis and in-depth discussion of an International Studies research topic.
- (3) To apply concepts you have learned through your International Studies major to a topic of your choosing.
- (4) To improve your analytical and writing skills.
- (5) To engage in writing a full-length research paper or conducting a full-scale research project.
- (6) To understand and to appreciate the research process.

GENERAL RULES:

- The research project is normally conducted during the **last semester (typically Spring) of the major's graduating year.**
- The project is carried out with a faculty mentor AND under the auspices of the INT 495 capstone research seminar.
- The research project culminates in a paper that is **ca. 25 pages long**, or, for non-text based projects, an equivalent effort.
- The student is expected to work on the project for an amount of time equivalent to that of a 3 credit hour course. This corresponds to about **48 hours per credit hour**, or 144 hours over the course of the semester. The INT 495 student should plan her/his time accordingly.
- The student works **independently** on the research project, but is expected to meet with the faculty mentor/supervisor for a minimum of **15 minutes every two weeks** during the semester. This is in addition to enrollment in and attendance at the INT 495 seminar.
- The research project shall **focus on a topic of the major's choice**, but shall combine the student's IS thematic and area foci and shall draw on at least two disciplinary perspectives from within those thematic and area concentrations. It shall also clearly demonstrate the international aspect or global scope of the research topic.

STUDENTS: HOW TO PROCEED:

1. **IDENTIFY A FACULTY MENTOR:** The semester BEFORE undertaking the International Studies Research Project (typically fall semester of the major's graduating year), the IS major shall IDENTIFY A FACULTY MENTOR for the INT 495 project and shall secure her/his consent to serve.

The faculty mentor selected shall have expertise in a discipline within the major's thematic or area concentration and research interests that encompass the major's research topic. Typically, this will be a faculty member from whom the major has completed a course. Toward the end of the semester BEFORE undertaking INT 495, the IS major shall approach this faculty member, explore dimensions of the proposed research idea, and secure her/his consent to serve.

CHOOSING A TOPIC: Examples of ways to select topics include:

- A. Expanding the scope of a topic upon which the major wrote a term paper in a course given by the faculty mentor or in a course which counts for the IS major;
- B. Conducting a research project designed independently by the IS major;
- C. Assisting a faculty mentor in conducting original research on the faculty member's research project;

D. Assisting a faculty member in processing research data already collected.

The research must demonstrate linkage to a relevant body of IS research. Hence, in all cases, the major shall, under the guidance of the faculty mentor, conduct an independent analysis of the research data and draw original conclusions based on applications of concepts or theories drawn from prior or current IS coursework.

2. **SET UP AN INITIAL MEETING WITH YOUR PROSPECTIVE FACULTY MENTOR.** It is the major's responsibility to initiate contact and to set up this initial meeting with the faculty member.
3. **DOWNLOAD THE INT 495 INTERNATIONAL STUDIES RESEARCH PROJECT CONTRACT** before meeting your prospective faculty mentor. Read it over before you meet with your prospective faculty mentor.
4. **MEET YOUR FACULTY MENTOR.** This meeting should culminate in a research topic sufficiently narrowed for the scope of a 25 page paper (or equivalent creative project) and some recommendations for database search engines, references, methodologies, etc.

COMPLETE AND SIGN THE INT 495 IS RESEARCH PROJECT CONTRACT TOGETHER. It must be signed by both of you.

5. **BRING THE COMPLETED, SIGNED CONTRACT TO THE IS DIRECTOR.** Once you and your faculty mentor have completed and signed the INT 495 IS Research Project Contract, bring the completed, signed contract to the IS Director during her office hours or submit it together with a note to Ms. Wanda Brooks, in Rm. 211 Lafferty Hall, and ask her to place it in the IS director's mailbox. **DO NOT** place in the IS Director's mailbox yourself.
6. Once the IS Director has reviewed and **APPROVED THE CONTRACT** (she will notify you verbally or via email), **YOU MAY REGISTER FOR 3 CREDIT HOURS OF INT 495.**
7. **ATTEND THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INT 495 SEMINAR** in the last semester of your graduating year for further instructions.