The International Studies Program is grateful to the many faculty members across campus serving as faculty mentors to our majors. The Honors Thesis in International Studies is designed to allow our undergraduate students to approach a topic from the interdisciplinary perspective reflected in their major coursework. Our students would not have this opportunity if not for the efforts of the dedicated faculty at Iowa. Thank you!

Faculty eligible to supervise 187:198 (IS: 4991) Honors Thesis Intl Studies 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. Refer to “Forms/How-To” on the ISBA website for instructions for the approval process for visiting and adjunct faculty.

The Basics:

- Refer to “Forms/How-To” on the IS website for semester-specific forms, deadlines, and instructions.
- The Honors Thesis is 3 s.h. of graded coursework. Faculty mentors submit grades for each thesis on MAUI, and are encouraged to evaluate students based on the entire semester's effort, not only by the final product.
- Student must submit the Registration Preapproval form (which requires faculty mentor signature), to the International Studies Program in order to register. Because your home department number differs from your International Studies instructor number, the International Studies Program will provide the student necessary registration information.
- At midterm, students are required to submit a Progress Report (which requires faculty mentor signature), to the International Studies Program.
- The deadline for submitting the completed thesis to the International Studies Program is the Friday before the beginning of finals week in both the fall and spring semesters. Students should work with their faculty mentor to arrange a date by which they will submit the final thesis to their mentor which allows enough time for review and approval before the International Studies deadline and the Honors Program deadline. Students should submit one copy to the faculty mentor for grading, a second copy with an International Studies Cover Sheet (which requires faculty mentor signature), to the International Studies Program, and a third copy to the Honors Program with a Honors Program title page (which requires faculty mentor signature). For questions about the Honors Program deadlines/procedures, please contact them directly.

Please note that our guidelines are designed to provide some structure to both faculty and students, but we expect and encourage faculty to amend these guidelines as needed to best fit the individual project and discipline.

During the semester, we hope that you will:

- Help the student form a strong topic with a set of provocative research questions, i.e. share your own steps in generating an idea, conducting research, developing an argument, using and documenting sources, and revising.
- Give insight into the process for conducting research in your field, i.e. standard reference works, bibliographies, major journals and web resources, key concepts and thinkers, methodologies.
- Meet with the student several times (perhaps bi-weekly) during the semester.
- Let International Studies know how we can assist you in working with our students: intlstudies@uiowa.edu.

Expectations of students:

- Approach you with a preliminary research topic identified.
- Present sound reasoning for requesting to work with you.
- Have a clear understanding of the Honors Thesis requirements and deadlines.
- Demonstrate an intellectual curiosity for their topic.
- Take the initiative in scheduling regular meetings with you throughout the semester, for which goals for each meeting are identified.
- Be prepared for each meeting with you.