

International Studies Class of 2023

SENIOR CAPSTONE

The Senior Capstone in International Studies is the culmination of your major. It should demonstrate your ability to research and analyze an important issue in ways that:

- Reflect your training in one of the thematic tracks
- Utilize insights from more than one discipline
- Employ relevant evidence and examples from the primary geographic focus of your studies
- Use comparison — across time, across regions, across countries, across cultures — to situate that issue and your primary geographic area within a broader context.

A successful Senior Capstone is an independent research paper of **no less than 20 and no more than 25 pages in length** written in consultation with one or more faculty members. **Quantity does not equal quality. If you are running over the allotted pages, it is time to start editing!** You are also strongly encouraged to use sources in the language(s) that you have studied, although we do understand that the difficulty of some languages, like Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic, can make that very challenging.

The Senior Capstone is due at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

By that deadline, you must have sent to the International Studies Program's Administrative Assistant **PDF copies** of the following two items:

- **Your Senior Capstone, including a preface of 2-3 pages (NOT counted in the page total) that explains how the project draws on ideas and coursework from your thematic track, off campus study, and knowledge of a foreign language. The preface should also mention any faculty with whom you consulted for the project.**
- **A completed checklist of your track within International Studies, clearly documenting that you have completed all of the required coursework for the major.**

In writing your Senior Capstone, you should:

Consult with any International Studies faculty early and often.

- Try to use sources in the languages that you studied.
- Properly cite any and all work that is not your own – such as ideas, data, information, quotations, *and* paraphrasing – using a consistent format currently used in professional scholarship. Style manuals, such as Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, are available at both the Reference Desk and the Writing Center in the Kenyon library. Please note that only references to unpublished on-line materials must include an access date and URL.
- Include a full, and alphabetized, bibliography of works you have consulted.
- Include a table of contents for, and sections in, your paper to help your readers navigate it.

Two readers chosen from among the International Studies faculty will read your project. They may or may not be those with whom you have consulted. In evaluating your Senior Capstone, the readers will consider how well it has achieved the goals highlighted in the first paragraph of this instruction sheet as well as these other qualities (**below is a copy of the rubric your readers will use to evaluate your paper**):

RUBRIC

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| Content and Scope | Places topic in a broader comparative or global perspective |
| | Draws on or integrates insights, experiences or research from study abroad |
| | Demonstrates knowledge of a geographic region's culture, history and society |
| | Incorporates ideas, information or perspectives derived through knowledge of a foreign language |
| Analysis and Argument | Displays mastery of appropriate concepts, tools and methodologies from the student's thematic track |
| | Uses multiple academic disciplines to analyze international connections and processes |
| | Logical approach to topic that acknowledges its complexity and/or ambiguity |
| | Main ideas are well-defined and developed with depth and thoroughness |
| | Evidence is germane, critically evaluated and convincingly interpreted |
| | Conclusions follow from careful analysis and sound reasoning |
| Research, Writing, and Organization | Number and types of sources thoroughly address topic |
| | Source material is thoughtfully and smoothly integrated |
| | Uses standard documentation and citation procedures in text and bibliography |
| | Uses standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar |
| | Thoughtful, clear word choice and concise sentences |
| | Introduction engages reader as it develops focus and purpose |
| | Logical, coherent sequence of paragraphs, with clear analytical development and fluid transitions between ideas |
| | Conclusion sums up main ideas, points to larger implications, and places ideas in a broader context |
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You can expect faculty to complete our evaluations of the Senior Capstones by the end of March, and once we have received all of them, we will inform you of the results by email.

The notifications will be sent out at the same time, after all of the evaluations have been completed. The only exception will be for any senior whose Capstone requires further work to achieve a passing grade, in which case we will notify them as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Program Director if you have any questions or concerns. And yes, sooner IS better!! Work hard, good luck, and focus on the Light at the End of the Tunnel!!