Syllabus for INTS 499
International Studies Senior Assignment
International Studies Program
Fall Semesters
Individualized Learning

About the Instructor of Record

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Welcome

As your instructor of record, I hope that you learn, collaborate with a faculty mentor, share ideas, and have fun during this senior assignment experience. I will support your faculty mentor in providing effective guidance throughout the process of devising your research or applicative project. As a student, we expect you to complete all stages and requirements of your senior project in International Studies and thus become ready for professional life. Once again, welcome on board!

Bio

Hello everyone! To learn about my qualifications and approach, you can read my professional bio below:

I am the Director of the International Studies Program as well as an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Communication Studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. I earned a Ph.D. in Communication and Public Discourse from the University of North Dakota in 2010. I am originally from Romania in Eastern Europe, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Languages and Literatures and Master's degrees in American Cultural Studies, International Relations, and Public Relations, and I worked as an international relations counselor for the Ministry of Culture and a public relations counselor for the Ministry of Education. At SIUE, I teach undergraduate and graduate courses related to public relations, persuasion, visual communication, and intercultural communication. My research interests include international public relations, crisis communication, nonprofit public relations, and public portrayals of underprivileged groups. I currently serve as the Internship Director for the Department of Applied Communication Studies.

Teaching Philosophy

Throughout my administrative and academic career, I have been involved in situations requiring critical thinking as well as creative approaches, and taking initiative as well as working collaboratively. These are principles I am trying to pass on to my students. I encourage my students to use their energies for identifying effective and fair solutions to the problems of today's world, and for contributing to the production and promotion of civic dialogues between and among people from different walks of life and diverse parts of the globe.

Communicating with the Instructor of Record and Your Faculty Mentor

The prevalent ways in which you will receive communication about the senior assignment are via Blackboard and the SIUE email. I and your faculty mentor will be happy to schedule in-person or Zoom meetings with you to provide any clarifications and advice about the senior assignment experience.

About INTS 499

Catalog Description
Independent research project in an area of international studies that integrated linkages between areas of concentration and disciplinary foci of study. Requires final presentation.

Course Description
This course INTS 499 International Studies Senior Assignment is designed to provide a capstone experience or conclusion to the International Studies major. Its objective is to provide an opportunity to conduct independent research or application on an International Studies thematic area and a regional area selected by the student, so that she or he integrates the linkages between disciplinary and interdisciplinary topics in the student's specific concentration within the major. Students are also strongly encouraged to include aspects of their study abroad and/or international internship experiences into their senior assignment project.

The International Studies major draws on almost every department in the College of Arts and Sciences to provide students with an understanding of the international arena. Because of the vastness of international topics, students are encouraged to focus in their senior assignment on both a thematic and a regional area of study. In the senior year, students create a capstone project that integrates these areas of study. For example, a student examining the theme Human Rights and Social Movements and the region Latin America might combine the two to focus on the issue of street children in Brazil.

The International Studies Senior Assignment can be an independent research project or applied project in an area of international studies, under the direction of a selected faculty mentor or supervisor. The student should select a mentor or supervisor from among the faculty members who taught courses included in the student's program of study, seek approval from the International Studies Program Director in regards to the selection, and seek approval for mentoring or supervision from this faculty member. The International Studies Program Director is also available to serve as a mentor for students or to help students identify appropriate senior assignment faculty mentors.

Prerequisite Knowledge
INTS 200 with a minimum grade of C

You might also apply in INTS 499 concepts and theories that are learned in the core courses and elective courses you have pursued as part of the International Studies major.

Course Objectives
By the end of the semester, the student will:
- understand, implement, and appreciate the steps required in completing a research or application exercise
- identify, produce, and disseminate deliverables appropriate for a research or application project (for example: writing and presenting a research paper; planning, implementing, and presenting outcomes of a developmental campaign; creating and showcasing a documentary film, live performance, photography exhibit, or art display; creating a historical interactive narrative or a geographic mapping project)
- engage in exploration of concepts learned throughout the International Studies major
- engage in critical, in-depth analysis of International Studies topics
- demonstrate understanding of global affairs and region-specific problems and issues
- improve analytical, professional writing, and public speaking skills
- present project results, manifesting both confidence and knowledge of the chosen area of concentration in international studies

Course Materials
Students enrolled in INTS 499 will identify appropriate materials for their senior assignment project with the aid of their faculty mentors. The Program Director is also available to provide suggestions for resources to consult.

Technology Privacy Information
We will be using Blackboard in this course. View the [Anthology Blackboard Privacy Statement](#) to review how your data is being used and stored.

Course Requirements and Policies

Course Activities/Assessments

General Guidelines for the Senior Assignment Project

A research project culminates in a paper that is 20-25 pages long, accompanied by a visual presentation of 20-25 slides. An application project should document an equivalent effort and include, in addition to the application (campaign, documentary film, live performance, photography exhibit, art display, historical interactive narrative, geographic mapping project, etc.), a 2-5 page reflection paper as well as a 20-25 slide visual presentation.

The project will also be scheduled to be presented to the campus community and the public at large, an evaluation of which will also be a part of the final grade.

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 capstone students work independently outside of scheduled class meetings and consult with the faculty mentor throughout this process (at least four times during the semester, in person or through online means), so they should plan their time accordingly.

Responsibilities of the Student
- The student secures a faculty mentor approved by the program director.
- The student provides a topic statement that integrates the thematic and regional areas, and has a reasonable motivation.
- The student attends at least four meetings with the faculty mentor, being prepared and providing the mentor a reasonable amount of time to review materials before meeting.
- The student makes arrangements with the faculty mentor to review project resources, project deliverables, and presentation materials, at times convenient to the mentor, but within the confines of the course deadlines.
- The student collaborates with the program director to schedule the presentation and publicize it to the campus community and public at large Failure to hold a public presentation will result in a 1/3 grade reduction.

Responsibilities of the Faculty Mentor
- Mentors provide guidance to students. However, as mentors meet with students approximately four times a semester, faculty mentor effort is not the same as for a regular course. Grades are assigned by course instructor (program director).
- The mentor has expertise related to the student's proposed thesis topic.
- The mentor meets with the student at least four times during the semester.
- At meetings, the mentor reviews initially the student's topic statement, and subsequently project resources, project deliverables, and presentation materials.
- The mentor offers suggestions for improvement of the project throughout the semester.

Specific Guidelines per Project Type

Research Project

In case a student chooses to pursue a research project, an appropriate research topic and research method need to be selected prior to collecting research data and reporting research results.

Sample research project ideas include:
- Fair Trade: A Vehicle for Economic, Social, and Environmental Change
- The Emphasis on Culture in French Cinematography
- The Sounds of Gaita: A Call Toward Nationalism and Celtic Identity in Galicia
- A Case Study of the Artisans of the Barefoot College Rajasthan, India
- Structural Adjustment Programs and Rural Livelihoods in Global Senegal

The specification of the research method needs to be included in the final deliverable. Students may pursue as research methods:
- Case studies
- Historical analyses

- Content analyses of documents (literature, photography, film, media, social media posts)
- Fieldwork or participant observation
- Collection and examination of survey data
- Collection and examination of interviewing data
- Collection and examination of focus group data

A senior assignment research paper shall conform to the following criteria:

Mechanics:
- Typed
- Printed on one side of the page
- Stapled
- 10-12 point font size
- Pages numbered
- 1 inch margins
- Cover page including:
  student name and program affiliation;
  paper title;
  course number and title;
  faculty mentor name, title, and department affiliation;
  date
- An abstract of 75-100 words and an acknowledgments section, together on one page
- 20-25 full pages, double-spaced (excluding cover page & bibliography)
- References cited section or bibliography. All source materials referenced in your paper must be properly cited, using the referencing style appropriate to your faculty mentor's discipline. Please consult faculty mentor for the appropriate style guide.
- Print out your paper and proofread it. Correct any mistakes you find and print out a new version for submission.

Guidelines for organizing the research paper:
For majors working with faculty from social sciences and humanities disciplines, the research paper may include the following sections (or you may use your own, unique sub-heading titles):

Introduction: Tells the reader what the topic of your paper is, and may include a brief statement of why you chose that particular topic (your personal interest in it) Consult your faculty mentor on whether or not the use of "I" is acceptable.

Background/ Literature Review: Summarize the context and academic literature engaged by your research topic. Emphasize the relationship between context, academic literature, and your paper topic. Convey a clear understanding of the "who, what, where, when, and how" of the reading materials.

Method: Inform the reader about the methodology used to collect data. If your research is based on secondary sources, discuss the means by which they were collected, their reliability, and their representativeness. If you are using primary data, specify your method. For example, if you conducted interviews, describe the characteristics of your subjects and the scope of the study (how many people were interviewed, when and where you interviewed them, what their demographic characteristics were, why you selected them for the study). Additionally, give a sample of the questions you asked.

Findings: Present your research data and the meaning of the collected data, for example a detailed discussion of the content of your interviews.
Analysis: Compare and contrast the findings from your research with those you learned from your library research, drawing conclusions about the most significant similarities and differences that you find.

Conclusions: Succinctly summarize what you have done, while simultaneously bringing out the most original, interesting or intriguing aspects of what you learned. Your conclusion should not include new data. Also, consider suggesting future directions in which you might continue researching this topic.

Prepare an oral presentation for your paper, which will be delivered to a larger campus and broader community audience. In this presentation, make sure that you adequately address all sections of the research paper, with a stronger emphasis on the original findings of your research. time for questions and answers at the end of your presentation.

Grading standards:
- Not submitting your required components, research paper, and set of slides on time will cause point reductions.
- Inadequate research paper length and formatting will cause point reductions.
- You will be graded on grammar, spelling, and English mechanics. If you are uncertain about these, use the Writing Center's assistance.
- You will be graded on integration of thematic and regional areas of study in your paper. Consult with your faculty mentor and the program director to ensure appropriate international studies and global issues content.

Application Project

A student who chooses to pursue an application project as the capstone experience must first secure a commitment from a faculty members who has the expertise to guide the student through the progression of this final cumulative experience. Since an applied project requires a specific set of knowledge and skills in order to execute it at the necessary level of production and expression (e.g. campaign organizing; filming; performance, photography, or art display creation; historical interactive narrative or geographic mapping project configuration), it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that she or he is capable to carry out the project independently with the proper guidance of a faculty member.

The project should result in a final product that is in a deliverable format (for example: campaign report including documentation of activities, materials, evaluation; documentary film, live performance, photography exhibit, or art display; historical interactive narrative or geographic mapping project). The project should also result in a 2-5 page reflection paper and a 20-25 slide visual presentation. An oral presentation for your project will be delivered to a larger campus and broader community audience.

Grading standards:
- Not submitting your required components, project deliverables, reflection paper, and set of slides on time will cause point reductions.
- Your deliverables, reflection paper, and slide should document effort equivalent with that needed for a research project and knowledge and skills proficiency
- You will be graded on integration of a thematic and a regional area of study in your project. Consult with your faculty mentor and the program director to ensure appropriate international studies and global issues content.

Submitting Work

In INTS 499, students are responsible for completing assignments individually and submitting them electronically on the Blackboard course shell, as detailed under Course Activities/Assessments and in the course schedule**. *When submitting an assignment, it is the duty of the individual student to review what has been submitted by reading the post and making sure any attachments to the post can be opened.***

Deadlines and Late Work

Students are responsible for completing assignments in due time and submitting them electronically to the Blackboard course shell. Late submission will only be accepted if prior arrangements are made by the team with the faculty mentor. Late work for which arrangements have not been made in advance will receive a grade of zero.

Feedback and Grading Timeline

Assignment guidelines and grading procedures are available in the syllabus and on Blackboard. You will receive feedback on project components submitted from your faculty mentor within a week from submission. Project grades will be posted on Blackboard. You can find a grade by clicking the My Grades link on the left menu of the Blackboard course.

Grading Scale

A (90-100%) indicates superior work
B (80-89%) indicates good work
C (70-79%) indicates satisfactory work
D (60-69%) indicates passing but marginal work
F (59% and under) indicates unsatisfactory work and results in failing the course

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

Cheating is any action that violates college norms or an instructor's guidelines for the preparation and submission of assignments. Plagiarism involves using ideas, words, or graphics of others without identifying the source of those materials.

Proper documentation requires citation in the as well as in a bibliography including any texts and visuals, both from traditional sources and online sources, which you have consulted. Having other people do your assignments also constitutes cheating.

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic and professional offenses. In conformity with SIUE's Rules of Student Conduct, any form of plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the university, per the [SIUE academic dishonesty policy](#). Students are responsible for complying with university policies about academic honesty as stated in the [University's Student Academic Conduct Code](#).

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the [Student Academic Code (3C2)](#) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the university, regardless of modality or location.

Turnitin

This course will utilize the Turnitin plagiarism detection software. A Turnitin link will be available anywhere written work is to be submitted in the course. [Find out more about using Turnitin](#). Visit the [Turnitin Services Privacy Policy](#) for additional information on their privacy policy.

The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Unless expressly allowed by the instructor, the use of artificial intelligence tools and applications (including ChatGPT, DALL-E, and others) to produce content for course assignments and assessments is a violation of SIUE's academic policy and is prohibited.

Class Behavior

- **Sign your name.** Take responsibility for your comments in order to build a strong classroom community.
- **Reflect** before you post a material and reread what you have written to be sure it is professional.
- **Communicate** effectively**.**
  - Communicate with particular peers, the class as a whole, and your instructor as if your comments are provided as memos in organizational settings or printed in a newspaper.
  - Do not provide emotional responses if any crisis situation occurs.
  - Do not use all caps or multiple punctuation marks (!!!, ???, etc.).
  - Be sure to define or explain acronyms, jargon, or uncommon terms so everyone can understand and participate in the discussion.
- **Foster community.** Share your ideas and contribute to ongoing discussions. Make comments that add to, not detract from, a positive learning environment for the course.
- **Be constructive.** Challenge ideas, but do so in positive ways. It's fine to disagree, but when done politely you stimulate helpful discussion and you maintain positive relationships with fellow students.

Participation

Active participation is essential for this course. This includes completing all senior assignment requirements, posting your assignments through the Blackboard platform, and presenting your work. Your success in this course will depend on your communication, consistent engagement, and active participation in all course activities. Success in this course requires that you adhere to the deadlines as you complete course activities.

Course Evaluation

Near the end of the course, you will be asked to complete a course evaluation questionnaire inviting your opinions about the course. Your honest and constructive feedback is valued by the Department of the International Studies program and its affiliated faculty. The course evaluation questionnaire will be administered in such a way as to ensure your confidentiality. The instructor or record and faculty mentor will not have access to the summary of the information on the student evaluations until after grades have been turned in. Aggregate data from the course evaluations will be utilized for making any improvements needed to future iterations of the course.

Technology Requirements and Policies

PC or Apple Computer
1.2 GHz or greater, 1 GB RAM or greater
Intel Pentium, Celeron, or Centrino
Windows 8 or 10
Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint (or their Google Workspace equivalents)
Media player such as QuickTime or Windows Media Player
Java plugin (free)
Internet browsers (Apple Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox). Review Blackboard's Browser Checker page to see if your browser and operating system are compatible with Blackboard.
DSL or Cable Internet connection or a connection speed no less than 6 Mbps.

Additional details on technological requirements for students can be found in this ITS Knowledge Base article.

Technology Capabilities and Writing Proficiency
INTS 499 course activities cannot be completed without regular access to an electronic device with reliable Internet access as well as to Blackboard and your SIUE email account.

Students enrolled in INTS 499 should be able to:
- Use a word processor, such as MS Word, to compose assignments and communicate with others in the class
- Attach files to emails or course areas
- Navigate websites and course materials
- Reach out to tech support staff when issues arise and troubleshoot to resolve problems

Additional guidance can be found on the Online at SIUE site.

The International Studies program also regards computer skills and writing proficiency as essential to the satisfactory completion of its courses at the undergraduate level. Thus, for each course assignment you will be assessed and graded not only on knowledge and content but also on text layout, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation as well as on graphic design capabilities and visual appeal of materials when such aspects are relevant. Please edit all materials carefully. Please keep copies of all documents you produce for this class.

Technical Support
Contact ITS at 618-650-5500 or at help@siue.edu with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the ITS System Status page, or search the ITS KnowledgeBase for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

University Policies and Information
University policies and guidance that address teaching, learning, and student support services are available at: https://kb.siue.edu/132378. Students are encouraged to visit this resource site for current information on:
- Regular and Substantive Interaction
- Recordings of Class Content
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Pregnancy and Newly Parenting Policy
- Services for Students Needing Accommodations (ACCESS)
- Academic and Other Student Services (Library, Academic Success, Tutoring, etc.)
- Cougar Care
- Student Success Coaches

Subject to Change Notice
All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK / DATE (LEARNING MODULE)	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNMENTS DUE (ON BLACKBOARD, DEADLINES INDICATED BELOW)
Week 1 **Week 2**	Familiarize yourself with Course Syllabus, Blackboard Site **Select faculty mentor and project topic** **Select project title and create project timeline**	By the end of the day on **Friday of week 1**, please upload on the designated thread on Blackboard, as well as email the program director and your faculty mentor, a document containing information about the following: - who is your faculty mentor (who has been identified by you and has agreed to mentor you) - if it is a research project or an application project - specific title and format of project - timeline, per week, for project development (a sample timeline is available on Blackboard)
Week 3 **Week 4** **Week 5**	**Work on project abstract** **Work on project bibliography** **(identify and review sources,** **create and format bibliography)**	By the end of the day on **Friday of week 5**, please upload on the designated thread on Blackboard, as well as email the program director and your faculty mentor, the following: If pursuing a **research project**: - An abstract of 75-100 words of your project - A bibliography of at least 10 sources that will be utilized in the project (all source materials must be properly cited, using the referencing style appropriate to your faculty mentor's discipline - e.g. APA, MLA, Chicago style, etc. Please consult faculty mentor for the appropriate style guide.) If pursuing an **application project**: - A 75-100 words description of expected project deliverables - A bibliography of at least 10 sources relevant for the project - e.g. organizations to be included in a resource book, or models of materials for a campaign/performance/display, etc. (All source materials must be properly cited, using the referencing style appropriate to your faculty mentor's discipline - e.g. APA, MLA, Chicago style, etc. Please consult faculty mentor for the appropriate style guide.)
Week 6 **Week 7** **Week 8** **Week 9**	**Work on project outline** **Pursue either research data collection** **or application activities** **Continue work on project bibliography** **(identify and review sources,** **add to bibliography)**	By the end of the day on **Friday of week 9**, please upload on the designated thread on Blackboard, as well as email the program director and your faculty mentor, the following: If pursuing a **research project**: - An outline of the research paper, providing an overview of each required section (see page 4 in the syllabus) If pursuing an **application project**: - An outline of the applied project, providing an overview of each activity and/or materials to be included (see page 5 in the syllabus)

Week 10	**Continue pursuit of either research data collection or application activities**	By the end of the day on **Friday of week 13**, please upload on the designated thread on Blackboard, as well as email the program director and your faculty mentor, the following: If pursuing a **research project**: - First draft of project paper and slide presentation If pursuing an **application project**: - First draft of project deliverable and slide presentation
Week 11	**Work on first draft of the project materials (research paper or application deliverables + slide presentation)**	
Week 12		
Week 13		
Week 14	**Integrating feedback and work on second draft**	
NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1: THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)		
Week 15	**Project presentations**	Presentation to the International Studies Program and SIUE community
Week 16	**Provide final draft of the project materials (research paper or application deliverables + slide presentation)**	By the end of the day on **Wednesday of week 16**, please upload on the designated thread on Blackboard, as well as email the program director and your faculty mentor, the following: If pursuing a **research project**: - Final draft of project paper and slide presentation If pursuing an **application project**: - Final draft of project deliverable and presentation; reflection paper