Honors in International Relations
2016-17 Guidelines and Policies

Prerequisites:
- Minimum 3.5 overall grade point average
- Good Academic Standing
- Successful experience writing a research paper
- A faculty advisor approved honors thesis proposal and approval from the IR Program

Grading:
- You must receive at least a “B+” in your honors work to graduate with honors.
- You will receive an “N” grade for INTNLREL 198 (Honors) in the fall and winter quarters of your senior year until your final letter grades are assigned at the end of spring quarter.

Units:
- Over the fall, winter, and spring quarters, you should anticipate enrolling in a total of 8-15 units of honors work (INTNLREL 198). Enrollment in units will be monitored. INTNLREL 200A, 200B, and 200C do not count within the 8-15 units.
- Students who have completed their undergraduate degree requirements may register as Permit for Services Only (PSO) in the spring quarter while completing their thesis (please note however that international students cannot register for PSO status).

Advisors:
- Your Thesis Advisor must be a Stanford Academic Council faculty member. (The IR office can confirm Academic Council status for you.)
- Your Thesis Advisor is responsible for assigning your grade for honors.
- You are encouraged to choose a secondary reader, among any faculty member at Stanford, if their expertise would be beneficial in conducting your thesis research.

Required Courses:
- The spring quarter of 2016 IR Honors Field Research course (INTNLREL 200A) is mandatory for all IR Honors students and should be taken in the junior year. The course is letter-graded.
- In their senior year, all Honors students should enroll in the fall quarter course (INTNLREL 200B), which will focus on the analysis of research findings and initial steps in writing the thesis. At the end of the quarter, students should expect to have two chapters of their thesis submitted in draft form. All honors students will also enroll in a winter quarter one-credit course (INTNLREL 200C), in which students continue to present their research, as well as give and receive feedback on each other’s research.
- All honors students are required to participate in the Honors Conference in the spring quarter of their senior year. You must present your thesis and attend the conference. Dates TBA (usually in mid-May).

Other Policies:
- There is not a fixed length for your honors thesis. Most honors theses in International Relations are between 70-100 pages, plus notes and bibliography.
- If you are conducting interviews or surveys in your research, you must contact the Human Subjects Protocol Panel for appropriate protocol at http://humansubjects.stanford.edu.
Recommended Timeline

JUNIOR YEAR

- Enroll in a course dealing with the subject you wish to pursue in your honors work. Take a writing seminar to help develop research and writing skills.
- Define a viable thesis topic and consult with possible faculty members who can serve as your thesis advisor. Before the end of the academic year, develop a work plan with your advisor.
- Contact UAR during the beginning of Winter Quarter if you wish to apply for a grant to conduct research during the summer.
- If you are conducting interviews or surveys in your research, you must contact the Human Subjects Protocol Panel for appropriate protocol at http://humansubjects.stanford.edu.
- Attend the IR Honors information meeting in February.
- Submit your IR Honors Thesis Proposal application by the deadline – March 1, 2016.

Summer

- Sharpen your proposal and start your research. The more research you do over the summer, the more you can concentrate on writing once you get back to campus.
- Consider attending Honors College, which gives honors students the opportunity to focus on their theses as well as work with faculty advisors for three weeks in September before the start of senior year.

SENIOR YEAR

Autumn Quarter

- All Honors students should enroll in the fall quarter course (INTNLREL 200B), which will focus on the analysis of research findings and initial steps in writing the thesis. At the end of the quarter, students should expect to have two chapters of their thesis submitted in draft form.
- Enroll in INTNLREL 198 (IR Honors Thesis) with your Thesis Advisor. You should enroll in no more than 5 thesis related units per quarter.
- Establish timeline for draft completion and/or progress check-points in consultation with your advisor.

Winter Quarter

- Enroll in INTNLREL 198 (IR Honors Thesis) with your Thesis Advisor for 2-5 units. Continue to meet with your Faculty Advisor as agreed.
- All Honors students should enroll in the 1 unit Winter quarter course (INTNLREL 200C), in which students continue to present their research, as well as give and receive feedback on each other’s research.

Spring Quarter

- Enroll in INTNLREL 198 (IR Honors Thesis) with your Thesis Advisor for 2-5 units. You should plan to submit a first draft of your complete thesis by the third week of the quarter so that comments and revisions can be made. The draft should be submitted to your secondary advisor if you have one.
- Prepare your honors thesis presentation and attend the honors conference (in May).
- Submit one copy of your thesis to your advisor and two bound copies to the IR Program Office by the announced due-date. If you want to be considered for a thesis award, you
should submit your completed thesis to your advisor in advance. Due-dates to be announced (usually mid-May to be considered for awards and early June for final deadline).