Honors in International Relations
2020-2021 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 by the end of spring quarter junior year
- Approval from the IR Program

Grading:
- You must receive at least a “B+” in your honors work (INTNLREL 198) to graduate with honors.
- You will receive an “N” grade for INTNLREL 198 in the fall and winter quarters 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.
- The 15-22 total honors units are taken above and beyond IR major requirements, with the exception of 200B, which may count for WiM, if a WiM requirement has yet to be taken.
- Seniors who have completed all of their undergraduate degree requirements may register as Permit for Services Only (PSO) in the spring quarter of their senior year while completing their thesis (please note however that international students can not 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.

Tracks:
- IR Honors Track – incorporates a multitude of topical areas

Required Courses:
- The spring quarter of your junior year you will take the IR Honors Field Research course (INTNLREL 200A), which is mandatory for all IR Honors students. This course is letter-graded.
- In your 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, you should expect to have 1-2 chapters of their thesis submitted in draft form.
- In your senior year, all Honors students should enroll in the winter quarter course (INTNLREL 200C), in which students continue to write their honors thesis and 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 your 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 (date TBA).
• Enroll in INTNLREL 200A (IR Honors Field Research) in the spring quarter.

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 participating in the Bing 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, you should expect to have two chapters of their thesis submitted in draft form.
• Enroll in INTNLREL 198 (IR Honors Thesis) with your Thesis Advisor for 2-5 units. 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 200C, a one-unit course in which you will continue to present your research, as well as give and receive feedback on each other’s research.
• Enroll in INTNLREL 198 (IR Honors Thesis) with your Thesis Advisor for 2-5 units. Continue to meet with your Faculty Advisor as agreed.

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 second 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.
• Make your honors thesis presentation and attend the honors conference in mid-May (date TBD).
• Submit one copy of your thesis to your advisor, one bound copy & one electronic copy to the IR Program Office and one electronic copies to Stanford libraries 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).