

# INTEGRATIVE SENIOR PROJECT PROPOSAL COURSE INTL 488

## I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Thomas Ambrosio  
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E-Mail: thomas.ambrosio@ndsu.edu  
Website: Blackboard  
Office Hours: TR 10:00-11:30 and by appointment  
Class Meeting Time: 4:00-5:00  
Class Meeting Place: CJPP 24  
Credits: 1

## II. DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity for students in the International Studies Major to develop their Integrative Senior Project in collaboration with their peers and NDSU faculty. Through the assignments in the course, students will identify a topic for their Integrative Senior Project, complete a preliminary literature review, develop an outline, and write the project's introduction.

This course will meet face-to-face intermittently throughout the semester. You will be expected to do most of the research for your proposal outside of class.

This is a one credit course and admission is by instructor's permission only.

## III. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity for students in the International Studies Major to develop their Integrative Senior Project in collaboration with their peers and NDSU faculty.

## IV. GOALS

- To provide you with the foundation to complete an integrative senior project for the International Studies Major.
- To improve your analytical, research, and writing skills.

## V. RECOMMENDED TEXTS

*Research Papers for Dummies* by Geraldine Woods.

## VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Brainstorming Exercise (5%): Pick 3-5 possible topics for your integrative senior project. Identify the topics and write a 1-2 sentence reason why each of these might be the best for you. Be prepared

to read your material to the class and get feedback.

**Topic Description (5%):** In order to complete this assignment, you will need to do some preliminary research on your potential topic(s). Narrow down your possible research topics to 1 or 2 and write a one (1) paragraph description for each of the possible research topics, identifying what the topic is, why it is important, what your thesis is going to be, what your hypotheses are, and how you are going to go about proving your thesis. This ‘paragraph’ might be quite long -- i.e., 5-10 sentences. Be prepared to read your material to the class and get feedback.

**Literature Review (20%):** In order to complete this assignment, you will have to perform some significant research on your topic. The assignment itself consists of an annotated bibliography of approximately 3-4 pages. An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that gives a summary of the research that has been done on a topic and includes a brief summary of each source. You will be provided with more information on how to complete this assignment in class.

**Proposal (30%):** This is the central assignment for the course and will consist of the submission of a formal research proposal for your integrative senior project. This proposal (approximately 5-7 pages) will include the following sections: Introduction, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Questions and/or Hypotheses, Significance of the Study, Brief Review of the Literature, Research Methods and Procedures, Limitations, Timeline for Completion, Preliminary Paper Outline. You will receive additional information on these steps in class. Proposals must be submitted to the class in pdf, Word, or rich-text format on the Friday prior to the due date to allow your peers to review the proposals. Be prepared to discuss the proposals in class and get feedback.

The proposal assignment will consist of two parts: a first draft and a revised draft. You will need to complete both to get credit.

**Introduction (20%):** You will write and submit the introduction to your senior thesis.

**Attendance (20%):** Attendance in this class is essential. You will be expected to provide your peers with progress on your proposal and provide them with feedback on theirs. This course will meet intermittently during the semester, so you can not afford to miss any days.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL RULES AND PROCEDURES**

**Philosophy of a Syllabus:** I consider the syllabus a contract between myself, as the teacher, and the students. Both sides will be required to live up to the syllabus -- in particular regarding participation, attendance, reading the assignments on the day they are due, and meeting deadlines. The latter is very important: check your schedules now in order to avoid any scheduling conflicts. In terms of reading assignments and lectures, because some topics may take more time than anticipated, the class and reading schedule may need to be revised!

**Syllabus Addendum:** For additional rules and procedures, see my standard ‘syllabi addendum’ on the course website <<http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/ambrosio/addendum.html>>. It covers the following topics:

- Academic Honesty
- Grading
- Class Attendance
- Rules for Late Assignments/Exams
- Contesting Grades

Students are responsible for the information contained on the addendum and it is required reading!  
If you would like a 'hardcopy', please see me.

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	90-100	A	Excellent
	80-89	B	Good
	70-79	C	Average
	60-69	D	Acceptable/Poor
	>60	F	Failure

Supplements: From time to time, supplemental materials will be placed on the course website (under the heading 'supplements'). It is the responsibility of all students to print out this materials. Your professor will likely use them as an overhead, but will not bring any additional copies to class.

Academic Honesty: All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (<http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>).

ADA Statement: Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

Cell Phones: Recently, there has been an epidemic of cell phones ringing during class. This is not only distracting, but extremely rude and disrupting to the class -- and it is a violation of NDSU's Code of Student Behavior #4.10.1. Make sure that your cell phones are off before class begins. If your cell phone goes off during class or you answer your phone, you will be required to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Exceptions to this rule can be made with instructor's prior permission (e.g., one's spouse is having a baby, volunteer EMT or fire service, etc.).

Incomplete Grades: NDSU has begun cracking down on incomplete grades and, as a result, they are much harder to receive. Make sure you read Section 336 of the NDSU policy manual on 'Examinations and Grading'. Here is an excerpt: "The grade of Incomplete is assigned to indicate that satisfactory work has been completed up to within five weeks of the semester end, and that circumstances beyond the student's control prevented completion of the work. ... The grade of Incomplete is not to be given in any instance where the student has a deficiency of more than five weeks of work including final exam week."

## VIII. CLASS SCHEDULE

The *Research Papers for Dummies* book is to serve as a reference guide as you complete your proposal. Suggested readings from this book will be identified throughout the semester. **Please Note:** Unlike 'normal' syllabi, in which the readings are due on the day listed, this syllabus will suggest readings which will help you with completing the assignments that are due on specific days - you should read before completing your assignment.

**16 January**

**Introduction to the Course**

Hand Out Syllabus

Discussion of Paper Topics

**23 January**

**Brainstorming**

Brainstorming Exercise Assignment **Due**

*Research Papers for Dummies*, chapters 1-2.

**30 January**

**Topic Description**

Topic Description Assignment **Due**

*Research Papers for Dummies*, chapter 3.

**13 February**

Literature Review

Literature Review Half-Way Update

**27 February**

**Literature Review**

Literature Review Assignment Due

*Research Papers for Dummies*, chapter 4-7.

[Chapter 7 may not be applicable to your project -- feel free to skip it.]

**19 March**

**The Proposal: First Draft**

*Research Papers for Dummies*, chapters 11-14.

Proposal: First Draft **Due**

**2 April**

**The Proposal: Second Draft**

Proposal: Second Draft **Due**

**16 April**

**The Proposal (Revised)**

In-Class Proposal Workshop

**23 April**

**The Introduction**

*Research Papers for Dummies*, chapter 15.

**30 April**

**The Introduction**

In-Class Introduction Workshop

Introduction **Due**