

Department of International Studies Guidelines for Departmental Honors

Honors Courses and General Honors¹

The Department of International Studies participates in the University of Miami's Honors Program and each semester offers courses for Honors credit. These Honors courses, which may be taken by all students who are enrolled in the Honors Program, count toward the fulfillment of the requirements for graduation with "General Honors." Honors students may also, with the permission of departmental faculty, transform a regular course into an Honors course by doing specified additional work. This additional work is specified on a so-called "pink sheet" that must be signed by the faculty member and submitted to the Honors Program Office by the student before the specified deadline. For more precise information on the requirements for graduating with "General Honors" and on the regulations regarding "pink sheets," please contact the Honors Program Office.

Departmental Honors in International Studies

The Department of International Studies encourages its majors and minors to intensify and deepen their knowledge of the field through its departmental honors program. The program is designed to give students the opportunity to explore various topics and problems in international studies that are of particular interest to them, to work more closely with departmental faculty, to develop skills in research and thesis preparation, and in some cases to prepare for graduate work in international studies and related fields.

Minimal requirements for the program are as follows:

- 1) a cumulative grade point average² of at least 3.30;
- 2) a cumulative grade point average in international studies of at least 3.50; and
- 3) a thesis that is approved, with a grade of at least B+, by a member of the departmental faculty.

After reaching agreement with a member of the faculty who will serve as the honors thesis advisor and obtaining the written approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, students writing a senior honors thesis will enroll in INS 418 and 419, Honors Thesis, for a total of six credits [the credits may be spread over two semesters or taken in a single semester]. The thesis itself is expected to be an extended, coherent work of scholarship on an issue of relevance in the field of international studies.

¹ Students should consult with the University's Honors Program Office for detailed information concerning university-wide honors programs and for graduation with Latin honors. Effective academic year 2009-10 no thesis will be required for graduation summa cum laude or magna cum laude.

² For the determination of honors, cumulative grade point average means either the average of all grades earned at the University of Miami or the combined average of all graded work taken at the University of Miami and elsewhere (whether or not the transfer work is accepted toward a degree at the University of Miami), whichever is lower.