

## **Thesis Guidelines for International Relations**

The International Relations Thesis (IRL 6900) requires a semester of independent work under the guidance of a Faculty Mentor, which culminates in the completion of a written thesis.

This thesis will consist of a research paper of at least twenty pages in length, not including bibliography, appendices, etc. It must focus on an international topic, and be clearly related to the field of International Relations. Every International Relations thesis must be approved by a Faculty Mentor and the International Relations Program Director, and must include research, discussion, as well as the documentation of the sources used.

The thesis allows students to return to a topic or issue they pursued in one of their classes, or to develop an entirely new one. In either case, the thesis provides students with the opportunity to focus on a specific research question or in a rigorous and interested manner under the guidance of an expert faculty member.

Ultimately, the thesis has to demonstrate careful reading and research. In addition, it has to identify an important research question involving an international issue, and it should offer a thoughtful, well-organized, and clearly written treatment of the research problem in question.