

SENIOR CAPSTONE

The Senior Capstone in International Studies is the culmination of your major. It should demonstrate your ability to research and analyze an important issue in ways that:

- Reflect your training in one of the thematic tracks
- Utilize insights from more than one discipline
- Employ relevant evidence and examples from the primary geographic focus of your studies
- Use comparison — across time, across regions, across countries, across cultures — to situate that issue and your primary geographic area within a broader context

This year, a successful Senior Capstone will be an independent research paper of no less than 10 and no more than 15 pages in length written in consultation with one or more faculty members. **Quantity does not equal quality. If you are running over 15 pages, it is time to start editing!** You are also strongly encouraged to use sources in the language(s) that you have studied, although we do understand that the difficulty of some languages, like Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic, can make that very challenging.

The Senior Capstone is due at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

By that deadline, you must have sent to the International Studies Department's Administrative Assistant (Mo Helser – email: helser1@kenyon.edu) **PDF copies** of the following two items:

- **Your Senior Capstone, including a preface of 2-3 pages (NOT counted in the page total) that explains how the project draws on ideas and coursework from your thematic track, off-campus study, and knowledge of a foreign language. The preface should also mention any faculty with whom you consulted for the project.**
- **A completed checklist of your track within International Studies, clearly documenting that you have completed all of the required coursework for the major.**

In writing your Senior Capstone, you should:

Consult with any International Studies faculty early and often.

- Try to use sources in the languages that you studied.
- Properly cite any and all work that is not your own – such as ideas, data, information, quotations, *and* paraphrasing – using a consistent format currently used in professional scholarship. Style manuals, such as Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers*, are available at both the Reference Desk and the Writing Center in the Kenyon library. Please note that only references to unpublished on-line materials must include an access date and URL.
- Include a full, and alphabetized, bibliography of works you have consulted.
- Include a table of contents for, and sections in, your paper to help your readers navigate it.

Two readers chosen from among the International Studies faculty will read your project. They may or may not be those with whom you have consulted. In evaluating your Senior Capstone, the readers will consider how well it has achieved the goals highlighted in the first paragraph of this instruction sheet as well as these other qualities (**below is a copy of the rubric your readers will use to evaluate your paper**):

Content and Scope	Places topic in a broader comparative or global perspective
	Draws on or integrates insights, experiences or research from study abroad
	Demonstrates knowledge of a geographic region's culture, history and society
	Incorporates ideas, information or perspectives derived through knowledge of a foreign language
Analysis and Argument	Displays mastery of appropriate concepts, tools and methodologies from the student's thematic track
	Uses multiple academic disciplines to analyze international connections and processes
	Logical approach to topic that acknowledges its complexity and/or ambiguity
	Main ideas are well-defined and developed with depth and thoroughness
	Evidence is germane, critically evaluated and convincingly interpreted
	Conclusions follow from careful analysis and sound reasoning
Research, Writing and Organization	Number and types of sources thoroughly address topic
	Source material is thoughtfully and smoothly integrated
	Uses standard documentation and citation procedures in text and bibliography
	Uses standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar
	Thoughtful, clear word choice and concise sentences
	Introduction engages reader as it develops focus and purpose
	Logical, coherent sequence of paragraphs, with clear analytical development and fluid transitions between ideas
	Conclusion sums up main ideas, points to larger implications, and places ideas in a broader context

You can expect faculty to complete our evaluations of the Senior Capstones by the end of April, and once I have received all of them, we will inform you of the results by email.

The notifications will be sent out at the same time, after all of the evaluations have been completed. The only exception will be for any senior whose Capstone requires further work to achieve a passing grade, in which case we will notify them as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. And yes, sooner IS better!! Work hard, good luck, and focus on the Light at the End of the Tunnel!!

Suggested Senior Capstone Timeline, 2021

- Jan. 31, 7:00pm Seniors meeting to go over expectations (this meeting is mandatory, not suggested).
- February 1-2 **Bring written descriptions of three potential topics** to the first class session of your Senior Seminar. One paragraph for each topic will suffice.
- February 8 **Have completed at least two substantive meetings with (non-Sen Sem) profs**, getting help with topic(s), issues to explore, suggested readings, etc.
- February 15 **Start researching your topic in earnest**, if you haven't already done so. And start writing down your ideas on paper – DON'T just read and read and read (we call that *Grad Studentitis*, and it is terminal)
- February 22 **Start writing in earnest**, so that you know what you know, what you don't, and what you need to find out.
- March 1 **Complete first draft.**
- March 8 **Final visits with profs.** Use these visits to better flesh out your ideas, situate them in larger theoretical and/or geographical contexts, etc.
- March 15 **Write second draft, including the autobiographical preface** (see page 1 for details). If possible, get a friend to read it for clarity, grammar, concision, and “flow” (a NON-Inst student often works best, since they don't share your assumptions and can tell you what makes sense and what doesn't). **Revise** in accordance with their suggestions and your own best judgment.
- March 22-29 **Polish 2nd draft, incl. all tables, figures, etc. Proof, spellcheck, and proof again!**
- Apr 5 **Final Revisions, as necessary.** Then put your Capstone into PDF format, and make sure that nothing awful has happened by doing that (you DID save that Word version, right?!) In short, make it slick, tight, and pretty! And brilliant, of course.
- Apr 6-7 **Email your Capstone as a PDF attachment** (along with a COMPLETED **checklist** of courses you've done for the major and your track.) Send both items to Mo Helser (helser1@kenyon.edu) **BEFORE 2 pm on the 7th.** Then celebrate!