

International Studies Class of 2025

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.
- Use sources in the languages you studied, when possible

A successful Senior Capstone is an independent research paper of **no less than 20 and no more than 25 pages in length** written in consultation with one or more faculty members. **Quantity does not equal quality. If you are running over the allotted 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, February 19, 2025.

By that deadline, you must have sent to the International Studies Administrative Assistant (Kimberly Gerhart- email: gerhart1@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 member early and often.

Prepare a complete draft for the Senior Seminar.

For the Senior Seminar (INST 401), you will prepare a full draft of your Capstone that will be graded as part of the seminar's final grade. This draft will contain all of the elements (except the preface) of your final version and will become the basis for feedback and revisions for the final paper that you will submit in February. To guide you in this process, your seminar instructor will require that you submit a paper proposal before October Break. Based on the content of this proposal, we will choose two International Studies faculty members with whom you will consult on at least two occasions in the remaining weeks of the semester. These faculty members will provide feedback during your meetings with them in the fall, strive to attend your poster in January (see below), and evaluate your final paper.

Present a poster summarizing your research at our International Studies poster session.

You will share your Senior Capstone work and receive some final input from faculty and peers at Common Hour on Thursday, January 23 during a poster session convened especially for you, the International Studies Class of 2025. You will learn how to create a poster and present an early version of it in INST 401.

When preparing your final, final paper, be sure to:

- 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.

In evaluating your Senior Capstone, your 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. **The rubric they will use to evaluate your paper is on the next page.**

You can expect faculty to complete our evaluations of the Senior Capstones by the beginning of April, and once we 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 the Department Chair (Jennifer Johnson - email: johnsonj@kenyon.edu) 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!!

RUBRIC

Content & 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 & 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, & 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	