Contact Information:
Professor: Dr. Seth Murray
Email: dsmurray@ncsu.edu
Office: 1911 Building, Office 106-B
Office phone: 919-515-0450
Office hours: Tuesday 1-4 pm. Also by appointment as needed

You may contact me by email or in person during my scheduled office hours. Email is the quickest way to contact me, particularly if you have brief questions to ask, as I will usually answer your email on the same day. You may also call me during my office hours if you are unable to come in person, although please note that I do not have voice mail so you cannot leave me a message. If you are unable to see me during my office hours, I am also willing to arrange a meeting with you at a mutually convenient time.

Course Overview:
IS491 is the capstone course for your interdisciplinary program in International Studies. As a senior seminar, the course acts as a culminating experience in your wide-ranging experience as an International Studies major, whether the emphasis of your studies be in topic areas such as human rights advocacy, economic globalization and transnational commerce, conflict resolution, international migration, environmental issues, global public health, or intercultural and multilingual communication. The course trains students in the formulation and investigation of research questions that are international in scope. Work in this course is similar to that of a senior or honors thesis.

Over the course of the semester, students will learn standard social science skills such as research paper design and scholarly literature reviews. You will work both individually and in groups to identify research questions, you will peer-review and jointly evaluate aspects of research questions with the individuals in your writing group, and you will deliver a brief individual presentation of your research findings towards the end of the semester. By the end of the course, each student will produce a 30-page independent research paper reporting on their individual topic.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Develop a significant research question(s) related to international studies that can be (reasonably) investigated in existing library databases.
2. Conduct research on an international topic in various databases, including both print and electronic sources.
3. Critically assess and evaluate information for its relevance to your research question(s).
4. Manage large quantities of information through the creation of a bibliographic database and through the production of written annotated bibliographies.
5. Collaboratively work within a writing group that will include other students in order to review and evaluate the investigation of sources and your peers’ production of annotated bibliographies.
6. Balance the demands of your group and individual work.
7. Consider and address your research question from multiple perspectives.
8. Make a short public presentation that clearly synthesizes your own research findings.
9. Write and revise a persuasive, in-depth term paper that demonstrates your analytical and writing skills.
Course requirements and grades:

Your grade will be based on your participation in all aspects of the class as well as the quality of the written work that you produce.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annotated bibliographies (5 total)</th>
<th>25 % (or 5 % each)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class participation (including in writing groups)</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis statement paragraph</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed outline</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough draft</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final term paper</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no curve. A minimum of 70% (C-) is required of International Studies majors in order to have this course satisfy your degree requirement. Final letter grades are based on the following numeric scale:

- 97-100 : A+
- 94-96 : A
- 90-93 : A-
- 87-89 : B+
- 84-86 : B
- 80-83 : B-
- 77-79 : C+
- 74-76 : C
- 70-73 : C-
- 67-69 : D+
- 64-66 : D
- 60-63 : D-
- 0-59 : F

Annotated bibliographies:

Annotated bibliographies typically include the full reference information for the text that you have read, a summary of what the source reports and more specific information about how this particular source connects to the student’s research project. Over the course of the semester, you will locate and examine many, many different sources of information. Not all of them will appear useful to your research objectives, so you won’t read them at all, or only superficially. Other sources might appear at first to be a treasure trove, but turn out to be fool’s gold. But with due diligence and perseverance, you will end up locating, identifying, and reading some very pertinent and useful sources. During the research phase for your paper, you should realize that you might have to read 80 pages each week spread across a number of sources, but that only a portion of this material will end up being in the bibliography of your term paper.

Examples of annotated bibliographies will be provided to you during the 3rd week of the semester. You should expect to comment on a minimum of 4 scholarly articles and/or book chapters in each annotated bibliography. Use of an entire book in the annotated bibliography requires the instructor’s advance approval. Bibliographies are due at the start of class on the days assigned in the schedule. Each entry in the annotated bibliography is roughly two full paragraph(s) in length (approximately 400 words, and a maximum of 500 words) and is graded based on the detail and precision with which it connects to your research question. This means that entries in your annotated bibliographies that appear irrelevant or tangential to your research will hurt your grade. My grading of all of your annotated bibliographies is based on the total number of entries, but also on quality of your summation and critical analysis, and of course, on the texts’ relevance to your overall research project. Annotated bibliographies are each graded on a 10-point scale, and each one is worth 5% of your total grade.
In-class participation (including in writing groups):

During the middle part of the semester, the focus of your work in this course will not only be to produce your own annotated bibliographies, but also to participate, collaborate and contribute to a writing group composed of 3-4 students. Group members are responsible for reading and commenting on each other’s written annotated bibliographies. Your discussions and interactions with members of your writing group will help refine your research ideas. It also represents 15% of your grade in this course. The ability to make attentive and constructive comments about a colleague’s work-in-progress is also an important social science skill to develop for your future career. As part of your assignment during the writing group break-out sessions, you will also be required to complete an brief written evaluation of one of your colleagues’ annotated bibliographies and return this to your professor at the end of that class meeting.

You are expected to offer candid commentary that respects the norm of academic discourse, exchange and debate. No gratuitous personal attacks or insulting remarks are permitted or tolerated in our classroom, and opposing points of view or interpretation should be heard patiently. Each member of a writing group will privately submit their assessments of each member’s overall contribution to their group work and their collaborative review of annotated bibliographies. This portion of your grade is also shaped by commitment to respectful and helpful dialogue during in-class meetings of the writing group.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and counts for 10% of your course grade. Most class periods are structured as hands-on workshops that will provide you with the research skills, ideas, and critical feedback that you will need to do well in this seminar. Writing groups are held as breakout sessions during our class period to allow you to discuss individuals’ research projects and to share pertinent information amongst students doing related research. If you are absent, it will pose a significant obstacle to your achievement of our course goals.

You will be allowed 2 no-questions-asked absences during the semester to accommodate sickness, family emergencies, travel plans, or other scheduling conflicts that may arise in our busy lives. You do not necessarily need to tell me why you are absent nor do I need to see a doctor’s note. The only excused absences that I need to be informed of are those for official university activities, such as trips for varsity sports for example. However, if you know that you will be absent at some point in the semester, please notify your instructor as soon as possible. For more information on excused absences, please consult <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-3>

Presentation:

During the last three weeks of the semester, each student will each do a short (10-15 minute) in-class presentations of their research project. This presentation is worth 10% of your course grade. The oral presentation is meant to demonstrate how the student has approached a research question and analyzed or interpreted their findings. Your presentation will most likely be unable to present all of your research, so you must strive to synthesize the most important and interesting aspects of your research. A presentation receives a public response or generates a series of questions. Students are welcome to be innovative with their presentations; audience interaction or creative visual aids, for example, are welcome. Students who produce exceptional work by October 1st may be invited by the instructor to present their work as posters in lieu of in-class presentations at
the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium, which will be held on Saturday November 19th, 2011 at East Carolina University in Greenville.

Research paper:
In the process of generating an original research paper for this course, you are expected to produce several documents as intermediary steps: a paragraph-length thesis statement (worth 5% of your total grade), a detailed 2-3 page outline of your paper (also worth 5% of your total grade), and a rough draft (20-page minimum) of your research paper (worth 15% of your total grade). The final term paper that you submit for this course should be 30 double-spaced pages in length (and no more than 35 pages). The final version of your paper is also worth 15% of your total grade. Papers are graded based on the development of a thesis statement(s) and the articulation of its supporting arguments through the analysis of published material. Grammar, spelling and other points of proper writing will also be taken into consideration.

Policy on Incomplete grades or late assignments:
Late assignments will not be accepted, nor will incomplete grades for the course be permitted. Exceptions may be assignments submitted late because of excused absences that conform to university and class attendance policy as outlined in this syllabus. For more information on NC State's grading policies, go to <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-3>. In any event, students should contact the professor as soon as possible. Other rare exceptions may be made at the professor’s discretion, but require advance consultation and authorization, and any assignment that is accepted late will be penalized a full letter grade for each 24 hour period that they are overdue.

Information for students with disabilities:
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, go to <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-1>.

Policy on discrimination:
The role of all employees and students is to create and maintain a supportive and harassment-free working environment for all members of the campus community. All faculty, staff and students are responsible for understanding and complying with harassment policies. Also, all faculty, staff and students are responsible for knowing where to obtain assistance for resolving concerns. Members of the campus community are encouraged and should feel free to seek assistance, information, and guidance from their department head, supervisor, the Office for Equal Opportunity (513-3148), Human Resources (515-4300) or the Office for Student Conduct (515-2963). All harassment of any person (either in the form of *quid pro quo* or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation also is a violation of state, federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. NC State’s policies and regulations covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliation may be accessed at <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-04-25-2> or <http://ncsu.edu/equal_op>.
CHASS Career Services:
CHASS Careers Services are available through the University Career Center, 2100 Pullen Hall. Your career contacts are: Sara Concini (Last names: A-H) and Woody Catoe (Last names: I-Z). Call 515-2396 to make an appointment or visit their website: http://www.ncsu.edu/career. Be sure to sign up for ePack to learn about internships, jobs, and career events and to use the online appointment service.

Online Course Evaluations:
Students will be able to complete online course evaluations during the last two weeks of class. You will receive an email message directing you to a website where they can login and complete evaluations. These evaluations are completely confidential and I will not have access to the evaluations until after the end of the semester, when your final course grades have been submitted to Records & Registration. The online course evaluation will be available at <http://classeval.ncsu.edu>.

Code of Student Conduct:
North Carolina State University’s Code of Student Conduct, as for all NC State courses, applies to this class. It is posted here: <http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php> NC State’s Code of Student Conduct <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-1> applies to all work done in this class. It plainly states that “plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities” (see sections 7-4 for the most pertinent aspects). The NC State Honor Pledge reads: “I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment." All tests or assignments must be completed while adhering to the Code of Student Conduct, and the student's signature on any test means that the student neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. It is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct to use your textbook materials or notes during an exam. It is also a violation of the Code of Student Conduct to have anyone check your written work before handing it in, or to copy any portion of another student’s work or other printed or electronic materials. This is particularly a concern in today’s information environment with our ubiquitous access to Wikipedia and other forms of digital media. The bottom line is that ALL work must be your own. Do you still have questions? Talk to me or consult the NCSU Office of Student Conduct website: http://www.ncsu.edu/student_conduct
SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS
This course has no designated textbook. Handouts and worksheets will periodically be handed out during class or emailed to students. The organization of your assignments this semester begin by helping you brainstorm about the topic you want to research, then addressing how to acquire the information about your topic, then analyzing and synthesizing your research, and finally how to present your research findings.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH
Thursday August 18: Overview of course and introductions

Tuesday August 23: Brainstorming and generating research topics
Assignment: Complete LOBO refresher course <www.lib.ncsu.edu/lobo2>.

Thursday August 25: Generating research questions and presenting research ideas
Assignment: Begin using the “Tracking your Research” worksheets.

ESSENTIAL RESEARCH SKILLS
Tuesday August 30: Advanced library research skills (led by Matt Sumner)
Assignment: Fill out and bring “Tracking your Research” worksheets to workshop. We will meet directly in Hill Library, ITTC Labs 1A-B.

Thursday September 1: Managing research results (led by Mohan Ramaswamy)
Assignment: Create your account for RefWorks <www.lib.ncsu.edu/guides/refworks>. We will meet directly in Hill Library.

Tuesday September 6: Getting ready to (re)search and do the literature review
Assignment: Submit a list of at least two possible research topics and a list of four research questions for each of these topics.

CARRYING OUT YOUR RESEARCH
Thursday September 8: Making and writing a persuasive, coherent argument

Tuesday September 13: Literature review
Assignment: Submit annotated bibliography #1. Writing group break-out session

Thursday September 15: Conducting and evaluating ethical research
Assignment: Complete midterm course evaluation

Tuesday September 20: Writing the thesis of your paper

Thursday September 22: Literature review
Assignment: Submit annotated bibliography #2; writing group break-out session

Tuesday September 27: Revising the thesis of your paper
Assignment: Submit thesis paragraph; writing group break-out session

Thursday September 29: Writing 1st drafts and integrating different sources of data
(Presentation of Writing and Speaking Tutorial Services by Brandy Grabow)
Tuesday October 4: Literature review
  Assignment: Submit annotated bibliography #3; writing group break-out session

Thursday October 6: NO CLASS (Fall Break)

ANALYZING YOUR RESEARCH FINDINGS

Tuesday October 11: Writing day > NO CLASS

Thursday October 13: Writing day > NO CLASS
  Assignment: Submit detailed outline VIA EMAIL

Tuesday October 18: Literature review
  Assignment: Submit annotated bibliography #4; writing group break-out session

Thursday October 20: Revising the organization your paper

Tuesday October 25: Revising the writing style and design of your paper

Thursday October 27: Literature review
  Assignment: Submit annotated bibliography #5; writing group break-out session

Tuesday November 1: Writing day > NO CLASS
  Assignment: Students must sign-up for individual meeting with professor

Thursday November 3: Writing day > NO CLASS
  Assignment: Students must sign-up for individual meeting with professor

Tuesday November 8: Writing day > NO CLASS
  Assignment: Students must sign-up for individual meeting with professor

CONVEYING YOUR RESEARCH FINDINGS

Thursday November 10: Publishing and publically presenting your research

Tuesday November 15: Rough Draft
  Assignment: 20-page (minimum) rough draft due; writing group break-out session

Thursday November 17: Writing day > NO CLASS

Tuesday November 22: Individual in-class oral presentations

Thursday November 24: NO CLAAS (Thanksgiving break)

Tuesday November 29: Individual in-class oral presentations

Thursday December 1: Individual in-class oral presentations

Tuesday December 13, 9-11 am: Individual in-class oral presentations.
  Assignment: FINAL PAPER DUE