

FINAL PROJECT

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES / BACHELOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Professor: **EVANGELOS LIARAS**

E-mail: eliaras@faculty.ie.edu

Academic year: 17-18

Degree course: FOURTH

Semester: 2^o

Category: COMPULSORY

Number of credits: 12.0

Language: English

PREREQUISITES SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the final project is the elaboration and presentation of an independent, original, and thorough piece of research on a contemporary topic of international significance—international politics broadly defined. The final project is the culmination of your undergraduate studies at IE University, and should reflect the skills and interests you developed over the years. It should put forward a coherent argument backed by persuasive evidence. The senior thesis must consist of original and unpublished work of the student; work by other authors must be properly cited.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

- i) Give students the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of a particular topic which could also advance their future careers or prepare them for graduate study
- ii) Challenge the students to muster all the research, writing and presentation skills they have acquired so far to compose a journal article-length academic text

METHODOLOGY

Thesis supervisor

Each student is responsible for finding a supervisor for the senior thesis. A list of potential supervisors will be provided by the department at the beginning of the fall semester. As a general rule, the supervisor will be a full-time or adjunct member of IE faculty. Exceptionally, an external supervisor who is not a member of IE faculty may be chosen, subject to the coordinator's approval.

The supervisor and student will establish a work plan taking into consideration the deadline of the ordinary call. Students must be in permanent contact with their supervisors to discuss their progress according to the agreed calendar and procedures. The supervisor will take best endeavors to help the student to meet the deadline with a thesis of the highest possible quality, but ultimately it is the student's responsibility to do so.

The supervisor's permission is a requisite to present the thesis. The supervisor may refuse to grant permission to present the thesis should she or he consider that it does not meet the minimum standards, or if the student's behavior has been deemed unprofessional (not respecting mutually agreed deadlines, no-shows for meetings, etc.). Should that be the case, the student will miss the corresponding call, with no grade appearing in the transcript.

Thesis proposal

The student shall submit a two-page thesis proposal and a one-page sample bibliography to the department by the first day of the spring semester. The proposal should be drafted after consulting with the supervisor and will be subject to approval by the supervisor and the thesis coordinator. It will be the responsibility of the student to meet the established deadline. Once a proposal has been approved, it will be possible to modify the topic of the thesis only with the approval of the thesis coordinator and the supervisor. However, it is not possible to change thesis supervisor until after the second call. Only if the student fails the first and second call will it be possible to change both topic and/or supervisor, and only for duly justified reasons. In the course of elaborating the thesis, some elements may be narrowed down or defined more sharply than in the original proposal; this does not imply a change in topic and is up to mutual agreement between the student and the supervisor.

Thesis submission and defense

The thesis paper will be due at the end of the spring semester examination period and must be submitted electronically to check for plagiarism. If the coordinator deems that the thesis meets the established criteria, a thesis defense date will be set at least one week and no more than three weeks after the submission deadline. For the thesis defense, students are expected to deliver a 20minute oral presentation of their work and to respond to questions and comments for another 20 minutes before a jury consisting of the supervisor and another faculty member assigned by the department. After the end of the Q&A, the jury members will ask the student to leave the room and will consult about the final grade. The student will then be invited back in the room and informed as to whether the grade is passing or not. The exact grades will be published after they have been approved in a department meeting. Failure to appear before the jury on the thesis defense date without proper justification will result in a failing grade for that call.

Thesis format

The minimum length of the senior thesis is 40 pages (12-point font, one-and-a-half spacing, mirrored margins, approximately 10,000 words, including the bibliography). The recommended citation system is Harvard style (parenthetical). There is no maximum thesis length, but students are advised not to exceed the minimum by more than ten percent. Every thesis should include: a) a cover page with the title, student's and supervisor's names, department and date

- b) a declaration stating that the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where properly cited
- c) a table of contents and a two-page executive summary
- d) a complete and accurate bibliography

Teaching methodology	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	0.0 %	0 hours
Discussions	0.0 %	0 hours
Exercises	0.0 %	0 hours
Group work	0.0 %	0 hours
Other individual studying	0.0 %	0 hours
TOTAL	0.0 %	300 hours

PROGRAM

SESSION 1

SESSION 2

SESSION 3

SESSION 4

SESSION 5

SESSION 6

SESSION 7

SESSION 8

SESSION 9

SESSION 10

SESSION 11

SESSION 12

SESSION 13

SESSION 14

SESSION 15

SESSION 16

SESSION 17

SESSION 18

SESSION 19

SESSION 20

SESSION 21

SESSION 22

SESSION 23

SESSION 24

SESSION 25

SESSION 26

SESSION 27

SESSION 28

SESSION 29

SESSION 30

SESSION 31

SESSION 32

SESSION 33

SESSION 34

SESSION 35

SESSION 36

SESSION 37

SESSION 38

SESSION 39

SESSION 40

SESSION 41

SESSION 42

SESSION 43

SESSION 44

SESSION 45

SESSION 46

SESSION 47

SESSION 48

SESSION 49

SESSION 50

SESSION 51

SESSION 52

SESSION 53

SESSION 54

SESSION 55

SESSION 56

SESSION 57

SESSION 58

SESSION 59

SESSION 60

BIBLIOGRAPHY

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Senior theses are evaluated using three broad criteria:

i) The student's command of the subject and quality of background research ii)

The student's original contribution to the topic and

iii) The student's quality of argumentation and prose, plus oral presentation

The following table is a general guide for assigning grades on a 10-point scale. Graders can assign fractional grades with one decimal point to make finer distinctions.

Grade	US/UK equivalent	Quality of work
10	A/distinction	Outstanding research that meets graduate-level standards and could be considered for publication
9	A-/first	Excellent work based on extensive research with an original contribution; minor errors or omissions
8	B+/upper second	Notable product demonstrating hard work and some original thinking with some errors or omissions
7	B/lower second	Notable work but lacking originality, suffering from some gaps in logic or research or from poor editing
6	B-/third	Acceptable work showing some effort but lacking in all grading criteria, poorly written
5	C/pass	Minimally acceptable work, very poorly written but not showing evidence of plagiarism
4	D/unsatisfactory	Incoherent, incomplete work or showing signs of plagiarism; some revision may make it acceptable
3 or less	F/fail	Unacceptable work or extensive plagiarism that leaves no room for resubmission with revisions

Students who receive a grade between 4 and 5 on their first defense are allowed to make revisions and resubmit the thesis within two weeks to pass. A grade below 4 is a definitive fail and requires repeating the defense. This option to revise is only available to students on their first thesis defense; in subsequent calls, a grade below 5 is failing.

Retake policy

- Each student has 4 chances to pass any given course distributed in two consecutive academic years (regular period and June/July period).
- Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:
 - o Students failing the course in the first regular period will have to do a retake in July (except those not complying with the attendance rules, which are banned from this possibility).
 - o Dates and location of the June/July retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed. Please take this into consideration when planning your summer.

- o The maximum grade that a student may obtain in any type of retake will be 8 out of 10.

Criteria	Percentage	Comments
Final Project	100 %	

PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: **EVANGELOS LIARAS**

E-mail: eliaras@faculty.ie.edu

Evangelos Liaras earned a BA in history from Harvard and MS and PhD in political science from MIT. Before joining IE he held fellowships in the United Kingdom (Chatham House), Spain (CEPC), the United States (George Washington University), Turkey (Koç University), and worked for the OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OTHER INFORMATION

CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

1. **Be on time:** : Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as “Absent”.

Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

2. **If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart.** It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.
3. **Do not leave the room during the lecture:** Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as “Absent”.

Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

4. **Do not engage in side conversation.** As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class.

If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

5. **Use your laptop for course-related purposes only.** The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.
6. **No cellular phones:** IE University implements a “Phone-free Classroom” policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.
7. **Escalation policy: 1/3/5.** Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as “Absent.” IE University implements an “escalation policy”: The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.