

Capstone in International Relations

INTL-6000

S2 2021 Section 46/62/FG/FL 3 Credits 03/15/2021 to 05/07/2021 Modified 02/24/2021

Meeting Times

Thursdays, 5:30 pm ET (Washington DC).

March 18 - May 6, 2021.

Zoom Meeting: <https://webster-edu.zoom.us/j/98902156006> Office Hours by Appointment: Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:00 pm ET.

Contact Information

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Description

The course centers on the design and development of a scholarly capstone paper, representing the student's achievement as a Master of International Relations. Students must have completed 30 credit hours prior to registering for INTL 6000 Capstone in International Relations.

Students are asked at the end of term to upload their capstones to TK20 for assessment purposes.

Objectives

In this capstone course, you will continue to apply your research skills as you:

- develop a topic,
- develop valid research question(s)
- understand how the process of inquiry drives the research
- understand and describe the types and value of the literature review,
- explore, investigate, analyze, and integrate material to
- develop valid and reliable research methods and design
- draft a high quality research paper,
- professionally present research in conference-like setting.

Students demonstrate their applied and theoretical knowledge acquired throughout the International Relations program.

The final product is a research report suitable for publication.

Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Design and write a scholarly research paper that includes a relevant international relations research question, thesis statement, literature review, and original argument; and
2. Apply appropriate research methodologies to produce a professional research paper.

Materials

INTL 6000, Capstone in International Relations, is a web-enhanced (WebEx/WebNet) course offered in both lecture and online formats in CANVAS in the World Classroom platform.

There is no assigned textbook for this class. Your textbook and journal articles from past courses are important resources to consider. For example, the texts from INTL 5100, Research Methods and Perspectives, and other courses related to your topic here will prove valuable resources as you develop and frame your paper; and eventually format the final product.

CANVAS/WorldClassRoom

We will rely on CANVAS in this hybrid course. Students will want to regularly view the following sections: ANNOUNCEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, DISCUSSIONS, SCHEDULE, MODULES, and INBOX/EMAIL.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL:

Students are provided supporting materials in the "*FILES*" section in CANVAS. Materials include journal articles, worksheets, and other related materials.

READINGS:

Access the *assigned readings* via CANVAS.

ASSIGNMENTS:

All weekly Assignments are also submitted via CANVAS, as will your final research paper.

Students will post their weekly deliverables in the "ASSIGNMENTS" section in CANVAS.

NOTE: Final presentations are mandatory and will be presented in class in a professional manner using (limited) PowerPoint slides. In the past special guests have attended INTL 600 Capstone presentations representing various sectors such as global corporations, international consulting firms, local businesses; federal, state, and local governments.

Deliverables

NOTE: All deadlines and times shown are in Eastern Time zone (Washington, DC).

Week 1

One page document submitted online posted in Assignments section in CANVAS.

(1) Topic of interest and (2) initial research question.

One-page MS Word document.

All documents in MS Word, 1" margins, Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced with proper citation. *Professionally submitted to APA standards and format.*

Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

Week 2

Annotated bibliography with 3-5 sources properly cited in APA.

Annotated bibliography

Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

Post in [Assignments section](#) in CANVAS.

Week 3

Revised annotated bibliography with another 3-5 additional journal sources related to your topic (6-9 sources total).

Three to five three pages.

Post in [Discussions section](#) in CANVAS for peer review and comments.

Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April , 6, 2021.

Week 4

Revised Research Question, Assumptions, Annotated Bibliography (literature review) and proposed *Methodology or methodologies* sections combined into one document.

Post in [Assignments section](#) in CANVAS.

Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Week 5

Draft an Introduction to your paper. One-page.

Post in [Discussions section](#) in CANVAS.

Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Week 6

Revise and update research paper in the following sections: Introduction, Methodology, Literature Review, and initial discussion or findings sections.

Post in [Assignments section](#) in CANVAS.

Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

<p>Week 7</p> <p>Revise discussion or findings, and initial conclusion with (if available), and initial recommendations into a single draft document and bring to class for discussion and sharing.</p> <p>Post in Assignments section in CANVAS. As with all assignments, make sure there are no grammatical mistakes or sloppy formatting. Conform to APA style guide.</p> <p>Outline your tentative major talking points for your PowerPoint Presentation and post in Discussion section in CANVAS.</p> <p>Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, May 4, 2021.</p>
<p>Week 8</p> <p>Thursday, May 6, 2021:</p> <p><i>Professional Presentations in class.</i> Present PowerPoint (or suitable format) of your research to class and invited guests in Zoom classroom environment.</p> <p>PowerPoint slides posted in Assignments section in CANVAS after your presentation.</p> <p>Tuesday May 11, 2021:</p> <p>Complete a well-reasoned, professionally written draft in APA format of your research paper with appropriate cover sheet, headings, and reference section - al in strict compliance with APA formatting guidelines and suitable for publication consideration.</p> <p>Post final work in Assignments section in CANVAS.</p> <p>PAPER DUE: 11:59 pm ET, Tuesday, May 11, 2021.</p>

Research Paper: Issues in International Relations

In addition to your final presentation the core requirement, or product of this course is your research paper. It must have an international nexus and comprise information that you've derived from valid and reliable sources that, for the most part, has been published within the past few years. Seminal works, such as historical documents detailing the early beginnings of international phenomena are certainly valuable resources and can be cited. However, most of your articles will have come from academic and professional journals from peer reviewed sources within the past few years. I encourage you to contact the Eden Library below and develop a working relationship with the outstanding researchers who can assist you with access to our extensive online journals collection.

In past courses like this one, most students have identified at least 20 or more sources but included about 10-15 for this project. I hesitate to stipulate a page count - let your research take you to that point; but at a minimum, your paper should contain at least 20-25 pages of text not counting diagrams, charts, or other graphics. These are great to use but they do not place in the page count.

For the mechanics of your paper, all documents must be in MS Word, with 1" margins, in Times New Roman, with a 12-point font, and double spaced with proper citation. Your paper ought to be written observing APA style guidelines.

✓ Evaluation

General topic and draft research question.	5%
Annotated bibliography with 3-5 sources properly cited in APA format.	10%
Revised annotated bibliography.	5%
Initial methodology approach.	10%
Revised Research Question, Assumptions, Annotated Bibliography and proposed Methodology.	10%
Revise discussion or findings, and initial conclusion with (if available), and initial recommendations.	15%
Reference section. 5% Draft Introduction. 5%	10%
Revised research paper all sections.	15%
Professional Presentations in class. Final draft of research paper.	20%
	100%

Schedule

Week 1: Thursday, March 18, 2021.

General topic and draft research question. Why is this topic of interest to you or anyone else?

Discuss your approach, thoughts, and curiosity you have in developing the research question.

Follow-up with well reasoned written document, see Deliverables section for details.

Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

<p>Week 2: Thursday, March 25, 2021.</p> <p><i>Discuss and revise topics and discuss research questions</i> to refine and focus with a focus on the value of the literature review.</p> <p><i>Bring a copy of your draft paper copy to class to share with your cohorts.</i></p> <p>Follow-up with well reasoned written document, see Deliverables section for details.</p> <p>Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, March 30, 2021.</p>
<p>Week 3: Thursday, April 1, 2021. No Class-Devoted to Research Efforts</p> <p>Continue annotated bibliography with another 3-5 additional journal sources related to your topic (6-9 sources total). Update annotated bibliography (this is the beginnings of your literature review) in Assignments in CANVAS.</p> <p>Initial methodology approach: qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods? Identify at least two each from these approaches and briefly discuss why you believe they may be useful. NMT three pages.</p> <p>Follow-up with well reasoned written document, see Deliverables section for details. Post in Discussions section in CANVAS.</p> <p>Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April 6, 2021.</p>
<p>Week 4: Thursday, April 8, 2021.</p> <p>SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Global pandemics and the role of international health organizations.</p> <p>Discuss, examine, and comment on revised Research Question, Assumptions, Annotated Bibliography (literature review) and proposed <i>Methodology or methodologies</i> sections combined into one document.</p> <p>Consider descriptive topic titles (May be a single word or most likely several words as a sentence). Format this as part of a cover page using APA. Add a reference section.</p> <p>This is a draft but we want to get oriented to the final document now.</p> <p>Follow-up with well reasoned written document, see Deliverables section for details. Post in Assignments section in CANVAS.</p> <p>Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April 13, 2021.</p>
<p>Week 5: Thursday, April 15, 2021. No Class-Devoted to Research Efforts</p> <p>Draft an Introduction to your paper. One-page. Include the goal of your research paper and what the research literature has revealed to you thus far.</p> <p>Follow-up with well reasoned written document, see Deliverables section for details. Post in Discussions section in CANVAS.</p> <p>Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April 20, 2021.</p>
<p>Week 6: Thursday, April 22, 2021. No Class-Devoted to Research Efforts</p>

<p>Discuss and share your revisions and updates to your research paper in the following sections: Introduction, Methodology, Literature Review, and initial discussion or findings sections.</p> <p>Review and provide meaningful comment on cohort's project papers.</p> <p>Follow-up with well reasoned written document, see Deliverables section for details. Post in Assignments section in CANVAS.</p> <p>Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, April 27, 2021.</p>
<p>Week 7: Thursday, April 29, 2021.</p> <p>SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Fulbright scholarship opportunities.</p> <p>Revise discussion or findings, and initial conclusion with (if available), and initial recommendations.</p> <p>Compile all material into a single draft document and bring to class for discussion and sharing.</p> <p>Revise your document based on class dialog. Follow-up with well reasoned written document, see Deliverables section for details. Post in Assignments section in CANVAS. As with all assignments, make sure there are no grammatical mistakes or sloppy formatting. Conform to APA style guide.</p> <p>Due 11:59 pm, Tuesday, May 4, 2021.</p>
<p>Week 8: May 6, 2021.</p> <p>PRESENTATIONS: Professionally made to peers and special invited guests.</p> <p>Post your PowerPoint presentation in Discussion section Due 11:59 pm, May 6, 2020.</p> <p>Final research paper due 11:59 pm ET, Tuesday, May 11, 2021.</p>

* Course Policies

This capstone course is a final course for the M.A. of International Relations (MA-IR).

Final research papers will conform to APA style formatting.

Although there is no text assigned, students are provided reading assignments and guidance in the files section of CANVAS in World Classroom.

Students are evaluated by their ability to assimilate material provided on CANVAS derived from academic and professional journals.

This is an intensive research based course.

Arriving late to scheduled classes will impact student evaluation and reflected in their final grades.

Institutional Policies

Academic Policies

Academic policies provide students with important rights and responsibilities. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with all academic policies that apply to them. Academic policies for undergraduate students can be found in the Undergraduate Studies Catalog; graduate students should review the Graduate Studies Catalog.

Undergraduate Studies Catalog

The Undergraduate Studies Catalog contains academic policies that apply to all undergraduate students. The *academic policies and information* section of the catalog contains important information related to **attendance, conduct, academic honesty, grades, and more**. If you are an undergraduate student, please review the catalog each academic year. The current Undergraduate Studies Catalog is at:

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/> (<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/>)

Graduate Studies Catalog

The Graduate Studies Catalog contains academic policies that apply to all graduate students. The *academic policies* section of the catalog contains important information related to **conduct, academic honesty, grades, and more**. If you are a graduate student, please review the catalog each academic year. The current Graduate Studies Catalog is at:

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/> (<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/>)

Grading

The Grades section of the academic catalog outlines the various grading systems courses may use, including the information about the final grade reported for this class.

Undergraduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/academic-policies.html#grading>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/academic-policies.html#grading>)

Graduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/academic-policies.html#grades>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/academic-policies.html#grades>)

Incomplete

There are important policies that govern grades of Incomplete (I), including the circumstances under which Incomplete grades are granted, deadlines for completion, and consequences should the remaining course work not be completed. It is the responsibility of a student who requests an Incomplete to ensure that he/she understands and follows the policies.

Grade Appeals

Instructors are responsible for assigning grades, and student should discuss grade issues with the instructor. Policies and procedures for appealing grades are available in the appropriate catalog.

Academic Honesty Policy

Webster University is committed to academic excellence. As part of our Statement of Ethics, we strive to preserve academic honor and integrity by repudiating all forms of academic and intellectual dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and is subject to a disciplinary response. Students are encouraged to talk to instructors about any questions they may have regarding how to properly credit others' work, including paraphrasing, quoting, and citation formatting. The university reserves the right to utilize electronic databases, such as Turnitin.com, to assist faculty and students with their academic work.

The University's Academic Honesty Policy is published in academic catalogs:

Undergraduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/academic-policies.html>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/academic-policies.html>)

Graduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/academic-policies.html>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/academic-policies.html>)

As a part of the University commitment to academic excellence, the Academic Resource Center provides student resources to become better acquainted with academic honesty and the tools to prevent plagiarism in its many forms:

http://www.webster.edu/arc/plagiarism_prevention/ (http://www.webster.edu/arc/plagiarism_prevention/)

Statement of Ethics

Webster University strives to be a center of academic excellence. The University makes every effort to ensure the following:

- The opportunity for students to learn and inquire freely
- The protection of intellectual freedom and the rights of professors to teach
- The advancement of knowledge through scholarly pursuits and relevant dialogue

To review Webster University's statement of ethics, see the Undergraduate Studies Catalog and the Graduate and Studies Catalog:

Undergraduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/overview.html#ethics>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/overview.html#ethics>)

Graduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/ethics.html> (<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/ethics.html>)

Important Academic Resources

Academic Accommodations

Webster University makes every effort to accommodate individuals with academic/learning, health, physical and psychological disabilities. To obtain accommodations, students must identify themselves and provide documentation from a qualified professional or agency to the appropriate campus designee or the Academic ADA Coordinator at the main campus. The Academic ADA Coordinator may be reached at 314-246-7700 or disability@webster.edu (<mailto:disability@webster.edu>).

If you have already identified as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom or testing accommodations, please inform the instructor of the accommodations you will require for this class at the beginning of the course.

Academic Resource Center

Additional support and resources may be accessed through the Academic Resource Center (ARC). Support and resources include academic counseling, accommodations, assistive technology, peer tutoring, plagiarism prevention, testing center services, and writing coaching. Visit www.webster.edu/arc (<http://www.webster.edu/arc>) or Loretto Hall 40 on the main campus for more information.

Student Success Portal

Webster University's Student Success Portal, powered by Starfish, is a communications tool to connect students with faculty members and campus support services. It allows faculty and staff members to communicate with you regarding academic achievements as well as areas where support may be helpful. You may use the portal to contact faculty and staff members for assistance and to arrange meetings. Activity in the portal will be communicated to your Webster University email account. The Student Success Portal is available via your course home page in WorldClassRoom or via Connections. Learn more about the Student Success Portal at <http://www.webster.edu/success/students.html> (<http://www.webster.edu/success/students.html>).

University Library

Webster University Library is dedicated to supporting the research needs and intellectual pursuits of students throughout the University's worldwide network. Resources include print and electronic books, journal articles, online databases, DVDs and streaming video, CDs and streaming music, datasets, and other specialized information. Services include providing materials at

no cost and research help for basic questions to in-depth exploration of resources. The gateway to all of these resources and services is <http://library.webster.edu> (<http://library.webster.edu/>). For support navigating the library's resources, see <http://libanswers.webster.edu/> (<http://libanswers.webster.edu/>) for the many ways to contact library staff.

Drops and Withdrawals

Drop and withdrawal policies dictate processes for students who wish to unenroll from a course. Students must take proactive steps to unenroll; informing the instructor is not sufficient, nor is failing to attend. In the early days of the term or semester, students may DROP a course with no notation on their student record. After the DROP deadline, students may WITHDRAW from a course; in the case of a WITHDRAW, a grade of W appears on the student record. After the WITHDRAW deadline, students may not unenroll from a course. Policies and a calendar of deadlines for DROP and WITHDRAW are at:

Undergraduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/enrollment.html>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/enrollment.html>)

Graduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/enrollment.html>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/enrollment.html>)

Academic Calendar - <http://www.webster.edu/academics/academic-calendar/>
(<http://www.webster.edu/academics/academic-calendar/>)

Current tuition rates, policies, and procedures, including details of pro-rated tuition refunds, are available in the "Tuition, Fees, and Refunds" section of Webster's Academic Catalogs:

Undergraduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/tuition.html>
(<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/undergraduate-catalog/tuition.html>)

Graduate

<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/tuition.html> (<http://www.webster.edu/catalog/current/graduate-catalog/tuition.html>)

Student Handbook and Other Important Policies

Student handbook and other non-academic policies may apply to you and may impact your experience in this class. Such policies include the student code of conduct, privacy, technology and communications, and more. Please review the handbook each year and be aware of policies that apply to you. The handbook is available at:

<http://www.webster.edu/student-handbook/> (<http://www.webster.edu/student-handbook/>)

Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Other Sexual Offenses

Webster University makes every effort to educate the community to prevent sexual assault, harassment, and other sexual offenses from occurring, and is committed to providing support to those affected when this behavior does occur. To access information and resources or to review the Policy on Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Other Sexual Offenses, visit:

<http://www.webster.edu/sexual-misconduct/> (<http://www.webster.edu/sexual-misconduct/>)

Research on Human Subjects

The Webster University Institutional Review Committee (IRB) is responsible for the review of all research on human subjects. The IRB process applies to all Webster University faculty, staff, and students and must be completed prior to any contact with human subjects. For more information on the IRB, visit:

<http://www.webster.edu/irb/index.html> (<http://www.webster.edu/irb/index.html>)

Course Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will have the opportunity to provide feedback about your experience. Your input is extremely valuable to the university, your instructor, and the department that offers this course. Please provide your honest and thoughtful evaluation, as it helps the university to provide the best experience possible for all of its students.

Important Technology Information

Connections Accounts

Webster University provides all students, faculty, and staff with a University email account through Connections. Students are expected to activate their Connections account and regularly check incoming University email. Students may choose to have their University email forwarded to an alternate email address. Connections account holders can call the Help Desk (314-246-5995 or toll free at 1-866-435-7270) for assistance with this setup. Instructions are also provided on the Information Technology website at:

<http://www.webster.edu/technology/service-desk/> (<http://www.webster.edu/technology/service-desk/>)

WorldClassRoom

WorldClassRoom is Webster's Learning Content Management System (LMS). Your instructor may use WorldClassRoom to deliver important information, to hold class activities, to communicate grades and feedback, and more. WorldClassRoom is available using your Connections ID at:

<https://worldclassroom.webster.edu/> (<https://worldclassroom.webster.edu/>)

Webster Alerts

Webster Alerts is the University's preferred emergency mass notification service, available free to current students, faculty and staff at all US campuses. By registering a valid cell phone number and email address, you will receive urgent campus text, voice mail and email communications. Valuable information concerning a range of incidents affecting you - from weather-related campus closures, class delays and cancellations, to more serious or life-threatening events - are immediately and simultaneously delivered through multiple communication channels. To register for Webster Alerts, visit:

<http://www.webster.edu/technology/services/webster-alerts/> (<http://www.webster.edu/technology/services/webster-alerts/>)

Campus Information

This is a zoom enhanced course, being hosted out of Andrews AFB in Maryland (Section 46).

Joined sections include:

62- Scott

FG- Fort Leavenworth

FL- Fort Belvoir

** If you need assistance from a Webster University Staff member you can reach out to your site of enrollment or you can reach out to Andrews AFB.

Webster University Andrews AFB

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Fax: 301-420-2258

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