Substantial Research Paper (SRP) – INTS 4996

A Substantial Research Paper (SRP) is a problem-focused paper designed to engage students in the process of applied research. In contrast, an MA thesis involves in-depth academic research that is often theoretical in nature and typically undertaken by students interested in pursuing a PhD, while an independent study tends to be a much more general research project. An SRP is typically shorter than an MA thesis, and longer than an independent study. An SRP does not require a review committee or an oral defense; rather, it will be supervised and graded by a single appointed faculty member.

An SRP (INTS 4996) should represent work equivalent to approximately 5 credit hours of graduate study and may be registered for 1–5 hours of credit.

Note: Peace Corps Master’s International candidates must register the required SRP for zero credits prior to departing for Peace Corps Service.

Requirements and Recommendations:

- The final copy of the SRP should be formatted according to Kate Turabian: A Manual for Writers, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. With permission of the student’s SRP advisor, another format (e.g. APA, MLA, or "Blue Book") may be permissible if it is the standard for the primary discipline in which the research is being conducted.

- The SRP faculty advisor must be an appointed faculty member at JKSIS. Adjunct faculty may not advise SRPs.

- Students must register INTS 4996 for credit during the quarter(s) in which they are actually working on the SRP. It is not permissible to register for credit before work has commenced or after the work has been completed.

- Students are allowed (but not required) to apply up to five credit hours toward their degree, earned during a single quarter or allocated over two consecutive quarters. Students may not pursue more than two SRPs for a total of 5 credit hours toward degree requirements.

- In order to register for INTS 4996, the student must use the designated form and receive departmental permission (which entails receiving the approval and signature of both the faculty director ["instructor" field] and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs ["advisor" field]). After obtaining the required approvals, the student must take the form to the Registrar’s Office for processing in order to be registered officially.

- Students are encouraged to identify a faculty advisor and begin working on the SRP as soon as it is appropriate to do so. It is important that the student and faculty director establish a reasonable and mutually agreeable timeline for exchanging drafts and comments on the student’s work. Students should not expect faculty to examine their work over the summer, unless they have made special arrangements.