Using Oncourse Forums for Peer-Review in INTL-I400: Capstone Seminar

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The **Capstone Seminar** requires International Studies majors to compose a 25-page research paper that brings together their theme, region, foreign language and overseas study experience. Peer review of classmates’ drafts is an integral part of the course.

### Prior to Oncourse Forums:
- Peer reviews were handwritten
- Instructor collected all comments and returned them to students during following class meeting
- Lag time did not allow instructor to give timely feedback between drafts
- Students did not have enough time to incorporate peer comments to improve their drafts
- Printing footprint was considerable for students and instructor

### Forums allow students to:
- Share the drafts of their thesis either with the whole class or with their assigned group members
- Get immediate feedback by their classmates
- Incorporate their classmates’ track-change suggestions
- Engage in discussions about their work on line

### Forums allow the instructor to:
- Monitor students’ timeliness, engagement and general progress
- Have a statistical record of student peer reviews, thus making the allocation of points timely and more fair
- Engage in class discussions based on students’ input and concerns raised in the Forums

### I 400 drafts:
- Introduction
- Bibliography
- Methodology
- Literature Review
- Case Study
- Conclusion

A Rough Draft allows students to receive feedback from the instructor and one of their classmates one week prior to the submission of the Final Thesis.

### Anticipated outcomes:
- Heightened constructive criticism.
- In depth class discussions
- Creation of on-line learning community
- Sustainable dissemination of knowledge with limited paper printing

### Concerns:
- Students often post their comments late thus making class discussion difficult
- Students perceive forums as repetitive in content and hindering in-class discussion
- Constructive criticism is often bypassed for easy answers, such as “Good job”

All students review each other’s Introduction and Methodology drafts. Forums comprised of 3-4 students are formed for the Literature Review and Case Study Analysis drafts.