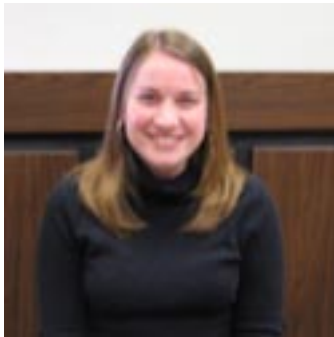


## 2007 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Seniors majoring in International Economics and Cultural Affairs engage in a year-long independent research project. During the Fall semester they choose their topic and in the Spring their research culminates in a 30-40 page paper, under the supervision of 2 faculty readers in appropriate disciplines. This year, all papers fall under the general topic of Rights and Wrongs.



*Wrong Rites of Passage:  
International Efforts to Reverse  
West African Thought about Female  
Genital Mutilation*

Allison Clark (IECA/French major) will be examining the cultural conflicts associated with female circumcision in West Africa. While this practice has been an integral part of many cultures since the beginning of civilization, it has been called into question by many who see it as violating the UN Declaration of Human Rights, created in 1948. For decades, Western countries, NGOs and IGOs have sought to influence the governments of Western Africa and pressured them to pass legislation curtailing this practice. The emphasis of this paper will focus precisely on the role of the international community in the last 30 years—what has its role been and how has it influenced West African governments in their policy-making with regard to female genital mutilation? Readers: Professors Schaefer (History) and Kilpinen (Geography).

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*Closing the Gap: Legislative Efforts  
to Achieve Equality for Women in the  
French Workforce*

Anastasia Wilson (IECA/ French) will study the rights of women in the workplace in France. Article 23 of the United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of 1948 states that everyone has an equal opportunity to work in just conditions and has the right to equal pay for equal work. Many countries have subsequently passed legislation in order to comply with these international guidelines, including France, with the 1973 adoption of the *Code du Travail*, a general labor code that serves as the foundation of equal opportunity rights and the Roudy Act of 1983, which promoted

temporary affirmative action for women. The paper will study the extent to which legislative efforts in France have been successful in actually achieving equal rights for all working women. It will focus on discrimination against females in the hiring process, the wage gap between the genders, and sexual harassment in the workplace, as this is understood legally and culturally in that country. Readers: Professors Shingleton (Economics) and Duvick (Foreign Languages)

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*US Perceptions of Dictatorship in Chile 1970 to 1990*

Katie Jajtner (IECA/Spanish) On September 11, 1973, military forces in Chile overthrew the democratically elected Salvador Allende, an act which resulted in the death of the president and the institution of a military dictatorship headed by Augusto Pinochet. Under the new regime, the Chilean government targeted countless individuals who were deemed a potential hazard to the return of right wing politics. These subversive individuals often met with fates of torture and death via various methods used by the government to silence the people. In recent years, many people have come to question the US' involvement in the 1970 elections, in the coup itself, and its broader role in Chilean politics during the dictatorship. Did certain US presidential administrations actively or passively support the dictatorship? The paper will examine the changing stances of US administrations from Nixon to Reagan toward the Chilean government from 1970 to 1988, the factors that contributed to the changing political agendas vis-à-vis that country, and how they affected Chile politically or economically. Readers: Professors Ames (Foreign Languages) and Trost (Political Science)

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