Dear International Outlook Students,

Hi! My name is Lindsay Thane and I will be your FIG assistant for fall term 2012. I am excited to get to meet and work with all of you this fall as you experience all the opportunities and excitement of college classes and life. I am a senior from Missoula, Montana majoring in political science with a minor in planning, public policy, and management. I am involved in University of Oregon Running Club, although I was a swimmer and soccer player in high school. I also take part in the International Business and Economics Club. This summer I will be an intern in Senator Max Baucus’ Office in Washington DC, and upon graduation I plan to go to law school. I am very interested in development issues, land and resource management, and how policy can be implemented to promote development. So, that is where our FIG ties in!

International Outlook is comprised of three classes: INTL 240 Perspectives on International Development with Professor Glenn Mittermann and PS 205 Introduction to International Relations with Professor Jane Cramer, as well as the PS 199 College Connections course taught by Professor Cramer and me. We are so lucky to have Professor Cramer as a faculty advisor, and she will be there to assist you at the University and offer extensive knowledge on International Relations or about any questions you may have. Professor Cramer grew up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and went to Oberlin College in Ohio for her undergraduate degree, and then attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) near Boston where she earned her Ph.D. Her research focuses on international security issues (war and peace), especially intentional threat inflation and other causes of war, and U.S. foreign policy. She currently lives in Eugene on a small farm where she and her husband and their three daughters raise chickens, peacocks, and miniature donkeys. Professor Cramer will be a great asset to have on campus and I know she is as enthusiastic to meet you as I am.

In the meantime, here are a couple dates and events that we have planned for the beginning of the year. During Week of Welcome our FIG will have its first meeting Friday, September 21 at 10 a.m. and we will meet in Columbia 150 and then be relocating, so make sure you arrive on time. We will also be attending University Convocation as a FIG on Sunday September 23rd, where Robert Berdahl, the interim University President will speak. When you come to school in the fall also remember to bring your student handbook that you received at IntroDUCKtion because we will be using it at times in our class. Over the summer we also ask that you read this article from Foreign Policy magazine about President Obama and his foreign policy approach in regards to conflicts and the use of power by the U.S., as described by David Sanger in his new book, Confront and Conceal: Obama’s Secret Wars and Surprising Use of American Power. You can read the article online here.

When you receive this letter please email me so that I have your contact information and then I can email you the link to the Foreign Policy article. My email address is lthane@uoregon.edu, and, along with your initial email, please feel free to contact me about any questions you may have this summer.

Have a great summer and we look forward to meeting you in the fall...Go Ducks!!

Lindsay Thane and Professor Cramer
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