



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN • DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
3187 ANGELL HALL • ANN ARBOR, MI • 48109-1003 • 734-764-6330
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english>

INDEPENDENT STUDY

As a privilege for students who have displayed academic excellence and who can show appropriate preparation in courses previously taken, the Department of English offers course credit for independent study. Independent study provides an opportunity for highly motivated and capable students to pursue a rigorous course of study that is not accommodated elsewhere in the curriculum.

Independent study proposals require advance planning. Each must be developed in consultation with a full-time member of the English Department faculty who will serve as a faculty mentor for the project, and subsequently must be approved by the Department. Interested students should begin consulting with their mentors during the semester before the proposed independent study in order to develop a feasible course. Only those proposing a carefully structured and intellectually viable course of study that is not already offered in the undergraduate curriculum should submit applications. Independent study requires that students design their own courses, create their own syllabi, and work closely with faculty mentors. Supervising professors must donate a great deal of time and effort, so students applying for independent study should be similarly committed to the project. Students must be in residence in order to undertake independent study projects. A three-credit independent study should involve at least one hour of student-faculty contact plus an additional eight hours of work per week. It is also possible to elect one or two credit hours with appropriate changes in workload.

Professors normally do not supervise independent studies during terms when they are on leave, nor do they supervise them on subjects which fall outside of their areas of specialization, or on subjects covered by regular course offerings. A limit of six credit hours of independent study may be accumulated in the English department.

Independent study projects CANNOT be used to fulfill Department program requirements (297, 298, Pre-1600, Pre-1830, New Traditions and American Literature) or College distribution requirements. However, if appropriate, it can be applied to the upper-level elective credit portion of the concentration.

Please keep in mind, if you are planning on doing your independent study in writing (426) and have already taken and applied a writing course to your English concentration, the credit will not count toward your 27 credits. You are allowed to use only one creative or expository writing course toward the concentration whether it is independent study or a regular English course (323, 325, 423, 425, etc.)

How to apply:

Complete Part I of the following independent study application and attach a statement addressing each of the questions posed *along with a copy of an unofficial transcript*.

Part II of the application must be completed by the supervising faculty member.

Submit both parts of this proposal to the Undergraduate Studies Office in 3187 Angell Hall no later than:

Fall Term: September 16, 2011

Winter Term: January 13, 2012

Spring Half-Term: May 11, 2012

Summer Half-Term: July 6, 2012

Once a decision is made regarding your proposal, you will be notified either by phone or by email. All decisions on proposals submitted by the above due dates will be made by the Drop/Add deadline.

APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Part I: TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT

Name: _____ UMID#: _____

Local address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Term: _____ Class level: _____

Supervising Faculty member: _____ Faculty IND #: _____

Course number (*CIRCLE ONE*) _____ Proposed credit hours: _____

- English 226: Directed Writing (1-3 credits)
- English 299: Directed Study (1-3 credits)
- English 426: Directed Writing (1-4 credits, junior standing required)
- English 499: Directed Study (1-4 credits, junior standing required)

Please list previous English courses and grades: _____

Previous courses relevant to the proposed study (English and other) and grades: _____

Estimated Course load
(credit hours) this term: _____ Overall G.P.A.: _____ Overall G.P.A. in English: _____

Past independent study projects, if any, including supervising professor's name and topic of study:

ATTACH your numbered responses to the following:

1. What is the title of your proposed study?
2. Provide a list, in sequence, of the texts you plan to read.
3. Provide a tentative schedule for your meetings with your supervising faculty member.
4. Provide a description of the written work you plan to do this term. Is this the work upon which you plan to be graded?
5. Why must you undertake this independent study project rather than taking a regularly scheduled course?

Student Signature

Date

