

Department of Sociology

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INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent study (SOC 395: Directed Reading) provides concentrators with the opportunity to pursue sociological topics of particular interest in more depth by designing their own course, creating their own syllabus, and working closely with a faculty mentor. This is a special opportunity open only to declared sociology concentrators.

Each independent study proposal must be developed in consultation with a Department of Sociology faculty member who will serve as a mentor for the project. Begin consulting with the prospective mentor **the semester before** the proposed independent study in order to develop a carefully structured and intellectually viable course of study. Supervising professors must donate a great deal of time and effort, so you must be similarly committed to the project. You must be a declared sociology concentrator and in residence in order to undertake independent study projects through the Department of Sociology.

Syllabus and Credit Hour Guidelines

For each credit hour a student requests, they are required to write 10 pages of written work, and read 1 book and 3 articles. Using this standard, for 3 credit hours of independent study, you should expect to write the equivalent of 30 pages (three 10-page papers, two 15-page ones, etc), and read no less than the equivalent of 3 books plus 9 articles (assuming a book is the equivalent of 5 articles). The specific amount of reading and writing is up to the discretion of the supervising faculty member.

Additional Considerations

- A student may use a combined total of 8 credit hours for Soc 321, 389, 395 and 396 toward their concentration (with a maximum of 4 credit hours of Soc 389).
- A sociology graduate student may guide an independent study project as long as a Department of Sociology faculty member supervises the graduate student and signs the independent study form.
- Needing a certain number of credits to graduate is not a valid reason to pursue an independent study. Independent studies are intended for academic pursuit of greater depth into a specific area of sociology.

How to Apply

Complete the independent study application (on reverse) and obtain a signature from your supervising faculty member (and graduate student, if appropriate). Submit your application to Sociology's undergraduate program coordinator, Elise Frankish, at 3109 LSA. Once a decision is made regarding your proposal, you will be notified via email. All decisions on proposals submitted by the due dates below will be made before the drop/add deadline for that semester.

2007-2008 Deadlines

Fall: Friday, September 14, 2007

Winter: Friday, January 11, 2008

Spring half-term and spring/summer semester: Monday, April 28, 2008

Summer half term: Friday, June 27, 2008

There are no exceptions to the deadline dates for independent study applications.

APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY

Part I: To be completed by the student

Name: _____ UM ID: _____

Uniqname: _____ In which term would your proposed study take place? _____

Supervising faculty member: _____ Proposed credit hours: _____

By signing below, I am acknowledging that the independent study in sociology is available **only** to declared concentrators and stating that I am a declared sociology or social anthropology concentrator.

Student signature

Date

Part II: To be completed by the student in conjunction with the supervising faculty member

Create a mock syllabus for the proposed independent study and submit it with this form. Include the following information:

1. Title of the proposed independent study.
2. A brief description of the project.
3. Days and times the student and faculty member will meet (e.g. Mondays 1-2pm)
4. A list of writing assignments and/or research activities: include approximate due dates and the weight of each assignment (e.g. 10%, 25 points out of 100, etc).
5. A complete reading list.
6. A course schedule listing weekly reading and/or writing assignments.

Faculty member signature

Date

Graduate student signature (if applicable)

Date

Submit to Elise Frankish, 3109 LSA.

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Date submitted: ____ / ____ / 20 ____

Reviewed on : ____ / ____ / 20 ____

Reviewer: _____

APPROVED

DENIED

Student notified on : ____ / ____

Faculty section # : _____

Permission entered on : ____ / ____

