

**Department of Sociology and Social Work (4/09)**

**INDEPENDENT STUDY**

SOCI 491

SOCW 491

**I. Description**

Independent Study credit is available to students who wish to conduct independent investigations into areas of special interest not covered by regularly offered courses. Students may complete projects involving original data collection and analysis or using secondary sources of data (e.g. library research). Students may register for one to four credits of Independent Study, depending on the scope of their project.

Independent Study courses require the same amount of total class time (in and out of class) as a comparable course taken during the semester.

Students may only register for Independent Study credit for a letter grade (not Pass/Fail).

Faculty reserve the right to decline student requests for Independent Study credit. Student requests for Independent Study credit will be accepted only if they fit within faculty's regular teaching course load.

**II. Procedure**

- A. The student selects a faculty member with expertise in the area of investigation to serve as supervisor for the Independent Study. Because Independent Studies are so infrequently offered they are not part of any faculty member's regular teaching load.
- B. The student presents a preliminary outline of the intended topic to the faculty supervisor. The outline shall include:
  1. Statement of intended goals, activities, and outcomes of the Independent Study.
  2. Outline of the project.
  3. List of preliminary references, contacts, etc.
- C. The student and faculty supervisor work together to make any changes the faculty supervisor deems necessary.
- D. The faculty supervisor signs an Independent Study card allowing the student to register for SOCI/SOCW 491 when s/he accepts the preliminary outline.
- E. The student and faculty supervisor plan to meet regularly (e.g. weekly) during the semester.
- F. The student will keep a log indicating:
  1. Hours spent on the project
  2. Action and activities completed
  3. Meetings with faculty supervisor
  4. Copies of all written work

- G. At the conclusion of the semester, the faculty supervisor will evaluate the student's coursework (including their activity log) and submit a grade to the Registrar.