

Howard University
Department of Political Science
Independent Study Guidelines & Form

For POLS Juniors & Seniors ONLY

Undergraduate students majoring in Political Science who are a junior or senior may arrange to do an Independent Study with a POLS faculty member. An Independent Study provides POLS majors an opportunity to undertake independent research in an area of their interest, especially when the topic of interest is not covered by the courses offered by POLS Department faculty. By enrolling in an Independent Study course (e.g., IS POLS 081, 1 credit; IS POLS 082, 2 credits; or IS POLS 083, 3-credits), the *student must be a POLS major, must be a junior or senior, be in good academic standing to do the course (3.5 cumulative GPA), AND the student must understand that they will be conducting independent research – this class does not meet on a regular basis and there is no syllabus.* An Independent Study requires each student to do their own research.

It is important to know that Independent Studies are not like a regular class; this “class” does not have a regular meeting time, there are no assigned readings, and there is no syllabus. It is the individual students’ responsibility to determine what topic they will study, how they will study that topic, what they will write, and which POLS Faculty member they will work with. At the end of the semester, the work that the student hands in is graded using the A to F grading system in compliance with Howard University’s grading system. The Independent Study *must* be completed during the semester that the student is registered; incomplete grades are *not* granted by the Department for Independent Study credits.

**** If a student does not complete the Independent Study (or knows they will not complete the work prior to the end of the semester), the student should **withdraw** from the course by the withdrawal date for that semester. ****

Fill in the boxes below *and* answer each question that follows. Save your responses and then email your completed form to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

***** Independent Study Students must complete this form to stay enrolled in the course *****

Student Name:	HU ID:
Student Email:	Best Phone Number to contact you:
Course Number: POLS _____ - _____	Number of Registered Credits (check the appropriate box): <input type="checkbox"/> 1 credit / <input type="checkbox"/> 2 credits / <input type="checkbox"/> 3 credits
Cumulative GPA:	POLS GPA:
Semester & Year of Independent Study: Fall <input type="checkbox"/> OR Spring <input type="checkbox"/> 20_____	Expected Graduation Date: Fall <input type="checkbox"/> OR Spring <input type="checkbox"/> 20_____
Major:	Minor:

Please respond to each of question.

Topic of Interest: During your Independent Study, what do you want to learn about and study? What is the specific political issue you want to study?

Political Connection: What field of political science does your topic fit: Black Politics, American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Public Policy, Political Theory?

Research Question: What is your proposed research question (i.e., take your area of interest and now write a research question you want to explore)?

Learning Outcomes & Goals: What are two or three learning outcomes or goals you wish to accomplish with your Independent Study?

POLS Faculty Advisor: Which POLS faculty member will you work with? Have you contacted that professor and asked them to advise you for your independent study? If not, then email that professor and ask him/her if they will work with you.

Agreement (type your name / e-signed (e.g., Tyrone Brown / e-signed))

By e-signing this agreement, you, the student, agree to the requirements and expectations, as described above.

Student Signature

Date