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**Prerequisite to Apply:** Students intending to apply for independent study credit must have completed at least an introductory course (SOC 100, 102, 300, or 302) and 300-level sociology course. Students must be on the Ann Arbor campus during the semester proposed for the study (during an in-person semester).

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## **What is an Independent Study in the Sociology department?**

Independent Study (SOC 395) provides students with the opportunity to pursue sociological topics of particular interest in depth by designing their own course, creating their own syllabus, and working closely with a faculty member.

## **How do I begin?**

*Refine the independent study idea* – Research books and articles about the selected topic and brainstorm potential writing assignments. It is important for students to take initiative in designing the course for faculty members to invest the time and effort required to supervise the study.

*Identify a faculty member willing to supervise your study* – Consult 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 contribute a great deal of time and effort to support students studying independently, so the student must be similarly committed to the project. An independent study is intended for students and faculty who have common sociological interests and ideally, who already know each other. A student must demonstrate engagement and focus before a faculty mentor will agree to supervise the study. Sending mass emails to department faculty asking for study supervision is not permitted.

## **Credit Hour Guidelines:**

In a full semester, one academic credit hour requires ten pages of writing, three articles, and one book (one book is considered the equivalent of five articles). Using this standard, for three credit hours of independent study, the student should expect to write the equivalent of 30 pages (e.g. three 10-page papers or two 15-page papers), and read no less than the equivalent of three books, plus nine articles. The specific amount of reading and writing is up to the discretion of the supervising faculty member but the Undergraduate Director will provide recommendations.

## **Credit Exclusions:**

Sociology major: A limit of 8 credits from courses earning experiential or independent study credits may be counted toward the major. This includes but is not limited to SOC 225, 321, 324, 394, 395, 396, 468, and 488.

- Sub-majors: A maximum of six credits for the LJSC/SHM sub-major and a maximum of four credits for the SSW sub-major may come from experiential learning or independent study style courses.

LJSC minor & SHM minor: A maximum of 6 credits in the minor plan may come from experiential learning or independent study style courses.

# APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDIT (SOC 395)

**DEADLINE:** The deadline to submit an Independent Study application is the second Friday of the semester in Fall and Winter terms. Students must adhere to this deadline.

## Part I: To be completed by the student

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UM ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Uniquename: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed credit hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester of Independent Study: \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed at least an introductory course and a 300-level Sociology course.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand all of the guidelines provided on page one of this application:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Student Signature*

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

Create a draft syllabus for the proposed independent study and submit with your application via email to [socadvisor@umich.edu](mailto:socadvisor@umich.edu).

Include the following information in your syllabus:

1. Title of the proposed independent study
2. Brief description of the purpose of the study or project
3. Days and times the student and faculty member will regularly meet (e.g. Mondays 1-2pm)
4. List of writing assignments and/or research activities; include approximate due dates and the weight of each assignment (e.g. 10% of final grade, 25 points out of 100, minimum page length of papers)
5. Complete reading list
6. Course schedule listing weekly reading and/or assignment dates

## Part III: To be completed by the supervising Sociology faculty member

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Sociology Faculty Name (printed)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Faculty Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**SUBMISSION:** Send the completed application and syllabus electronically via email to [socadvisor@umich.edu](mailto:socadvisor@umich.edu).

**Next steps:** The Undergraduate Coordinator will review the application and send to the Undergraduate Director for approval. If approved, the student and faculty will be notified with SOC 395 override and registration directions.