

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICY AND PROCEDURES
FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

1. CREATING AN INDEPENDENT STUDY AGREEMENT

Independent study is an opportunity to earn academic credit for doing research outside of the normal classroom structure. A student who is interested in knowing more about a topic not covered (or not adequately covered) in the regular curriculum may propose a research project to a department faculty member whose fields of interest are compatible with the proposed area of study. Faculty members are under no obligation to accept Independent Study students, but may do so if the topic is in harmony with their areas of interest and they have sufficient time to supervise the project.

It is the responsibility of the student to contact a faculty member to begin the development of the independent study project. If both agree the topic is worthy of independent research, an independent study contract is developed and then signed by both the student and the faculty sponsor.

If human subjects are being used as part of the study (you are observing or interviewing them, or using them in a survey), you must seek approval for your project from the Human Subjects Coordinator in the department. (Departmental staff will identify that person for you.) In such studies, human subjects approval must be acquired before the study can begin.

Please keep in mind that a minimum of 25 hours of time is required for each semester hour of credit. For example, three credits of Independent Study would equal at least 75 hours of work, or approximately 6 hours per week.

2. INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICIES

Independent Study credit may not be awarded retroactively.

Independent Study credit must be registered for prior to the add deadline.

Independent Study will not be allowed for:

- A. Internship type experiences;
- B. Work in university departments.

Independent Study cannot be used to substitute for:

- a. A particular course.

Independent Study may be acceptable under the following conditions (subject to departmental discretion).

- a. Work completed elsewhere, e.g., out of state, if the Independent Study agreement is developed in advance.
- b. Volunteer work, when it is part of and germane to the independent research project.
- c. Work in business, when it is part of and germane to the independent research project.
- d. Extra research undertaken in association with a regular class if an Independent Study agreement is developed before the start of class.

3. MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDIT ALLOWED

There is no limit to the number of independent study hours that doctoral students can take. Students seeking an M.A. degree can take 25 percent of the coursework toward that degree as independent study (25% of 24 hours = 6 hours).

4. PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING AN INDEPENDENT STUDY

- A. Develop your ideas about the Independent Study project you want to pursue.
- B. Identify a possible faculty sponsor (see list of faculty and their fields of study below).
- C. Meet with the faculty member of your choice to see if an agreement can be reached about the project.
- D. If there is agreement, carefully complete the attached Independent Study Contract. (See further instructions below.)
- E. Give the completed contract to your faculty advisor for approval, making sure you are in agreement about what you will do, how you will present your work, and how it will be evaluated. When you are in agreement, both of you sign the contract.
- F. Prior to the add deadline, turn the signed contract into the Sociology Department office in Ketchum 219. At that point, the Faculty Coordinator for Independent Studies will review the contract and, if it seems to have merit and is well developed, it will be signed.
- G. Then you will be registered for the Independent Study within one week by a member of the staff. You will be called to confirm that you have been registered.

5. DEVELOPING THE INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACT

In the attached Independent Study contract, the following information must be provided in reasonable detail.

- a. A brief description of the research topic, explaining what you are proposing to do and why.
- b. A detailed description of what you will be covering in your research and how the study will be done, with reference to any important theories or literature you plan to explore as part of the project.
- c. How you will present the outcome of your research, such as a research paper, oral presentation, etc.
- d. What you and your faculty sponsor have agreed to be the criteria for grading your work.

6. LIST OF FACULTY AND THEIR FIELDS OF STUDY

Patricia Adler:	Interpretive sociology, qualitative research methods, deviant behavior, drugs, sociology of children, sociology of sport
Jennifer Bair:	Political Economy, Economic Sociology, Sex and Gender, Comparative and Global Sociology, Latin America and the Caribbean.
Joanne Belknap:	Intimate partner battering, sexual victimization, incarceration of women and girls, criminal justice policy, feminist criminology
Jason Boardman:	Stratification, race/ethnicity, social epidemiology, and quantitative methods
Liam Downey,	Environmental sociology, environmental inequality, race and ethnic relations, urban sociology, stratification/inequality, political sociology, geographic information systems
Lori Hunter:	Demography, environmental sociology, human-environment interactions
Leslie Irvine:	Interpretive sociology, qualitative methods, animals and society, the self, sociology of emotions, gender
Janet Jacobs:	Qualitative sociology, gender, social psychology, and religion
Ying Lu	Methods, statistics, demography, health
Thomas Mayer:	Social conflict, social change, political economy, class analysis, mathematical sociology
Jane Menken:	Demography, methods, statistics, family in developing countries
Sanyu Mojola:	Sociology of Health, Gender, Love and Money, The Life Course and African/Asian Demography

Stefanie Mollborn	Health, stratification, life course, social psychology, social problems, childhood and adolescence, families
Joyce Nielsen:	Sex and gender, social psychology, feminist research methods, environmental sociology
Fred Pampel:	Demography, stratification, aging, methods
Hillary Potter:	Criminology & Deviance, Gender, Qualitative / Interpretive Sociology; intersection of race, gender, class, and crime; intimate partner violence; and correctional sanctions and programs for convicted offenders.
Michael Radelet:	Criminology, deviance, and capital punishment
Isaac Reed	Sociological theory, culture, historical sociology, sex & gender, qualitative methods
Bob Regoli:	Juvenile delinquency, criminal justice
Richard Rogers:	Demography, medical sociology, sociology of aging, methods
Sara Steen:	Inequalities and social control, criminal justice responses to drug use, medicalization of deviance
Christina Sue:	Sociology of Race/Ethnicity and Qualitative Methods; Comparative Race and Ethnicity, Immigration, Gender, Ethnographic and Qualitative Methodology, the Sociology of Latin America
Terence Thornberry:	Criminology & Deviance; Delinquency, Life-Course Criminology, Research Methods
Kathleen Tierney:	Qualitative/Interpretive Sociology; Environmental Sociology; social dimensions of hazards and disasters, including natural, technological, and human-induced extreme events
Amy Wilkins	Gender, race and ethnicity, social class inequality, sexuality, youth, families, culture and identity

| Tim Wadsworth Crime and Deviance, Suicide, Immigration, and Stratification

INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACT
Department of Sociology
Graduate Students

Before proceeding with your Independent Study Contract, please read carefully the “Department of Sociology Independent Study Policy and Procedures for Graduate Students.”

Independent study is an opportunity for independent research under the sponsorship of a faculty member. If your work involves human subjects, other paperwork must be completed. Discuss this with your faculty sponsor.

Please fill out this contract carefully (type-written preferred).

Name:

Address:

SID#:

Phone #:

Course #:

- I. Provide a brief description of the research topic, explaining what you are proposing to do and why.

- II. On an attached page(s), give a detailed description of what you will be covering in your research and how the study will be done, with reference to any important theories or literature you plan to explore as part of the project.

- III. Briefly describe how you will present the outcome of your research, such as in research paper form, oral presentation, etc.

- IV. Briefly describe what you and your faculty sponsor have agreed to be the criteria for grading your work.

V. Credit hours: _____

*Note: each hour of Independent Study credit must equal a minimum of 25 hours of work per semester.

V. Semester in which you are seeking credit: _____

VI. Please indicate the location of your Independent Study, if not on the Boulder campus.

VII. List important dates:

Date of first meeting with sponsor:

Subsequent meeting dates:

Final due date for project:

Faculty Sponsor Name & Title: _____

Signature: _____ date: _____

Independent Study Coordinator Name: _____

Signature: _____ date: _____

Graduate Chair Signature: _____

Signature: _____ date: _____