

Government 494, Independent Study

Guidelines

- a.) **Expectations and eligibility:** Government 494 is a course that allows a student to work directly with a faculty member to intensively study a subject in which both are mutually interested, and which is distinct from materials and subjects covered by other classes already offered. As Government 494 represents the equivalent of a class, it should be treated as one. Students need to plan to do a rigorous set of readings; analyze and discuss the readings with their supervisor and how they relate to key themes and questions the course is designed to answer; and produce a research project or paper. Only academic juniors or seniors may enroll; non-majors are eligible.
- b.) **Advisor:** Students are responsible for contacting a full-time member of the Department faculty with appropriate expertise who is willing to serve as supervisor; the availability of a faculty supervisor is entirely dependent upon previous commitments. The student is required to meet regularly with the supervisor for tutorials that discuss and analyze the readings as well as the design and execution of the project or paper.
- c.) **Project:** In conjunction with the supervisor, the student should design a research project or a series of guided readings on the topic. It must be clear in advance whether this project is designed for the 3 credit or the 1 credit option. For the 3 credit option, reading and/or research must be equivalent to that required in other 400-level courses, and the paper(s) must be at least 25-30 double-spaced typewritten pages. For the 1 credit option, the paper must be at least 10 double-spaced typewritten pages.
- d.) **Approval:** Students must complete the application form, obtain the faculty supervisor's signature, and attach a 2-3 page project proposal. The proposal should be analogous to a mini-syllabus, including a comprehensive description of the course; a detailed list of readings; a discussion of assignments and outputs; and a timetable for when the student will complete the readings, the assignments, and when and how often they will meet the supervisor. These materials must be submitted to the Department's Associate Chair. Upon receiving Department approval, it is up to the student to enroll himself/herself in the appropriate section of Govt. 494.
- e.) **Credit/Grading:** Independent Study is available for 1 credit or 3 credits and on a graded basis only (i.e. no pass/fail option is available). No more than six total credits of Govt. 494 and Govt. 498 may be counted toward a Government major. Also, no more than three credits of Govt. 494 may be counted for students also counting Govt. 495-96, Honors, to the major.
- f.) **Restrictions:** Participation in an internship, or seminar/workshop alone does not qualify; a project based on such an experience must still conform to items (a) through (e).

Application

a) Application Form: Provide the following information

Name _____

ID Number _____

(930xxxxxx)

Email Address _____

Semester _____

Faculty Advisor _____

Credits (1 or 3) _____

b) Proposal/mini-syllabus: Attach a independent study proposal of 2-3 pages. The proposal should be analogous to a mini-syllabus, including a comprehensive description of the course; a detailed list of readings; a discussion of assignments and outputs; and a timetable for when the student will complete the readings, the assignments, and when and how often they will meet with the supervisor.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

The project can be modified only with the advisor's approval. I recognize that it is my responsibility to plan and carry out the project in conjunction with the advisor.

Advisor's Signature _____ Date _____

Associate Chair's Signature _____ Date _____