

Political Science Independent Study (POLS 3800)

An independent study in political science involves the supervised investigation of a political issue that is of special interest to the student and within the area of the supervising instructor's expertise. To enroll in an independent study, you must have a research question in mind AND find a faculty member in the department who is willing to supervise your project. Typically, independent study projects grow out of previous coursework with that instructor. Many faculty members will only agree to supervise an independent study if you have taken one or more of their upper-level political science courses and done well.

You can register for a one-, two-, or three-credit independent study. Depending on the number of credits, the expectations need to be negotiated and agreed with the supervising instructor. Most faculty members require a longer paper (approx. 20 pages) for a three-credit independent study and somewhat shorter for fewer credits. Some instructors allow you to enroll for a one-hour independent study in conjunction with another one of their courses, with the expectation that you will write a longer research paper for that class to fulfill the independent study requirements.

Steps to enroll in POLS 3800 Independent Study:

1. Identify your broad research question.
2. Find a faculty member in the department who has expertise in this area and discuss your project with that person.
3. If the faculty member agrees to supervise your project, complete the Request for Approval of Independent Study form (page 2) and get supervising instructor's signature.
4. Submit form to the associate chair.
5. When you receive an email prompting you to do so, register for the appropriate section of POLS 3800 online.

**Department of Political Science
University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF INDEPENDENT STUDY (POLS 3800)

I request permission to enroll for an independent study in Political Science. I understand it is my responsibility to work with the supervising instructor to establish deadlines and complete the project in a timely manner. I will receive a *letter grade* for the independent study. I understand that after submitting this form, the department will issue a permit that allows me to register for this class. I understand that it is then my responsibility to register for the class.

Name _____

ID# _____

E-mail Address _____

Credit hours: 1 (POLS 3800.A01) 2 (POLS 3800.B01) 3 (POLS 3800.C01)

Term Enrolled _____

Topic: _____

Scheduled Meeting Time(s): _____

Expected Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives:

Grading/Evaluation Criteria:

Student Signature Date

Supervising Instructor Signature Date

Department Chair/Associate Chair Signature Date