Please Note:
Students intending to apply for independent study credit must have completed at least an introductory and a 300-level sociology course and be on the Ann Arbor campus during the semester proposed for the study.

What is it?
Independent study (SOC 395) provides students with the opportunity to pursue sociological topics of particular interest in more depth by designing their own course, creating their own syllabus, and working closely with a faculty mentor.

How to Begin
Refine the independent study idea.
Research books and articles about the selected topic and brainstorm potential writing assignments. A faculty mentor who sees that a student has already taken this initiative will be more likely to feel comfortable investing the time to supervise the study.

Identify a faculty mentor willing to supervise your study.
Begin consulting 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 donate a great deal of time and effort to support students studying independently so the student must be similarly committed to the project. 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 or graduate students asking for study supervision is strongly discouraged.

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. All numbers are doubled for independent studies occurring during the half-term. The specific amount of reading and writing is up to the discretion of the supervising faculty member.

Credit Exclusion
The sociology major may include a combined total of eight credit hours for SOC 321, 324, 389, 394, 395, and 396 (with a maximum of four credit hours from SOC 389).

The Law, Justice, and Social Change minor may include a maximum of 6 credits of Experiential Learning or Independent Study courses. These include but are not limited to (SOC 225 and SOC 395).
APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDIT (SOC 395)

DEADLINE: Please check for each semester’s deadline: www.lsa.umich.edu/soc/undergraduate/currentmajors/independentstudy

Part I: To be completed by the student and submitted in hard copy to Nicole Rutherford

Remember, you must have completed at least an introductory and a 300 level sociology course in order to apply.

Name: _______________________________________
UM ID: ____________

Uniqname: ________________ Proposed credit hours:____ In which semester? __________

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 and submitted electronically to socadvisor@umich.edu

Create a draft syllabus for the proposed independent study and submit via an email that includes your name to socadvisor@umich.edu. Include the following information in your syllabus:

1. Title of the proposed independent study
2. A 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. A 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)
5. A complete reading list
6. A course schedule listing weekly reading and/or writing assignment due dates

Part III: To be completed by the supervising faculty member and submitted in hard copy to the Sociology advisor

______________________________________________
Faculty member name (printed)
(Must be appointed in the Sociology Department)

______________________________________________
Faculty member signature Date

Notification of the department’s decision to grant independent study credit will occur via email.

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Date submitted: ____ / ____ / 201____ Introduction: __________ 300 level: _________ Reviewed on: ____ / ____

Reviewer: K. Martin APPROVED DENIED Student notified on: ____ / ____ Faculty section #: ________

Permission entered on: ____ / ____ Note: ________________________________