

## Independent Reading/Research (COMM 441/442)

### What is independent study in Communication Studies?

Independent Study is a course of study designed by a student and a sponsoring faculty member. Independent Reading (COMM 441) is intended for individualized instruction in subject areas **not covered by scheduled courses**. Independent Research (COMM 442) is intended for original, individualized student research under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Independent Research may not be used to provide research support to a faculty member.

### How do you apply and register for independent study?

1. Identify a mass media or emerging media topic of interest not currently covered by existing courses in the curriculum.
2. Find a faculty member who agrees to supervise your independent study and whose area of interest relates to your topic (students may view faculty research areas on the Communication Studies website at: [www.lsa.umich.edu/comm/faculty/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/comm/faculty/)). The responsibility for finding a faculty sponsor belongs to the student. **(Note: The Department or Undergraduate Program Coordinator cannot assist students to find a faculty sponsor for independent study.)**
3. Complete the *Application for Independent Reading or Independent Research* available in the department or on the undergraduate C-Tools site located under Resources\Independent Study.
4. Make an appointment with your selected faculty supervisor to discuss all areas of the independent study; complete the application form, and have it signed by the faculty supervisor.
5. Return the signed application form and requested attachments to the department's Undergraduate Program Coordinator for approval by the Department Chair.
6. Approved applicants will be notified and issued permission to register for the course by the Undergraduate Program Coordinator.

#### Important Policies:

- COMM 441 and 442 courses are graded credit/no credit.
- Independent Reading and Research courses are only for **declared Communication Studies juniors or seniors**.
- COMM 441 and 442 may be taken for three or four credits only.
- A maximum of three (3) credits from COMM 322, 441 or 442 (Independent Study) may apply to the major requirements (additional credit may be applied to the general bachelor's degree requirements).
- Comm 441 and 442 may NOT be used for internship credit. Eligible declared majors should reference Comm 321, Internship for credit, policies and procedures found on the Communication Studies undergraduate C-tools site.
- Only regular Communication Studies faculty may supervise independent reading or research. Visiting faculty and lecturers (as designated on the faculty web page) are not authorized to supervise Comm 441 or 442.