

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES DEPARTMENT UNDERGRADUATE INDEPENDENT STUDY INFORMATION

WGS 384 Independent Research (1-3 credits)

WGS 384 provides students with the opportunity to receive course credit for conducting their own research under the supervision of a Women's and Gender Studies faculty member or for working with a WGS professor on a pre-existing research project. More specifically, students may develop a critical analysis of a set of readings or follow a research plan that includes collecting, analyzing, and interpreting original data. Students are responsible for finding a WGS faculty member who will sponsor their independent course work.

WGS 385 Directed Reading (1-3 credits)

WGS 385 offers students the opportunity to pursue an independent, interdisciplinary reading project on any subject related to women and gender. A final written report is required, but the format (e.g., a research paper, with an annotated bibliography, etc.) is up to the discretion of the faculty supervisor. Students are responsible for finding a WGS faculty member who will sponsor their directed course.

Independent Research/Directed Reading Guidelines

1. No independent study credit should be granted for work that can be done through a regular course during the same academic year.
2. Students interested in undertaking an independent study should have:
 - A: the necessary background to work in their interest area.
 - B: a project that has been well thought out before a prospective sponsor is contacted.
3. No more than three credit hours of independent study may be counted toward a Women's and Gender Studies or Gender and Health major or minor (not including the practicum requirement for a major).
4. To register for an independent study a student should meet with the faculty member to discuss the requirements for credit. Once approved the professor should email WGS.Advising@umich.edu stating that they approve the independent study. The email should include the student's email address and note if it is WGS 384 Independent Research or WGS 385 Directed Reading.
5. No incompletes are given for independent studies.

Sample guidelines for work requirements

1. 10-12 books for 3 credit hours, 6-8 books for 2 credits, 3-4 books for 1 credit --- or the equivalent in articles or other course materials.
2. A 10-12 page project, annotated bibliography, etc., for 3 credits; 6-8 pages for 2 credits; 3-4 pages for 1 credit.
3. Regular communication between student and instructor throughout the term.

The student will receive an override by email once the Independent Research/Directed Reading is processed and must then register for the course.