Government and International Affairs
Political Science Program

Guidelines For Independent Study and Individual Research
(POS 6909 & POS 6919)

Students and faculty are advised to observe the Guidelines below on individual courses. Please remember that registration for these courses is governed by the same rules for all other courses. Students must get approval of their contracts prior or with registration. A copy of each contract must be filed with the Department and is due the first week of classes.

The burden of preparing independent study/individual research proposals rests with the student. Typically, the student will approach the instructor with an idea for a project. The instructor will discuss the feasibility of the proposal with the student. The student will prepare a written proposal meeting the requirements of the contract for these courses. Copies of the contracts are available in the Departmental Office. Once the student and the instructor agree about the specifics of the written contract and the attached section entitled, “substantive requirements”, the contract will be circulated to the appropriate persons for signature.

STANDARDS FOR POS 6919 (Research)

POS 6919 is offered S/U ONLY, and is 1-3 hours credit. Projects for POS 6919 are research projects. The proposals should include the following:

1. Statement of problem (questions, hypothesis, etc.) To be researched (answered, tested, etc.) This statement should establish the significance of the problem for the student, a problem narrow enough or specific enough to be handled in the amount of time for which credit is sought.

2. Statement of methods for handling the problem. Methods for graduate research need not be rigidly scientific - but they must be specific if we are to avoid disagreements later concerning the terms for fulfilling the contract.

3. A bibliography which, while not necessarily exhaustive, reflects the detailed planning which should go into these proposals.

4. Specifications of the product to be submitted, not only as to form (paper, report, file cards, etc.). But also as to content (summary of expected findings, typically).
STANDARDS FOR POS 6909 (Readings)

POS 6909 is offered S/U ONLY, and is 1-19 credit hours. Projects are independent reading projects and the proposal must include the following:

1. A statement of readings. This statement must include the significance of the reading area for some problem in political science or the significance of the reading area for the curriculum of the individual student. Also, the statement should demonstrate that the reading to be done is wide enough to be meaningful, but sufficiently focused to be finished in the period and for the amount of credit hours designated.

2. A bibliography of readings. This need not be exhaustive, but it must reflect adequate planning to indicate the student is prepared to begin the course at the beginning of the quarter enrolled.

3. Specification of the project to be submitted as to form and content.