



DEPARTMENT *of* GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES

# Independent Study/Readings Guidelines & Form

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Department of Geographical Sciences graduate students can arrange to receive credit for individualized academic projects through an independent study (GEOG 788), directed readings (GEOG 789), or pre-candidacy research course (GEOG 898). The student is expected to engage in study that is supervised by a faculty advisor. This student must not duplicate courses that are traditionally offered at the University. The faculty advisor may be any tenure-track UMD professor, or with permission of the Graduate Director, any research professor in the Department; however the advisor must have knowledge of the topic the student will explore in the independent work. The responsibilities of the faculty advisor include:

- Sign the student's Independent Study application (this form)
- Meet with the student regularly during the semester
- Assign appropriate readings and other work as appropriate
- Submit a grade at the end of the semester

## **Academic Requirements**

The student must prepare a brief proposal (not to exceed one page) submitted with this form that details the following:

- Purpose and Objectives:*** What do you hope to accomplish? Why is this area of interest and relevant to your graduate studies?
- Procedures:*** What methods will you use to achieve your objectives? Literature review? Software experience? Field work? etc.
- Outcomes:*** What will the deliverables be of this study? An annotated bibliography? Software?

## **Final Report**

All students must produce a written, final report, regardless of the type of study done. The length of this report should be consistent with the number of credits taken, but accounting for other deliverables (e.g. there is no need of long, final report if the other activities, say software development or data collection were significant). The content of the report should be agreed upon by the student and advisor and may take several forms, including an annotated bibliography.

When complete, a copy of this form and the proposal must be submitted to the Graduate Office.



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## Independent Study/Readings Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Course Number:** ☐ 788 ☐ 789 ☐ 898

**Semester of Independent Study:** ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer

**Number of Credits:** ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three ☐ Other\_\_\_\_\_

**Year of Independent Study:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Description of Project:** (Summarize here, but attach a separate sheet with details)

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### Student Agreement:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Faculty Advisor Agreement:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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*For Graduate Office Use: Date Received* \_\_\_\_\_