

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Faculty

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Political Science is to help students become aware of the numerous and complex ways in which political forces shape their lives. Our academic offerings accomplish this by focusing on the core areas of the discipline of Political Science, which include American politics, political theory, and comparative politics and international relations. American government courses teach students about the forces that influence politics in the United States and how governmental institutions in this country operate. Political theory courses raise awareness of the deep and fundamental questions asked for centuries by classical and contemporary philosophers. Comparative politics and international relations courses provide students with an understanding of political systems from around the world and help them to understand the dynamics of international politics and the functioning of global institutions. Students are also taught how critical analysis and the scientific method can be applied to understand the workings of government and politics.

The Department of Political Science offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. A degree in political science prepares students for a wide range of employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors, and serves as a foundation for law or graduate school. Our students have gone on to successful careers in local, state, and national government, academics, politics, the legal field, law enforcement, engineering, and the military.

Additionally, some of the department's course offerings may be used to fulfill the university's liberal learning curriculum requirements. The effects of politics and government seep into all areas of life, and thus our students are well equipped to handle a variety of situations. Students who study political science are able to make more informed decisions in both their professional and personal worlds, thereby helping to make them responsible democratic citizens.

Graduate Studies Preparation

The Bachelor of Arts in political science is excellent

preparation for admission to and success in graduate school. Recent graduates have gone on to study at schools such as University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, The College of William and Mary, George Mason University, American University, Virginia Tech University, University of Illinois, University of Florida, University of Mississippi, University of San Diego, and University of Maryland. Students interested in pursuing graduate studies should consult their academic advisers to plan an appropriate course of study.

Law School Preparation

The Bachelor of Arts in political science is excellent preparation for admission to and success in law school. Courses involving rigorous analytical skills are strongly recommended by law school admissions committees. Recent graduates have been admitted to law schools at schools such as University of Richmond, University of Virginia, The College of William and Mary, George Mason University, University of Delaware, University of Nebraska, Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Wisconsin. Students interested in attending law school should contact their academic advisers to plan an appropriate course of study. For additional information on law school preparation, see the *Pre-Law Program* located in this catalog.

Internship Opportunities

We encourage our majors to take political and government-related internships at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Internships might be as varied as working with government agencies, international organizations, political campaigns, private firms, or domestic or foreign-based non-profit organizations.

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science

The major in political science is a rigorous academic program that provides a general liberal arts background for the study of politics and government. The Department's faculty presents a diversity of ideological orientations and methodological approaches that offer students a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives on political issues.

The major in political science requires successful completion of 36 credit hours, including the following:

1. **Core courses:** POLS 100, 101, 215, 352 and 490W.
2. **Major Electives:** Select 21 hours in POLS courses in consultation with your academic adviser. At least 18

hours must be numbered at the 300-400 levels.

Minor in Political Science (18 credits)

The minor in political science requires the successful completion of 18 credits, including:

1. POLS 100 or 101;
2. POLS 215;
3. Select four POLS courses (12 credits) at or above the 200-level in consultation with a departmental academic adviser. At least three courses (9 credits) must be at the 300- or 400-level.

Teacher Preparation in History and Social Science

Those students who wish to become teachers should apply to the five-year Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program. Application to the program must be made in spring of the junior year. See the *Graduate Catalog* for application instructions and requirements. Students will earn a **B.A. in political science** after the first four years and then complete an additional year of study leading to an M.A.T. degree. Students majoring in political science can prepare to teach elementary school, pre-kindergarten through grade six, all core subjects, or secondary school, grades six through 12, in the content area of **history and social science**. The courses and degree requirements for the M.A.T. are found in the graduate catalog. Students accepted into this program must complete one of the following tracks for graduation with the bachelor's degree:

Elementary level (PK-6) Track

Major courses required:

See major requirements for the B.A. in political science.

Support courses required:

- ENGL 123, 223; 310 or 430, and 316;
- COMM 201 or THEA 230;
- CPSC 110;
- MATH 109, 125;
- HIST 111, 121, 122;
- POLS 101;
- GEOG 210;
- PSYC 208, 312;
- SOCL 314/314L;
- BIOL 107 or 108; CHEM 103; PHYS 141; PHYS 105L or BIOL 109L;
- NSCI 310.

* Support courses may change based on regulations from the Virginia Department of Education.

Graduate courses* required (senior year):

Select six credits from a), b), or c):

- a) MATH 570;
- b) PSYC/TCHG 544;
- c) MLAN 511, ENGL 530.

Secondary level (6-12) Track: History/Social Science Endorsement

Major courses required:

See major requirements for the B.A. in political science.

Support courses required:

MATH 125; CPSC 110, COMM 201 or THEA 230; PSYC 207 or 208, 312; SOCL 314/314L; ECON 201 or 202; GEOG 210, 211; HIST 111, 112, 121, 122, 390; and two upper level history electives.

Graduate courses* required (senior year):

Select six credits: 500 level History courses; or PSYC 535.

*See the graduate catalog for course descriptions.

THE CURRICULUM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

(All POLS courses are formerly GOVT, equivalent.)

POLS 100. Political Thought and Society (3-3-0)

Fall and Spring.

This course is an introduction to western political theory. The course focuses on the theoretical foundations of politics including the principal concepts, ideas, and theories of the study of the political world. Particular focus is given to the state, citizen, government, power, justice and conflict in the development of the modern western political system.

POLS 101. Power and Politics in America (3-3-0) AIDE

Fall, Spring and Summer.

An introduction to the dynamics of the American political system. The course focuses on political institutions such as the presidency, Congress, the judiciary, and topics including the bureaucracy, elections, political parties, and interest groups. The course emphasizes critical thinking about politics, governmental institutions, and power in the United States.

POLS 195. Special Topics (3-3-0)

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

POLS 202. State and Local Government (3-3-0)

This course focuses on state governments and the political forces at work at the state and local levels within the United States. While containing many of the same political institutions as the federal government, the states have their own unique social and cultural backgrounds. In addition, the states make and implement their own public policies, many of which impact the daily lives of their citizens more often than some at the federal level. Topics covered include: federalism, state legislatures, and local governments.

POLS 204. Hate Crime Realities and Consequences (3-3-0)

This course examines the causes and effects of “hate crime” –crimes motivated in whole or in part by a bias against the victim’s perceived race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability. The class discusses the problematic issues related to defining and recording hate crimes, the theoretical perspectives on motivation to commit hate crime, and governmental policies designed to reduce it.

POLS 215. Comparative and International Politics (3-3-0)

Fall and Spring.

This course will introduce students to the political world beyond our borders. It combines the study of the international state system with the study of politics within states. The course will involve critical thinking about world issues and the organization of society and require students to debate contemporary political issues such as what responsibility rich countries have towards poor countries, legitimacy of tactics for pursuing political gains, when war is just and the challenges that exist to organizing internationally.

POLS 240. The Supreme Court in American Politics (3-3-0) AIDE

This course provides an examination of the United States Supreme Court as a political institution and as the custodian of the American system of government. The history of the court and its role in the federal judicial process is reviewed, and individual cases are examined to analyze developments in constitutional interpretation, federal-state relations, and individual rights and liberties. The course will highlight the distinctly varied philosophies of justices and how the dynamics of the court shift over time.

POLS 243. Crime and Punishment in America (3-3-0)

A survey of the criminal justice system and overview of the major system components: law enforcement, judiciary and corrections; theories of crime causation and use of crime statistics. The focus is on identifying the relationships among the components of the criminal justice system and other components of government, critical thinking and issues confronting the system and its various components.

POLS 291. Community Service Internship (Credits vary 1-3)

The community service internship provides opportunities for students to: 1) serve the community, 2) explore a possible career field, and 3) gain experience in understanding the effectiveness of organizations and their programs. Interns serve in a governmental or non-profit organization. For-profit organizations may be utilized if there is a clear connection between the program’s purpose and the public’s well-being. The course may be enrolled for one, two or three credit hours, requiring 25, 50 or 75 hours of community service

respectively with an organization approved by the instructor of record. A weekly journal is required of all participants on such topics as the role of volunteers in formal organizations, liability, services delivery effectiveness, political pressure, and career opportunities. A final paper analyzing the experience is required.

POLS 295. Special Topics (3-3-0)

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

POLS 301. Politics and Travel (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent of instructor.

This course will allow students from all disciplines to study politics and governmental institutions abroad. Destinations and topics will depend upon faculty expertise and student interest. Additional fees may be required. Course may be repeated twice for a maximum of nine credits.

POLS 307. Civil Liberties (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 100 or 101.

This course will examine basic civil rights and liberties. Students will gain an understanding of contemporary and controversial public policy issues. Some of the issues that will be addressed in the class are same sex marriages, rights of privacy, voting rights, freedom of religion and rights of the accused. Class time will include lecture, guest speakers, student discussion, video presentations and panel discussions.

POLS 311. WI: Comparative Politics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 223 with a C- or higher, POLS 215.

A comparative study of the governmental processes of selected nations in terms of their ideologies, institutions, political organizations, and policies such as social welfare, crime control, urbanization, economic management, and foreign affairs. Partially satisfies the writing intensive requirement.

POLS 316. Constitutional Law (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: Minimum junior standing or consent of instructor.

This course will explore the fundamentals of constitutional law. Civil rights and civil liberties through the study of many landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases will be studied. The restrictions on government and resolution of political questions through the courts will be covered.

POLS 320. Religion and Politics in the United States (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 101.

This course explores the link between religion and politics in America from a social scientific standpoint. It includes an examination of how religion has influenced American politics and policy both historically and currently. Topics include the religious roots of American culture, church-state

relations, and the changing nature of religion's impact on American political behavior.

POLS 322. Conflict and Peace Studies (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

For millennia, philosophers, religious thinkers, and political activists have written about peace and war. Conflicts are found in all human communities; but peace is the state of mind everyone desires. This course examines the nature and causes of conflict, conflict resolution, and the foundations of peace. By analyzing different case studies, we discuss the sources, causes and determinants of conflict, present the various perspectives on conflict management, and study different ways of peacemaking. We study academic writings in international relations, politics, and conflict and peace studies to explore a variety of techniques employed in managing, resolving, and preventing conflict.

POLS 323. American Foreign Policy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 101 or consent of instructor.

A seminar examining the foundations of American foreign policy including issues of world leadership, military strategy, economic relations, and the institutional processes in the formulation of foreign policy.

POLS 327. International Law and International Organizations (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

This course provides a formal introduction to international law and international organizations and emphasizes the relationship between law and the political behavior of states, institutions, and other international actors in world politics. International law is more relevant than ever before. From the international wars to environmental challenges, from human rights violations to the question of statehood, globalization, and the law of war, international law has a direct influence on international affairs. This course focuses on the nature, sources, and applications of international law and analyses its effect on issues in contemporary international relations.

POLS 329. International Human Rights (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

Human rights and especially human rights violations are some of the most discussed issues on the international agenda. The conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Israel/Palestine, Rwanda, and Sudan are only among the best-known examples involving gross violations of human rights. This course examines human rights issues from different academic perspectives including politics, history, and law. The main focus is on the international management of human rights and the protection of individuals and groups on the international level. A number of exemplary case studies are considered to illustrate achievements, efficiency, and outcome of today's international human rights protection regime.

POLS 330. Middle Eastern Politics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

This course explores the impact of authoritarian rule, recent uprisings, and calls for change to the political, economic, social and cultural environment of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and discusses the juxtaposition of secular modernism and religious revival in the area. Different case studies will shed light on a region that has been the focus of international attention and scrutiny in both public political discourse and in media coverage over the past decades.

POLS 333. Congress (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 101 or consent of instructor.

This course focuses on a general overview of the powers of Congress. Particular attention is devoted to understanding how an individual wins a congressional election, factors that affect congressional behavior, and the impact Congress has on public policy making. Topics covered include: congressional elections, representation, coalition building, voting behavior, leadership, committees, legislative process and decision making, and organized interests.

POLS 338. Politics of Weapons Proliferation (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

This course examines the threats posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to aspiring states and terrorist groups and the strategies that the United States and the international community have employed to prevent the spread of these weapons. Key topics that we will examine include the technologies necessary for these weapons, the relevant treaties and international agreements that attempt to prevent WMD proliferation, and the primary countries and terrorist groups that are attempting to acquire these weapons.

POLS 340. Might and Right Among Nations (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 100 or 215.

The main purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the evolution of international relations thought by means of a critical examination of classics in the tradition of political philosophy. Readings will be drawn from works of classical thinkers including Thucydides, Machiavelli, Grotius, Hobbes, Rousseau, and Kant, as well as some representative contemporary theorists. From these will emerge the concepts, assumptions, and issues that continue to dominate thinking about world politics today, including: the legitimate basis of political authority, the nature of sovereignty, the implications of "human nature" for world politics, and the possibilities and limits of international ethics.

POLS 344. The Presidency (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 101 or consent of instructor.

A seminar examining the American presidency, with a particular focus on its constitutional foundation, the process of selection, presidential leadership, and presidential relations with other political institutions and the public.

POLS 347. Justice, Politics and Policy (3-3-0)

This course examines how public opinion shapes politics which, in turn, shapes policy in the criminal justice agencies. The American representative form of government is examined in the context of how and why we create and implement public policy in the federal, state and local justice systems.

POLS 350. Latin American Politics and Societies (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215 or consent of instructor.

This is a course that introduces students to regime change, democratic institutional design, and social transformations in contemporary Latin America. Students will learn about classical and novel theoretical perspectives that help us understand how differences in electoral systems, executive, and legislative structure affect political outcomes such as democratic regime stability and governability in Latin America. The last section of the course will explore important social phenomena in the region such as drug trafficking, corruption, indigenous people's mobilization, and the rise of the new left.

POLS 351. East and Central European Politics and Societies (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215 or consent of instructor.

This course introduces students to the politics, society, and culture of East and Central European countries during three historical junctures in the region's development – the interwar period of state formation, the years of communist rule, and the post-communist era. Students will learn about classical and novel theoretical perspectives that help us understand how differences in electoral systems, executive, and legislative structure affect political outcomes such as democratic regime stability and governability in post-communist East and Central Europe. The course will also explore important social phenomena in the region such as right-wing political extremism, corruption, ethnic conflict, and immigration issues.

POLS 352. Research Methods and Quantitative Analysis (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: MATH 125 or consent of instructor.

Fall and Spring.

An examination of the common methodological issues of social science research along with an introduction to the quantitative method. Topics include the conceptual foundations of research and the basic elements of research, research design and structure, data collection, and data-analysis techniques.

POLS 353. East Asian Politics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

East Asia is one of the most economically dynamic regions in the world. The term "East Asian Politics," however, collapses together a disparate array of political, economic, and social

structures, institutions, and practices. One objective of this course is to disentangle each of these factors and examine their respective influences on the contemporary politics of these countries. While the course involves gaining an appreciation for East Asia's historical richness and complexity, we will primarily focus on contemporary issues related to the "East Asian economic development model," which reflects the unique relationship between political and economic development in this region.

POLS 354. Political Campaigns and Elections (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 100, 101 or consent of instructor.

A seminar examining the theoretical, historical and political principles of political campaigns and elections in the United States. Particular attention is given to understanding the various factors that influence individual election outcomes, how elections impact the operation of government and public policy, and influences on elections such as the media, political action committees, and political parties.

POLS 357. Classical Political Thought (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 100 or consent of instructor.

Beginnings of the Western political heritage as shaped by the great political thinkers from Plato to Cicero.

POLS 358. Modern Political Thought (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 100 or consent of instructor.

Political thought of the Renaissance to that of the late nineteenth century, as represented by such thinkers as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche. Particular emphasis is placed on the aspirations of liberalism and the criticisms these aspirations inspired.

POLS 359. American Political Thought (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 100, 101 or consent of instructor.

History of American political thought from the founding to the Progressives, as represented by such thinkers as Locke, the Founders, federalists and anti-federalists, Tocqueville, and Lincoln. Particular emphasis is placed on views of democracy, liberty, equality, property and the Union.

POLS 363. The Judicial Process (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 101 or consent of instructor.

An examination of institutional analysis of the judiciary in the context of sociopolitical conceptions of adjudication with emphasis on the role of courts in American society.

POLS 368. WI: Comparative Criminal Justice Systems (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 223 with a C- or higher.

The course presents an overview of the criminal justice systems in the United States and other countries. The law enforcement, judiciary and corrections components are examined within various national systems to identify the functions which best serve host political systems. Issues

relating to the administration of justice within the context of urban and rural settings are also examined. Partially satisfies the writing intensive requirement.

POLS 371. WI: Public Administration and Policy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 223 with a C- or higher.

An introduction to management in public, non-profit, and international career fields. The course concentrates upon examining resources for creating successful, high performance organizations. Primary topics of study include the role of politics in public administration, structural and human resources available for creating efficient and effective programs, communication styles and strategies, and budgeting and evaluation techniques and strategies. Partially satisfies writing intensive requirement.

POLS 375. Labor Law and Politics (3-3-0)

This course will examine political and court decisions, as well as state, federal, and constitutional laws that impact the employment environment. Particular emphasis will be given to federal laws such as Title VII, Americans with Disabilities Act, Equal Pay Act, Age Discrimination Act, and specific Civil Rights Acts. Students will gain an understanding as to why these laws came into existence and how prospective and current employees and supervisors are affected.

POLS 380. Terrorism (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

This course will examine the modern phenomenon of terrorism. We will define terrorism, consider its motivations, review the new dangers associated with terrorist access to weapons of mass destruction, and debate policy proposals that might be taken by democratic regimes to reduce the likelihood of terrorism or mitigate its consequences. Although we will examine a number of different types of terrorism and terrorist groups (including left-wing and right-wing terrorism), we will pay particular attention to the events leading up to and following September 11, 2001 – including a close examination of Al Qaeda and the U.S. “war on terrorism.”

POLS 381. International Political Economy (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215 or consent of instructor.

Restricted to junior and senior standing.

This course introduces students to the study of international political economy (IPE). It addresses the reciprocal and interactive relationship between politics and economics in the historical and contemporary international system by exploring the effect of political factors on international economic relations as well as the impact of economic factors on domestic and international politics. The course introduces the theoretical frameworks that guide the study of IPE, and applies these frameworks to the relations between principal state and non-state actors in a variety of issues in IPE, including international trade, foreign investment flows, international monetary relations, currency crises, international development, and global governance.

POLS 382. Women and Politics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 223.

This course introduces students to the various roles of women in American politics. It covers a wide range of topics from the history of women’s involvement in politics in America to the future of women in politics. Other topics covered include: feminist theories, women’s political participation, and contemporary public policies of particular interest to women. Overall, the course investigates the role women have played in shaping the American political system and the significant political accomplishments of women.

POLS 391. International Environmental Politics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of contemporary environmental politics, primarily looking at the developed world of advanced capitalist societies. Because environmental problems do not stop at international borders, environmental solutions require international cooperation. We will seek to understand why that cooperation is so difficult to achieve. Topics include the dynamics of environmental politics in different states, the processes of environmental policy making, stumbling blocks to reaching international agreement, and the role of different actors: multi-national corporations, policy makers, scientific experts, political parties, the public, the media, and the environmental lobby.

POLS 395. Special Topics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: as announced.

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty. A maximum of nine credits may be counted toward a degree.

POLS 402. International Relations Theory and World Issues (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

Fall, alternate years.

A seminar examining the central international relations theories including realism, neo-realism, liberalism, neo-liberalism, within the context of contemporary world issues.

POLS 410. Ethnic Conflict and Nationalism (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 215.

Conflicts in the Balkans, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Darfur, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Sri Lanka, and India, among others, have led to tremendous human suffering and massive political mobilization. This course provides an overview of the causes, character, and dynamics of ethnic conflicts and the strategies that can be employed to resolve them. It discusses the relationship between the theory of nationalism and ethnic conflict and puts issues accompanying ethnic conflict in a broader context of international politics. A number of exemplary case studies are considered to illustrate causes, trends, and consequences of conflicts and to discuss their resolution.

POLS 450. Ethics in Government and Politics (3-3-0)

An examination of the process of generating criteria derived from democratic theory for making ethical judgments. The application of criteria to political situations as depicted in selected case studies. A review of ethical principles and their application, misleading assumptions, and false distinctions that may obstruct effective ethical decision-making about political actions.

POLS 454. American Political Behavior (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: POLS 100 and 101.

Why do some people vote and others do not? Why are some people turned off by the political process and others are not? How are people mobilized to participate in the political process? How is public opinion formed? What is ideology and how is it formed? This course will develop answers to these and other questions using the behavioral approach to the study of politics. We will look at the major theories of political behavior, the effect of long-term social change on political behavior, the socialization process, and the media.

POLS 490. WI: Senior Seminar in Political Science (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: ENGL 223 with a C- or higher; senior standing, departmental major, and completion of all other core courses in political science.

Fall and Spring.

This seminar course is designed as a capstone academic experience in which each student is expected to demonstrate independent research skills, prepare and present a formal paper, and participate in the discussion and analysis of presentations by other members of the seminar. The formal paper should be a significant example of the student's academic credentials in terms of knowledge, skills, and abilities. In addition, each student will complete a standardized assessment relevant to the political science field. Partially satisfies the writing intensive requirement.

POLS 491. Government Internship (3-0-8)

Prerequisite: POLS major and junior standing.

Part-time and full-time internships with government, military, for-profit, or non-profit organizations. Periodic conferences with the instructor, written paper assignments incorporating theory and practice applicable to the site location, field evaluations and a minimum of 120 hours at a field location in one semester are required for three credit hours. A maximum of six credit hours over a two semester period may be counted toward a degree upon completion of 240 hours at a field location. Students are encouraged to secure an internship location, however, the class instructor will assist students in this process.

POLS 495. Special Topics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: as announced.

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty. A maximum of nine credits may be counted toward a degree.

POLS 499. Independent Studies in Political Science (credits vary 1-3)

Prerequisite: junior or senior standing, consent of instructor and Department Chair.

As needed.

The purpose of this course is to enable a qualified student to enrich his/her program through independent work. The topic and evaluation are agreed upon in writing by the student and faculty member supervising the effort. This should be completed by the end of pre-registration for the session in which the study will take place. A student should have a minimum overall GPA of 2.50. Copies of the study plan, attached to an independent study authorization form, must be filed with appropriate college offices. A student may take a maximum of three hours of independent study in a semester and a maximum of six hours in his/her total academic program.