

POP77202 — Independent Study (Research Proposal)

Module Information	
Module Code	POP77202
Module Title	<i>Independent Study (Research Proposal)</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Peter Stone (Ph.D. Course Director)</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>10 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 2</i>
Contact Hours	<i>Variable (meetings with Ph.D. supervisor)</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>At the start of Hilary Term, both the student and supervisor will agree a schedule of informal meetings for the Independent Study (Research Proposal). At least three meetings should be scheduled. The Research Proposal should be clearly based on principles of research design: defining some variation to be explained, identifying alternative explanations, proposing clear tests which can distinguish between alternative explanations, discussing issues of data collection and measurement issues, etc. (This assumes the dissertation is empirical in nature; a theoretical project, for example, would require a different structure.) The Independent Study (Research Proposal) culminates in the student submitting a written paper of 4,500 words (including footnotes, etc., but not the bibliography) to be submitted by the end of Hilary Term. The Independent Study (Research Proposal) itself is graded by the supervisor, on a pass/fail scale, on the basis of the student's research proposal submitted by the Independent Study (Research Proposal) deadline.</i>
Learning Outcomes	<i>Development of the Ph.D. student's dissertation proposal to the stage where it becomes suitable as a guide for the remainder of the project.</i>



Assessment

Assessment Components

Paper: 100% (marked pass/fail)

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None