

POP77211 — Independent Study (Further Piece of Dissertation Research)

Module Information	
Module Code	POP77211
Module Title	<i>Independent Study (Further Piece of Dissertation Research)</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 1</i>
Contact Hours	<i>Variable (meetings with Ph.D. supervisor)</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>At the start of Michaelmas Term of their 2nd year, both the student and supervisor will agree a schedule of informal meetings for the Independent Study (Further Piece of Dissertation Research). At least three meetings should be scheduled. The further piece of the dissertation project 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 (Further Piece of Dissertation Research) 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 Michaelmas Term. The Independent Study (Further Piece of Dissertation Research) itself is graded by the supervisor, on a pass/fail scale, on the basis of the student's further piece of the dissertation project submitted by the Independent Study (Further Piece of Dissertation Research) deadline.</i>
Learning Outcomes	<i>Advancement of the Ph.D. student's dissertation project beyond the proposal stage.</i>



Assessment

Assessment Components

Paper: 100% (marked pass/fail)

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None