

University of Washington

American Indian Studies Program



Padelford Hall, C-514, (206) 543-9082

AIS 499 Supervised Study in Selected Fields: Course Guidelines

This course is designed specifically for those students who wish to pursue faculty sponsored independent study within the Arts and Sciences, American Indian Studies Program along the lines not otherwise provided for by existing courses. Since there has been considerable confusion about what is involved in taking independent studies, this information is being made available to all interested students. Independent study is open to juniors and seniors, except in very rare situations. A student must have in mind a particular project, problem or field, and some idea how they propose to go about studying it independently.

The special function of AIS 499 is to enable students to investigate areas of intellectual interest that are substantially distinct from existing courses and/or pursue modes of inquiry that are more intensive, specialized or innovated than those that are encountered in conventional course work. Normally, the student will be expected to have exhausted all available, formal courses relevant to his/her chosen subject or to have prepared herself/himself for undertaking such specialized, independent study. An AIS 499 project should not overlap significantly with existent courses nor should it serve as a de facto class.

This option does involve a tutorial contract between the student and faculty sponsor to complete a specified supervised program of reading, research or a distinct project with a format for conferences, papers and other projects agreed upon at the outset. A faculty sponsor will normally not be authorized to direct more than a limited number of tutorial students in any given quarter. The student and the AIS office together must negotiate with a sponsor for each independent study registrant. Students normally enroll for up to five credits per quarter with a total of fifteen credits possible in Independent Studies either through AIS or general studies, during a student's college career.

AIS 499 Supervised Study in Selected Fields: Procedure

Students wishing to enroll in AIS 499 must complete the following steps prior to registration for the course.

1. Discuss the project with a faculty member of your choice, or choose one in cooperation with the Director of AIS. If she/he is willing to serve as a sponsor, agree on the number of conferences required, whether the study will involve one large paper, several essays, fieldwork, lab, readings only, etc. Fill out an application attached and make three copies (one for yourself, one for the faculty sponsor, one for the AIS office), describing the format of your study and the specific work to be done and have your sponsor sign. For purposes of this course, a faculty sponsor is anyone with a regular faculty appointment or who has teaching responsibilities at the University.
2. Leave your signed application with the AIS office, C-514 Padelford. If you have not already done so, arrange an appointment with the Director of AIS to secure approval. When the application is approved, obtain a COURSE ENTRY CODE at the AIS office. If your application is not approved, it may be because your project appears nebulous or inadequate, does not seem to warrant the amount of credit indicated or is better suited to being a project in another existing course. The Director of AIS will be glad to talk with you about your application if you have questions.
3. This option does involve a tutorial contract between the student and faculty sponsor to complete a specified supervised program of reading, research or a distinct project with a format for conferences, papers and other projects agreed upon at the outset. A faculty sponsor will normally not be authorized to direct more than a limited number of tutorial students in any given quarter. The student and the AIS office together must negotiate with a sponsor for each independent study registrant. Students normally enroll for up to five credits per quarter with a total of fifteen credits possible in Independent Studies either through AIS or general studies, during a student's college career.

Application for AIS 499: Supervised Independent Study of Selected Topics

YOU MUST HAVE A FACULTY SPONSOR. Do not complete this form until you have understood the course guidelines.

Applicant _____ Major _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Please circle one Junior | Senior Quarter _____ 20 _____ Student # _____

Credits _____ (Students normally enroll for one to five credits. A total of fifteen credits may be earned during a student's college career.)

1) State the subject or problem for Independent Study. Indicate why this is used and how it differs from the formal courses offered; 2) Describe the general format of the quarter's work, as approved by the faculty member who will supervise it. Indicate whether your study involves several essays, one large supervised laboratory work, readings only, etc. If possible, indicate specific dates for faculty conferences and when work is due to be turned in. (Add additional sheets if necessary.)

The student must have approval of a faculty sponsor from The American Indian Studies Office, C-514 Padelford Hall, BEFORE REGISTERING FOR THIS COURSE.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE FACULTY MEMBER WHO WILL SUPERVISE THIS INDEPENDENT STUDY

I agree to act as the faculty supervisor for the above student, and to turn in a grade to the American Indian Studies Office on the form provided at the end of the quarter.

Sponsor's Name (Please Print)

Employee No./Department

Signature

Approved

Denied

Director, American Indian Studies/Date