

# REQUESTS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY

## Evolutionary Anthropology

Independent study enables a student to pursue for course credit individual interests under the supervision of a faculty member. Independent study is of two types: Independent Study (non-research) and Research Independent Study.

Courses entitled Independent Study (EvAnth 391) are individual non-research directed study in a field of special interest on a previously approved topic taken under the supervision of a faculty member and resulting in a formal paper or other pre-approved substantive product. Such independent study courses do not bear a Research (R) code and do not satisfy any general education requirements. The area of study must be connected to discipline of Evolutionary Anthropology.

Courses entitled Research Independent Study (EvAnth 393) focus on hypothesis-based research including background research, data collection and analysis under the supervision of a faculty member. The final product of the course is typically a substantive research paper, though alternatives may be approved by the mentor and DUS. Such research independent study courses bear a Research (R) code and satisfy general education Research requirements. As with EvAnth 391, the area of study must be connected to discipline of Evolutionary Anthropology.

One research independent study may be submitted for a Writing (W) code in addition to the R code designation.. The request form is available at <http://trinity.duke.edu/academic-requirements?p=independent-study-research-w-coding>. The signed form should be delivered to 02 Allen Building by the end of the add/drop period.

### **Policies:**

The following policies apply to both types of independent study<sup>1</sup>:

1. **Approval**—The independent study must be approved by the instructor(s) involved as well as by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the relevant department or program.
2. **Faculty appointment**—The instructor of record (supervising faculty member) must hold a regular rank faculty appointment at Duke within the department or program sponsoring the independent study. In some cases, there may be an additional instructor who mentors the bulk of the independent study and holds an appointment outside the sponsoring department or program. If this is the case, the supervising faculty member is responsible for submitting the final grade, and ensuring that the instructor adheres to academic standards, policies, and procedures pertaining to undergraduate students in Trinity College of Arts & Sciences. **When students are considering projects mentored by faculty outside of EvAnth, they are strongly encouraged to check with the DUS about the appropriateness of the project for EvAnth credit and to get recommendations for potential sponsors.**
3. **Course Content / Quality**—The independent study must provide a rigorous academic experience equivalent to that of any other undergraduate Duke course. Independent study courses may not duplicate available course offerings in the semester or summer term in which the independent study is being taken, nor may independent study be used simply to provide low-level support for other projects or to observe or shadow the work of others.
4. **Meeting schedule**—In addition to the individual effort of the student, which normally entails ~10 hours per week, the student will meet with the instructor of the independent study at least once every two weeks during the fall or spring semester (at least once a week during the summer).
5. **Final product**—The student will produce a final academic product to be completed during the semester for which the student is registered for the course.
6. **Grading**—The instructor will evaluate the work, including the final product, associated with the independent study, and submit a grade by the end of the semester. If the instructor is someone other than the supervising faculty member, the instructor will consult on the final grade with the supervising faculty member from the sponsoring department or program, who will submit the final grade.

### **Procedures:**

1. Students wishing to register for an independent study or research independent study must first make arrangements with a faculty member having expertise in the desired area. The student and instructor should agree on the course title, plan of study, objectives and expectations, as well as on the nature of the final product and evaluation criteria.
2. The student submits the Independent Study Permission Form (attached here) to the Director of Undergraduate Studies or Certificate Program Director for final approval before the end of the drop/add period of the term in which the independent study is to be taken. If approved, the student will receive a permission number to register for the course.

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<sup>1</sup> For policies and procedures related to independent study in Study Abroad programs, see Duke Abroad Handbook.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY PERMISSION FORM**  
**Evolutionary Anthropology**

**To the student:** Please read the attached policies and procedures, and consult with your instructor / supervising faculty member about course title, description, requirements and expectations. This form must be approved and signed by the supervising faculty member, the instructor (if different from supervising faculty member), and submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies or Certificate Program Director before the end of the drop/ add period.

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID (not unique ID) \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s)/Minor(s)/Certificate(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Undeclared \_\_\_\_\_

Course Subject / Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Independent Study) or  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Research Independent Study)

Term / Year \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Independent Study \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Faculty Member \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Title \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (dept or program) \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor (if different from Supervising Faculty Member) \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Title and affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

On the following page (or attached sheet), please provide the following information:

**1. Title and Description of Proposed Study:**

*Provide a one to two paragraph description of the proposed study, including topic, course goals, research / readings to be conducted. For projects mentored outside of EvAnth, please include a statement about how the research connects to the discipline. (The instructor and/or department or program may require a more detailed proposal, including a list of sources and bibliography, a rationale for independent study as opposed to regular course work, etc.)*

**2. Nature of the Final Product:**

*Describe the nature and length of the final product (e.g. research paper, formal research poster, etc.)*

**3. Scheduled Meetings and Work Expectations:**

*Provide information on frequency and length of meetings with instructor, and expected work commitments and/or timetables:*

**4. Grade to be based on:**

*Provide information on how your work in the course is to be evaluated.*

**Description of Independent Study; Final Product; Scheduled Meetings and Work Expectations; Grade Basis:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval Signatures:** *Please read attached policies and procedures on independent studies before signing.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervising Faculty Member (print name) Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor (print name) Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different from Supervising Faculty member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Undergraduate Studies (print name) Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ASSIGNED COURSE AND SECTION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSIGNED PERMISSION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_