



Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education

Independent Study Learning Expectations

Science & Social Sciences - Literature Review

Preamble

Independent Study courses offered by the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education include studies in the Sciences and Social Sciences. The expectations and learning objectives for courses completed at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 level depend upon the type of study undertaken (Literature Review or Experimental Study). Outlined below are the specific learning objectives for each level of study for a Literature Review.

2000 Level Independent Study Courses - Science or Social Science (Literature Review)

Independent Study courses at the 2000 level are expected to provide the student with an introduction to the research process. The following learning objectives outline the expectations for students at this level of study:

- develop library/web-based research skills
- demonstrate an ability to summarize a research study
- develop critical thinking skills as evidenced by an ability to identify expected future directions from a study
- demonstrate ability to identify Independent and Dependent Variables and statistical components of a research study where appropriate
- apply and develop research design skills
- develop skills of oral presentation through moderating contributions at the Undergraduate Seminar as well as participating in required assignments for oral development at the discretion of the instructor
- develop skills of written expression, specifically APA-formatted report summarizing the state of knowledge

3000 Level Independent Study Courses - Science or Social Science (Literature Review)

Independent Study courses at the 3000 level require that students have acquired the skill set outlined at the 2000 level of study and to move beyond these skills to achieve the following objectives:

- demonstrate ability to identify a researchable topic
- develop ability to integrate published research findings into thematic order
- develop critical thinking skills as evidenced by ability to identify strengths and weaknesses of a published research study, as well as identify current knowledge 'gaps' in a research area
- strengthen research design skills as demonstrated by ability to plan a research study
- improve oral presentation skills as evidenced by a conference-style presentation of major conclusions of written report
- improve written skills by reporting integrative findings rather than chronological reporting

4000 Level Independent Study Courses - Science or Social Science (Literature Review)

Independent Study courses at the 4000 level require students have acquired the skill sets outlined at the 2000 and 3000 levels of study and to move beyond these skills to achieve the following objectives:

- demonstrate a critical understanding of the pertinent and current primary research sources in the topic area
- demonstrate ability to identify and organize research 'themes' in a logical and coherent manner
- further develop ability to identify external validity a research study

Regulations and Procedures

Admission to Independent Study

Arts and Science policy stipulates that: "Admission to Independent Study is achieved through consent of the Instructor, who agrees to guide the Study, and by approval of the Department [Chair]...Credit for Independent Study is at the discretion of the Department, upon recommendation of the instructor." The regulations and procedures in this document are provided to guide students in their pursuit of Independent Study credit in KNES 2990, 3990 and 4990. It should be noted that neither PHAC 1905, 2905, 3905, or 4905 singly or in combination qualify for Independent Study courses.

About the Independent Study Course

The Independent Study course in Kinesiology may be conducted in the areas of Science, Social Science and Humanities/Cultural Studies. The course designation will be either Science or Social Science, with Humanities/Cultural Studies included as Social Sciences. Independent Study course content and structure are commensurate with the level at which the course is taken.

Regulations and Procedures

The following regulations and procedures apply to the Kinesiology Independent Study:

- 1 Independent Study courses will not duplicate areas of study already covered by existing courses.
- 2 Amount of work for Independent Study should be equivalent to the requirements of a regular course at each level.
- 3 It is the responsibility of the student to find a faculty sponsor. A faculty member has the right to refuse an Independent Study applicant.
- 4 A proposal for the Independent Study must be completed and submitted to the Independent Study Committee at least two days prior to the add/drop date of the semester in which the Independent Study will be completed. The final format including evaluation procedure and due date of the Independent Study must be detailed in the study proposal and approved by the student's faculty sponsor. Proposal forms for Independent Studies are available from the Department Administrative Staff.
- 5 The Independent Study course has two oral presentation requirements: (1) the 'Meet & Greet' presentation during the first month of the semester and (2) a final presentation at the Undergraduate Research Symposium held at the end of the semester of study.
- 6 A copy of the materials graded for the Independent Study will be kept on file with the Department.
- 7 A student may not receive approval of a second Independent Study until the grade for the first Independent Study course has been approved by the Department Chair.

Guidelines for Early Semester 'Meet-And-Greet' Independent Study Presentation

Mandatory Attendance

All students enrolled in a Kinesiology & Physical Activity Independent Study course must attend and present at a 'Meet-and-Greet' session held within the first four weeks of the semester (of enrolment).

Why Attend?

The purpose of the 'Meet-And-Greet' presentation session is to give Kinesiology & Physical Activity students enrolled in an Independent Study an opportunity to meet one another and share research ideas. In this way, the 'Meet-And-Greet' session will also serve as a venue to foster collegial relationships.

Presentation Length and Visual Aids

All Kinesiology & Physical Activity Independent Study students enrolled at the 3000 & 4000 levels are required to give an oral presentation. The presentation will NOT exceed three minutes in length. Students may use a single PowerPoint slide as a visual aid for the oral presentation. The students' task will be to introduce themselves and to present an overview of the Independent Study project in a concise and professional manner.

Students enrolled at the 2000 level must attend the 'Meet-And-Greet' session, but are not required to give an oral presentation.

Presentation Content

The following content details could be included in the three-minute presentation (as developed and where appropriate):

- A brief introduction of self.
 - The Kinesiology sub-discipline under study (e.g., science, social science, humanities/ socio-cultural).
 - The scope of the problem under investigation and the potential significance of the project.
 - The student's interest in the Independent Study project.
 - The proposed design that will be used and specific details of the planned methodology.
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Student Notes

Guidelines for End of Semester Independent Study Presentation

Mandatory Attendance

All students are required to provide a formal presentation based on their independent study project. The purpose of this presentation is to deliver a professional-quality oral summary of your independent study research topic for departmental colleagues. The content of the presentation will be decided by the student, however it is expected that the talk will be organized and informative, and that it will summarize findings from completed research.

Forum

Kinesiology Undergraduate Research Symposium. This symposium is held at the end of each semester (time and place to be announced) to showcase all undergraduate research studies.

Presentation Length and Visual Aids

Suggested presentation lengths are as follow: 2000 level - 5 to 10 minutes; 3000 level - 10 to 15 minutes; 4000 level - 15 to 20 minutes. A brief period for questions from the audience will follow each presentation. Students may use PowerPoint and other appropriate audiovisuals for their presentation.

Presentation Content

The following are broad guidelines for presentation content:

Introduction: Presents an outline to summarize the 'journey' of the presentation

Defines and explains the focus of the project

Body: Coherent organization of ideas/research findings

'Smooth' transitions between sub-topics or themes

Conclusion: Presents a summary/overview of major points in presentation ('take home message')

Student Notes

