

Preliminary Application for Independent Study or Honors Project

Please fill out this form and turn it in to the religion department **the semester before** you wish to begin an independent study.

The aim of an independent study is for a student to work **independently**, in consultation with a faculty member. Students who undertake an independent study can expect to generate and read an extensive bibliography, to hold weekly meetings with a faculty member, to take the lead in these weekly meetings, and to produce written work according to a mutually-agreed timetable and format.

An independent study is an opportunity for a student to engage in sustained research in an area that is not covered by course offerings. It is not to be used as a more convenient way to cover major or minor requirements. Students are welcome to discuss possible topics for an independent study/honors project with any member of the religion faculty. However, no decisions are made without consultation by the entire faculty.

Bear in mind that there are two levels of independent study: intermediate and advanced. Two semesters of advanced independent study are necessary for the completion of an honors project.

1. What is the question you wish to pursue?
2. With what existing religion courses does your question connect?
3. What method(s) of study or discipline(s) do you envision using to engage with this question? History? Anthropology? Political theory? Ethnography? Gender Studies? Please describe any relevant coursework you have completed in these fields.