

Independent studies can be an important component of your graduate work. Graded independent study is generally appropriate for specialized advanced work and for study in department and programs with very limited graduate offerings. It is not normally appropriate for general orientation in a field or for exam preparation.

Requests for degree credit for independent study (C LIT 599A) should be accompanied by a justification of the need for the independent study, by a syllabus or reading plan, by a description of the proposed graded work, which will normally be an essay comparable to a graduate seminar essay, and by a statement of the plan for meeting with the supervising faculty member, along with the faculty member's agreement. Requests must be received by the Graduate Program Coordinator two weeks before the end of classes in the preceding quarter (spring quarter for fall requests) to allow time for committee review. Late requests may be considered if special circumstances warrant.

Ordinarily, not more than one independent study per year will be approved. Students taking an independent study must be in at least their third quarter of enrollment and must be making satisfactory progress toward the degree.

Graduate students may also take 400-level courses related to their fields of interest for degree credit. Students must register under a 500 number, however, either in the offering department or (if none is available) in Comparative Literature 599B. Normally, credit for 400-level courses should entail enhanced assignments such as a graduate-appropriate final essay. Credit in Comparative Literature 599B must be approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator or the Graduate Committee. Send requests to the Graduate Program Assistant before the last day of instruction in the previous quarter (or 2 weeks before the start of fall quarter). Requests should include the course number and topic, the additional work, and a brief statement of how the course fits the student's program. Exceptionally, 599B may also be approved for lower-level courses.