

Independent Study Courses Department of Philosophy

Independent Study Courses include PHIL 401, Research; PHIL 405, Reading; PHIL 601, Research; and 605, Reading.

1. If a student plans to register for an independent study course (see the list above), she or he should complete an "[Independent Study Agreement](#)" to keep track of the requirements for the course with copies to the student and instructor. To register, students should submit a copy of the form to the Department Office or the faculty member should send an email to [UO Philosophy](#) requesting that the student be allowed to register. The email should include the student's name, the course number, and the number of credits. The Undergraduate/Graduate Program Coordinator will enter the registration authorization. The student still must register through [DUCKWEB](#).

Note: Graduate students do not need to complete the independent study form to register for Thesis or Dissertation Credits (PHIL [503](#) or [603](#)) but must complete the online registration request form (at the Department website).

2. For "Reading" courses, students should plan to meet with the instructor for at least one hour per week for every four credit hours registered. A two credit registration, for example, would involve at least five hours of meetings during a term. In addition to specified readings, in most cases instructors will also assign some written work. When students "sit in" on a class, they should register for reading credits; typically 2 credits for a graduate course and 1 credit for an undergraduate course in consultation with the instructor.

Research courses, in general, should involve a larger written component though they needn't involve as many meetings. A four-hour course, for example, might involve four hours of meetings to discuss the student's work during the term.

3. In most cases, independent study courses should be taken on the P/NP grade option. Regardless of the grade option, instructors should provide a clear statement of what will be required for the course and how each requirement will relate to the final grade.
4. In general, undergraduate students cannot use Research, Thesis or Reading and Conference courses to satisfy the history, logic or author course requirements. Exceptions are rare and must be arranged in advance with the instructor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies and approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee.
5. In most cases, graduate students cannot use Research or Reading courses to satisfy Distribution Requirements. Exceptions are rare and must be arranged in advance with the instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.
6. History Paper Procedure (From Doctoral Requirements): "Registration for PHIL 601 Graduate Research: Following approval of the proposal, a student will register for Phil 601: Research for up to 5 credits. Students may only register for history paper credits once and may receive no more than one incomplete for history paper research. The incomplete will be changed to "P" on successful completion of the requirement. Once the proposal is approved, the student will work independently to complete a final draft of the paper during the term of registration for PHIL 601. If a student is not taking classes while researching and writing their history paper, the balance of credits should be taken as PHIL 605 Reading, and should not result in an incomplete at the end of the term even if the history paper is not completed."