

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ST. GEORGE CAMPUS
Independent Study (HIS498H1 or HIS499Y1)
BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS 2022-23

The Department of History offers senior undergraduate students the possibility of study under the course designations HIS498H1F/S or HIS499Y1Y. Independent studies are for students who wish to pursue a detailed research project. These courses result in the production of an independent research project. This may not necessarily take the form of a thesis. Students must find topics and project supervisors. Not eligible for CR/NCR option. **(Please note that faculty are under no obligation to supervise I.S. projects).**

Note also ***that the independent study project is just that, independent.*** You are expected to already have sufficient training in research skills and adequate and suitable background preparation for your topic to be able to do it with minimal guidance. Your prospective supervisor and the Undergraduate Chair will take that into consideration before approving your Independent Study proposal. You can expect only a few meetings with your supervisor before submission of the final product. An independent study is not a private course.

ELIGIBILITY:

- a. Going into 4th year (i.e., you expect to complete at least 14.0 FCEs by the end of August 2022)
- b. You must be enrolled in the **HIS Specialist or Major program.**
- c. Students wishing to enrol in these courses must be enrolled in a History Major or Specialist program, with a B+ average in no less than 4.0 HIS courses, or obtain special permission of the instructor and undergraduate chair.
- d. Demonstrate background preparation, training and skills to undertake the proposed project.

EXCLUSION:

Students are allowed only ONE independent studies/thesis credit in History (i.e. one full year course or equivalent). Keep this in mind if you wish to apply for the Senior Thesis.

REQUIREMENTS:

The marking scheme and syllabus will be determined by the supervisor but will typically involve completion of a detailed proposal or project plan for a portion of the mark, and an assessment of the final project (for no more than 80% of the grade per the University's Grading Practices Policy).

DEADLINES:

The deadline for receipt of Independent Study Applications for the Fall (HIS498H1F and HIS499Y1Y) is August 30, 2022. The deadline for the Winter (HIS498H1S) term is December 1, 2022. You will be notified of acceptance before the start of classes.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Identify a proposed Independent Study topic for an area in which you have **adequate and suitable background preparation.** Do not propose, for example, producing a virtual exhibit or paper on the gendered history of the French Revolution without courses in French history and gender history. If you are proposing something other than a conventional research paper, be sure you

have the skills to produce the final product.

2. **Reach out to a prospective supervisor.** You should approach a professor who has taught you before and is familiar with your work. Send a thoughtful, well-crafted paragraph to this professor describing your proposed topic and your background preparation and why you feel the supervisor would be a good choice. Note: Only faculty with continuing appointments at the St. George campus can supervise an Independent Study (not a graduate student, post-doctoral fellow or sessional lecturer). If the professor is not available or if you don't know of a suitable faculty member for your topic of interest, contact Professor Heidi Bohaker, Associate Chair Undergraduate: history.ugchr@utoronto.ca for advice.
3. **Send your prospective supervisor a copy of your academic record** (saved as a PDF from Acorn) to demonstrate your background preparation and readiness.
4. **Discuss your proposed project with your proposed supervisor and obtain their consent** to supervise it.
5. **Write a short** (approximately two pages double-spaced) **research project proposal** and save it as a PDF. Be sure to show the draft proposal to your supervisor. They may have helpful advice! The thesis proposal should:
 - identify the topic and scope of your proposed project.
 - situate the project in the existing historiography
 - identify possible sources and methods you will use to research your topic
 - describe the final product. Note that for a H course, the equivalent work is a 15-20 page paper, for a Y course, a 30-40 page paper.
 - explain your reason for undertaking this research, and why you wish to complete an independent study.
 - include a listing of works cited.
6. **Before August 30, 2022 for the Fall start , and December 1st for a Winter start of HIS498H1**, send your I.S. proposal and academic record as PDF attachments to: history.ugchr@utoronto.ca, **copying (cc)** the history.ugadvisor@utoronto.ca **AND YOUR PROPOSED SUPERVISOR!** Use the subject line: HIS498H1 or HIS499Y1 (whichever is appropriate) Application.
7. **In the body of your email, copy and complete the following:**

As of August 2022, I will have completed ____ History Credits (H1 courses count as 0.5).
My Program(s) of Study is/are: _____ College: _____
List course#, title and session of Independent Study Courses taken previously.
Professor [Insert Supervisor's Name Here] has agreed to supervise my project if accepted.
Your Name: _____ Student Number: _____

That's it! See deadlines for the timeline of notification for acceptance.