

R S 362 – Independent Research in Religious Studies Proposal and Approval Form

Deadlines: Fall- August 1; Spring- January 1; Summer June 1

It is strongly recommended for students to submit applications well before this date to the Academic Advisor, Michelle D. Escalante email: mescalante@austin.utexas.edu. All applications must be submitted via email as a PDF. No physical, word documents, scans, or pictures of the application will be accepted.

The Independent Research proposal should show evidence of careful thought and preparation, and be endorsed by a Religious Studies faculty member qualified and willing to supervise the student's work. The supervising faculty member must be a faculty member of the Religious Studies Department. Faculty members of other departments will not be permitted.

R S 362 should not replicate regular course offerings in Religious Studies. A proposal with too much overlap with a regularly offered course in Religious Studies will be denied. Normally, it is assumed that undertaking independent research is based on a student's previous coursework in related areas they are wanting to further research and explore. All independent research course proposals must be approved by the Religious Studies Undergraduate Faculty Advisor.

The course must be taken for a letter grade. It may count towards three upper-division hours in the Religious Studies major, but will not count towards any Area requirement, Primary Area, or Track regardless of topic.

Students must meet the following prerequisites to be eligible for the R S 362 Independent Research in Religious Studies.

- Upper-division standing
- Nine hours of Religious Studies coursework
- UT GPA of at least 3.0
- R S GPA of at least 3.5
- Strong research and writing skills. Completion of one, preferably two, writing intensive courses with a grade of B+ or higher is strongly preferred
- Submit proposal by the deadline

To the supervising faculty member:

The student named below is proposing to work with you on an individualized reading and research project. The coursework required is to be the equivalent of a three-hour upper division course. The proposal is to be worked out between the student and the supervising faculty member. It represents the educational contract for the proposed study, and it should include readings, methods of evaluation of student work, and a student project to be submitted. A letter grade must be given for this course.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name: _____ UT EID: _____

Email: _____

R S hours completed: _____ R S GPA: _____ UT GPA: _____

Planned semester and year for course: _____

Supervising Faculty Member's name: _____

To be completed by the student and supervising faculty member: be specific with all requested information. Please provide details on a separate page(s).

- **Course description** (topic of research, readings, and writings)
- **Requirements** (books or materials to be read; sources to be used; number and length of outlines, annotated bibliographies, critiques, papers, research expectations, etc.; additional activities, due dates) if activities are to be completed, the student must receive a timely and detailed critique following each activity concerning the quality of the student's work and ways in which they can improve.
- **Frequency of supervising faculty member and student meetings**
- **Basis for grading** (grade distribution; percent of course determined by writing assignment(s), readings, research, additional evaluations)

Student Signature	Date
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Supervising Faculty Member Signature	Date
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To be completed by the department:

Approve Independent Research proposal: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Undergraduate Faculty Advisor Signature	Date
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