In Independent Study, students assist with research. Research assistants (RAs) attend weekly research group meetings, read relevant articles, and help with the studies in numerous ways (e.g., helping design a questionnaire, doing literature searches, helping analyze data). Each student should expect to work about 9 hours per week for 3 credit hours. For fall 2015, we will have four research groups (see below).

To apply for Independent Study, send the following to me via e-mail (charlene@ku.edu):

1. a copy of this form or the information requested on this form; be sure to check which group(s) you are interested in and can attend. Rank your preferences if applicable.
2. a paragraph describing (1) why you would like to work with us and (2) your background and skills. No previous research experience is required. Students from any major are welcome.
3. some evidence of your academic performance. This could be your GPA, OR a copy of your Degree Progress Report emailed as a pdf attachment, OR an old ARTS form if you still have one, OR anything that seems reasonable to you.

Applications will be read by me and the graduate student(s) in whose group(s) you express interest. We will get back to you quickly.

1. Your name:
2. Your phone number(s):
3. Your e-mail address:
4. Your major (students from any major are welcome):
5. You can take Independent Study as Psychology or as Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; which do you prefer?
   ___ PSYC 480 Independent Study   ___ WGSS 498 Independent Study   ___ Volunteering without registering for credit hours
6. Indicate which group(s) you are interested in and could attend. If applicable, rank your preferences.
7. Any questions or comments?

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Research Groups for Fall 2015

___ Mondays, 1:00-2:15 p.m. **Topic: Sexuality—specific topic to be decided.** Kate Esterline’s study is in the planning phase. It will be about some aspect of sexuality. It might relate to performing sexual behavior in public, sexual minority experiences of performing sexual behavior, how individuals experience “outness” about sexual orientation, or some other topic related to sexuality and sexual behavior. Research assistants will help narrow and focus the study, read relevant articles, assist with development of a questionnaire, and perhaps read participants’ answers and help analyze themes in their answers. We are seeking both male and female research assistants.

___ Tuesdays, 4:00-5:15 p.m. **Verbal Sexual Coercion in Relationships.** Adijat Mustapha’s study will be about people’s experiences with being verbally coerced into sexual activity by a partner. Research assistants may help with various tasks such as creating and/or evaluating the study questionnaire, reading relevant articles, and analyzing data as they are obtained. We welcome both male and female research assistants.

___ Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 p.m. **Topic: Probably some aspect of consent and sexual coercion, possibly within sexual minority, polyamorous and/or BDSM communities.** Renae Mitchell’s study will be in the planning phase. Research assistants will help narrow and focus the study, read relevant articles, assist with development of a questionnaire, and perhaps read participants’ answers and help analyze themes in their answers. We are seeking both male and female research assistants. NOTE: Because this group starts after 5:00 PM, students who are driving to campus can park in the parking lot behind Fraser.

___ Fridays 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **Media’s Role in Perpetuating Victim Blaming.** Claire Gravelin’s studies explore how media, and in particular newspaper articles, may contribute to the tendency to blame victims of sexual assault. Research assistants can help on various aspects of this project including coding gathered articles for presence/absence of victim blame, assist in creation of in-lab studies to further explore media’s impact on victim blaming attitudes, running participants in the laboratory. Both male and female research assistants are welcome to apply. (FYI, Claire’s research advisor is Professor Biernat; Professor Muehlenhard will not be attending these research group meetings.)

Form as of August 22, 2015
How Independent Study Works

Every professor handles Independent Study differently. Here’s how we do it:

1. If you are interested in working with one of our research groups, email the following information to me (charlene@ku.edu):
   a. a copy of the form (or the information requested on this form); be sure to check which group(s) you are interested in and can attend. Rank your preferences if applicable.
   b. a 1-page statement of interest describing (1) why you would like to work with us and (2) your background and skills.
   c. some evidence of your academic performance. This could be a copy of your Degree Progress Report emailed as a pdf attachment, an old ARTS form if you still have one, or anything that seems reasonable to you.

2. I will forward your information to the graduate student (if applicable) whose study you are interested in.

3. We will let you know whether you are accepted. If you are accepted, I will email you a permission-to-enroll number.

4. If you apply and are accepted, you can ...
   ... sign up for Independent Study as PSYC 480 or as WGSS 498, or
   ... participate in the research group as a volunteer, or
   ... decide not to participate at all.

5. During the semester, you would meet with the research group each week. Each research group works on a different study; each study is a graduate student’s master’s thesis or dissertation or an undergraduate’s senior honors thesis. Each group consists of 4-8 undergraduate research assistants, the graduate student/honors thesis student, and me.

6. In addition to attending the weekly research group meetings, research assistants read relevant articles and help with the studies in numerous ways (e.g., helping design a questionnaire, collecting data, and entering data into Excel, depending on which study they are working on).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, but you cannot attend our research groups, or your interests lie in different areas, consider contacting other professors, looking for flyers that are posted in Fraser Hall.