

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH COURSES (P296, P298, & P299)**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE**  
**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY**

**Course Syllabus**

**Quarter:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enrolling Student (name, email):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervising Faculty (name, email):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:** A critical aspect of many PhD programs are students' independent efforts to cover topics or conduct projects that go beyond the material offered in conventional and/or required classes. The purpose of this form is to document the understanding between students and faculty regarding the goals and expectations of these efforts, which are typically pursued in the form of independent research courses. Both the student and faculty (where appropriate) should fill in the requested information below so that the guidelines for the selected independent research course are clear and agreed upon in order to ensure a fair assessment of the student's progress at the end of the quarter.

**Course Options:** Please check one of the following boxes based on what type of course is most appropriate for the current quarter. Note that all courses can be repeated in future quarters for credit. Under "Requested Units" please indicate how many credits you will be enrolling in.

<i><b>Course Name</b></i>	<i><b>Possible Units</b></i>	<i><b>Grading</b></i>	<i><b>General Description/Purpose</b></i>	<i><b>Recommended For</b></i>
<b>P296:</b> PhD Dissertation Research & Writing	4-12  <i>Requested Units:</i> _____	Graded A-F	To complete dissertation proposal or defense work with your faculty advisor(s).	Students who have completed their advancement
<b>P298:</b> Directed Studies	2-12  <i>Requested Units:</i> _____	Graded A-F	To independently complete projects relevant to your program of research.	Students prior to their advancement
<b>P299:</b> Independent Studies	2-8  <i>Requested Units:</i> _____	S/U	To design a novel program of research or learning with the guidance of your faculty. Involves the creation of a more formal weekly syllabus and corresponding readings or assignments. **Attach proposed syllabus and goals**	Any year

**Goals & Expectations:** Below is a list of general goals and expectations as well as learning activities and outcomes that can be addressed through independent research courses. Please check all boxes that apply to your selected course. The information provided below will indicate what criteria the student must meet in order to achieve a satisfactory grade (i.e., an ‘S’ for S/U course options or an ‘A’ for graded course options).

- ☐ Regular meetings with faculty (specify expected frequency of meetings):
- ☐ Attend regular lab meetings (specify expected frequency of attendance):
- ☐ Readings or assignments (specify readings/assignments or general expectations for the quarter):
- ☐ Mentorship of undergraduate or post-baccalaureate students (specify below):
- ☐ Make progress on research project(s) (specify below with any deadlines):
- ☐ Apply for grants or fellowships (specify below):
- ☐ Meet program milestone(s) (specify below):
- ☐ Engage in professional development opportunities (specify below):
- ☐ Other goals and expectations (specify below):

**Additional Information Regarding Goals & Expectations (from STUDENT):** Any additional goals, expectations, activities, or outcomes that you intend to cover that were not listed or not expanded on above can be listed here.

**Additional Information Regarding Goals & Expectations (from FACULTY):** Any additional goals, expectations, activities, or outcomes that you intend to cover that were not listed or not expanded on above can be listed here.

**Accountability Statement:** All of the expectations outlined in this form **1)** Are complete and accurate, **2)** Are feasible for the student given their current stage in the program, and **3)** Have been discussed and approved by both the student and faculty member involved.

**Student Name (signature)**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty Name (signature)**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_