INDEPENDENT STUDY HANDBOOK

Department of
Political Science

The College of Wooster

2019-2020

This handbook is designed to guide and support you in completing your Independent Study (I.S.) Thesis in the Political Science Department. The handbook details the process, deadlines, requirements, formatting, and evaluation process for I.S. Please read this handbook carefully, as you will be held responsible for the policies it establishes. If anything is unclear, please ask your adviser or the Department Chair for clarification.

In addition to this handbook, you may find it useful to consult the College's policies for Independent Study which are available in the Faculty Handbook, Section 3, found at: https://www.wooster.edu/academics/affairs/resources/handbook/).

Independent Study is the culminating academic experience of your Wooster Education – and of your Political Science major. In your project, you will demonstrate mastery of our Departmental learning goals that include:

1. Build basic descriptive and theoretical knowledge of U.S. national politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory
2. Critically evaluate arguments, texts, and political phenomena
3. Apply theory or analytical frameworks to political issues
4. Use sound reasoning and marshal evidence to construct arguments and derive related implications
5. Demonstrate effective written communication of political analysis, and
6. Design and carry out a study of politics using appropriate methodological tools

This Handbook is organized to follow the I.S. process from start to finish. It begins with a full overview of department and College deadlines and requirements (Section 1). The next section articulates tips for choosing your I.S. topic and contains information about the department's I.S. Proposal form (Section 2). We then present the mechanics of adviser assignments and what you can expect from your I.S. adviser (Section 3). Thereafter, one section guides you in how to organize both the I.S. itself and your I.S. work (Section 4) – and another in how to approach formatting your IS, and how to maintain academic integrity (Section 5). Next, we discuss the Oral Examination (Section 6) and more generally how your I.S. will be evaluated (Section 7). Final sections share details on submitting the I.S. Thesis (Section 8) and provide further resources to support your research (Section 9). Two Appendices illustrate how your I.S. cover sheet should look (Appendix 1) and what additional requirements exist for Global and International Studies majors with a home department in Political Science (Appendix 2).

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Section 1. Deadlines and Requirements

Departmental IS Deadlines and Requirements
As a prerequisite to Senior Independent Study, students concentrating in Government and Politics in the United States, International Relations or Comparative Politics will successfully complete Research Methods and Design (PSCI 40101). Students with a concentration in Political Theory will successfully complete a tutorial on Research in Political Theory (PSCI 40102). Successful completion in both courses requires earning a grade of C- or higher. Students are advised to retain course materials from PSCI 401 to consult during the I.S. Thesis process. All Political Science majors then proceed to register for Senior I.S. in Fall (PSCI 451) and Spring (PSCI 452) Semesters. Double majors must register for the I.S. Thesis in one major during Fall Semester and in the second major in Spring Semester.

The serious mistake most often made in Senior Independent Study is insufficient work in the first semester. For that reason, the Department has adopted the following process and requirements for PSCI 451:

1. Students are required to arrive on campus prepared to start PSCI 451 with the completed Senior I.S. Proposal Form. The proposal form must be submitted to the Chair of the Department by noon of the first day of classes. The Chair will distribute all proposals to faculty so that they have the material in advance of meetings with students.
2. Students are required to meet with at least two faculty (who are available to serve as I.S. advisers that academic year) to discuss and receive feedback on their Senior I.S. Proposal Form. These meetings must be with faculty available for such meetings from the second day of classes through the following Thursday.
3. Students must turn in an updated Senior I.S. Proposal Form to the Chair of the Department by the second Friday of the semester by 4:00pm. The updated version should also include a list of faculty with whom the student met and an indication of adviser preferences.
4. Students will usually be notified of their First and Second Reader assignments by the Chair of the Department by the following Tuesday (the second Tuesday of classes). Your First Reader will serve as your I.S. Adviser. Many First Readers will require students to be available to meet that Thursday (the third Thursday of classes) at 11:00am, so students should ensure that they keep their schedule open for this meeting. Regular one-on-one meetings with the First Reader will be established at a time to be determined by the First Reader in consultation with the student.
5. Students must do a poster presentation of the main elements of their I.S. to faculty and students. Guidelines for the poster will be distributed by the Department. The presentation session is usually scheduled for Thursday at 11:00am in Week 11 The Second Reader, among others, will visit their advisees' posters to provide feedback.
6. At the request of the First or Second Reader, a joint meeting between the student, First Reader, and Second Reader may be arranged during the semester.
7. Students must complete **two substantive chapters** (typically the theory/literature review and research methods chapters), in acceptable draft form, and a bibliography, before the Friday before the last week of classes in fall semester.
8. Your First Reader is required to submit an evaluation of your progress to the Registrar at the end of your first semester of I.S. In order to receive a grade of "Satisfactory Progress," you must satisfy the above requirements and have demonstrated (through

regular attendance of I.S. appointments, submission of outlines and other material requested by your adviser) to your First Reader that you have successfully completed a full semester of work at the level of a Political Science senior. Failure to complete this requirement by the end of the first semester will result in a grade of "No Credit" (NC) for PSC 451 and ineligibility for 452 in the following semester.

Table 1: Deadlines and Timeline for Independent Study

JUNIOR YEAR	
Junior Year	Take PSCI 401-01 (Comparative Politics, US National Politics, and International Relations subfields) or PSCI 401-02 (Political Theory subfield)
By End of Junior Year	Receive and review the SR IS Proposal Form, typically in PSCI 401-01 or PSCI 401-02 course. The Chair of the Department may hold a meeting for all juniors or communicate information via e-mail
SENIOR YEAR	
Fall Semester	
First Day of Classes (Wednesday)	Proposal Form due to Department Chair at noon (12pm)
2nd Day of Fall Semester Classes through Thursday of the 2nd week of classes	Meet with at least two faculty members to discuss the Proposal Form
2nd Friday of Fall Semester	Submit updated Senior I.S. Proposal Form (along with list of faculty consulted and adviser preference) to the Department Chair by 4:00pm of the second Friday of the semester
2nd Tuesday of Classes	Receive First and Second Reader assignments
3rd Thursday of Classes	(Most) First Readers require advisees to meet at 11:00am
Tuesday at the End of Week 10	Required Poster Presentation at 11:00am
Friday before the last week of Fall Semester classes	Two substantive chapters with full bibliography due to your adviser.
Spring Semester	
Last day to submit material for feedback from your First Reader	One week prior to the last IS meeting before Spring Break
Monday after Spring Break	Two bound copies due to the Registrar's office by 5pm; digital copies due to both the Registrar's office and the PSCI department (send to psci@wooster.edu)

Section 2. Preparing for IS: Topic Choice and IS Proposal

Choosing a Topic
You are responsible for selecting the subject of the inquiry for your I.S. Thesis. The most promising way to undertake a search for a topic is to start with ideas growing out of previous course work for which staff and research resources are clearly available. You are highly encouraged to build upon your work in PSCI 401. No matter how the ultimate topic is chosen, it must be one that can be supported by existing staff, library, and other research resources available at the College, or accessible without burden on the College. You are encouraged to think freely and imaginatively in conceiving and proposing a senior thesis project, but you are cautioned against undertaking projects that do not take into consideration the recommendations above.

Senior I.S. Proposal Form
A Senior I.S. Proposal Form, required at the start of PSCI 451 and revised in the first week of the first semester of I.S., is critical to the timely and satisfactory completion of your project. The Proposal Form will provide the proposed I.S. topic and research question, a statement on relevant scholarly literature and related citations, and courses taken to prepare to research this topic. Specific details on the requirements of the Proposal Form will be provided to students at the end of their PSCI 401 course, and reviewed and reinforced by the Department Chair at the end of the Junior year. Students who are off-campus in the second semester of their Junior year must be in close communication with the Department Chair regarding any additional materials and instructions provided by the Chair. Students should not expect to meet with or consult faculty over the summer as they prepare their Proposal Forms.

Section 3. The I.S. Adviser and Second Reader

Adviser Assignments
Assignment of Independent Study advisers (a.k.a. First Reader) is the responsibility of the Department Chair, after consultation with the student and appropriate faculty and consideration of the topic the student wishes to investigate. Students are expected to explore with members of the department ideas he/she has about possible I.S. topics. Assignment of a First Reader (who will serve as the student's I.S. adviser) will be made according to: (a) the student's preferences and understandings reached between the student and a member of the department, (b) the staff person's I.S. advising and teaching load, and (c) the staff person's sense of his/her own competence to advise a student in the proposed topic area. Students who are completing double-major programs across two departments will have only one professor in Political Science assigned to advise their project.

Adviser Role
The responsibilities of the I.S. adviser are as follows:
   a) To encourage the student to attempt an inquiry or project of appropriate rigor within the limitations of the student's potential, the time available, and the College's and the student's access to resources (library, computer, software, etc.);
   b) To advise the student toward the successful completion of the chosen project, meeting the general College specifications as interpreted by the Department;
   c) To assist with the editing of the thesis. Drafts submitted to the First Reader must be carefully proofread, revised, and include complete and accurate source citations. On all

drafts of the thesis, including the final draft if received by the deadlines specified above, the adviser is responsible for indicating to the student typical errors of logic, style, mechanics. He or she is not required to edit and proofread these drafts paragraph-by-paragraph or sentence-by-sentence. The editing of any draft by the adviser does not imply the ultimate acceptability of the thesis.

Students should not expect their adviser to be available for assistance over any College breaks.

Second Reader
In addition to their I.S. adviser, students are assigned a Second Reader. The Second Reader's role is to visit the student's poster at the Department poster session to provide feedback, and, when requested, to participate in a joint meeting with the student and the First Reader. Finally, the Second Reader participates as an examiner in the Oral Examination.

Section 4. Organizing the I.S.

Thesis Organization
The organization of the I.S. Thesis must be designed to clearly present the purpose of your project, the central question(s) which you seek to answer and/or hypotheses you are testing, the theoretical and empirical literature you have examined, the theoretical assumptions you make, the methodology or approach to the topic, your findings, and your conclusions. You will need to include both an introductory and concluding chapter (besides introductory and concluding paragraphs within each chapter of the thesis) so that the reader will be better able to follow and evaluate the development of your exposition.

There is no single model of organizational structure that is appropriate to all possible I.S. topics within the discipline. You should consult your adviser and the relevant Political Science literature to determine the proper model of organization for your project. The following model, designed for a project examining empirical data, is one illustration of an organizational model that can be used to construct a coherent thesis. Note that this is one model of thesis organization, not a universal guide.

Sample I.S. Organization Model for Empirical Projects
Chapter 1. Introduction/Purpose:
- Context: What is your topic? Out of what historical situation, institutional framework, or political events or issues does my topic grow? What is the puzzle to be addressed? Why is it an important topic to study?
- Research Question(s) and Hypothesis: What are the specific question(s) my study seeks to answer and what hypothesis (or hypotheses) I posit and will test in order to do so?
- Outline: Overview of coming chapters.

Chapter 2. Literature Review & Relevant Theories
In this chapter you review, discuss, and evaluate a portion of the extant literature (both theoretical and empirical) pertaining to your topic to answer questions such as:
- What are the dominant theories, models, or approaches related to my topic?
- What weaknesses, conflicts or omissions do present theories and the empirical work testing them have?

- What empirical questions, hypotheses, methods and approaches are suggested by these theories?
- What have other scholars found in their studies?
- Which theories, if any, does the existing evidence support?
- Can I develop a better alternative theory?
- What are the existing empirical findings that inform my theory and my specific hypotheses?
- What implications can be drawn for my hypothesis or hypotheses?

You must be critical in your review and analysis of existing theoretical frameworks as well as of empirical studies related to your topic. Do not simply describe other studies; clearly explain what still needs to be done (or done better) that you will attempt to accomplish in your I.S.

Chapter 3. Research Design and Methodology
What is/are the primary (and secondary, if any) research question(s) for this study? What is (are) my hypothesis (or hypotheses)? What are the major variables in the research design? How will I operationalize, or define and measure the variables? What observations can I make to test my ideas empirically? In other words, what will I examine in order to gather data to test my hypotheses? And, what will I do with these data? In sum, explain your method of analysis, why it is appropriate to your question, and how results will test the hypothesis. Most models are best illustrated through the presentation of an arrow diagram of expected causal relations.

Chapter 4. Results and Analysis
Here you will display and analyze your empirical results and perform appropriate tests, consistent with the methodology you chose. How are my findings related to my hypotheses? With regard to your findings, you should critically evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, relate them to those of earlier studies, and discuss their implications. Create appendices to include relevant information that is not central to testing your hypotheses. Note that depending on your study, a separate chapter might be devoted to each case study.

Chapter 5. Conclusions
Given the data used for this study, is the hypothesis (or are the hypotheses) rejected or not? Is there a clear answer to the research question? Also, what do these conclusions tell me about my theoretical framework? How generalizable are my findings? What are the strengths and limitations of my study? Are there policy implications? What are the normative implications of your study? What have I learned in the process of conducting this study? What are some suggestions for future research in this area? Note that no new evidence beyond the scope of the research should be introduced in the final chapter.

Sample Tasks By Week
You are advised to prepare your own schedule of interim deadlines, in consultation with your adviser, appropriate to your specific project. In general, students should be writing on a weekly basis. The following guidelines may be helpful as one example for how to organize your work if you are conducting an empirical I.S. thesis:

First Semester – PSCI 451

Week 1-3:   Meet with faculty members to discuss your Proposal Form and refine your I.S. topic; submit updated SR I.S. Proposal; receive adviser assignment; hold first I.S. meeting with adviser.

Weeks 3-4:   Topic clarification; identification and development of relevant hypotheses, arguments, theories and frameworks; literature search underway; draft writing.

Week 5-8:   Continue outlining, writing and receiving feedback on drafts of the first substantive (theory and literature) chapter.

Weeks 9-10:   Complete draft of first substantive chapter for adviser feedback; outline or draft second substantive (research design) chapter.

Week 10:   Departmental poster presentation (including your research design).

Weeks 11-13:   Complete draft of the second substantive (research design) chapter.

Weeks 14:   Complete draft of two substantive chapters (theory/literature review and research design).

Second Semester – PSCI 452
Week 1   Meet with First Reader to update them on your progress and set your PSCI 452 goals and timeline; continue making progress on analysis and writing.

Week 2-5   Complete data collection and analysis or complete case studies; outline, draft, and write substantive (analysis) chapter/s for feedback.

Weeks 6-7   Write and receive feedback on the introduction and conclusion chapters; complete draft of full I.S.

Week 8   Final meeting with or opportunity for feedback from your I.S. Adviser.

Section 5. Style, Formatting and Academic Integrity

Acknowledging References
The proper acknowledgment of sources is an obligation. Plagiarism is a serious breach of the process of scholarship and of the College Code of Academic Integrity. The basic principle to keep in mind is your three-fold responsibility: fairness to the author upon whom you rely, helpfulness to the reader who relies upon you, and interesting, effective prose. You will be presented with many examples of responsible scholarship in the professional literature you read in classes. If you have doubts about whether something violates academic integrity, check the Code of Academic Integrity located in the Scot's Key (https://www.wooster.edu/_media/files/students/dean/scotskey.pdf). Students who are still unclear about the Code after having read it should make an appointment to consult with their adviser.

The appropriate citation style and format for your project will be determined in consultation with your adviser. As a rule of thumb, students that completed 401-01 (Research Methods and Design) will have been trained to use the American Political Science Association's (APSA) author-date citation style in the APSA *Style Manual for Political Science* (available at apsanet.org) and thus should continue to use this for the I.S. Thesis. Students that completed 401-02 (Research in Political Theory) will have become familiar with the Chicago (Turabian) citation style and will likely continue to use this.

Form
The finished thesis submitted to the Registrar should be double-spaced with pages numbered at the bottom center, and running continuously from the first page of the first chapter and through the appendices and bibliography. There should be a Table of Contents and, if more than two tables, charts or maps are used, a List of Tables and Figures. The Table of Contents should list any appendices that are included so that the Table of Contents provides a visual overview of the entire thesis.

The margins should be 1.25 inches. Note that this requirement includes the right margin. The font should be no larger than 12 point. The title page should conform approximately to the model included as Appendix I in this document (note that College of Wooster policy forbids the use of the College Seal on I.S. title pages). We also encourage students to print on both sides of the paper.

Any other choices not specified here are left to the discretion of the student in consultation with their adviser.

Academic Honesty and the Code of Academic Integrity
The academic program at the College seeks to promote the intellectual development of each student and the realization of that individual's potential for creative thinking, learning, and understanding. In achieving this, each student must learn to use his/her mind rigorously, independently, and imaginatively.

The College's understanding and expectations in regard to issues of academic honesty are fully articulated in the Code of Academic Integrity as published in The Scot's Key and form an essential part of the implicit contract between the student and the College. The Code provides a framework at Wooster to help students develop and exhibit honesty in their academic work. You are expected to know and abide by the rules of the institution as described in The Scot's Key and the Handbook of Selected College Policies.

Dishonesty in any of your academic work is a serious breach of the Code of Academic Integrity and is grounds for an "F" for the entire course. Such violations include turning in another person's work as your own, copying from any source without proper citation, crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project, submitting an assignment produced for a course to a second course without the authorization of all the instructors, and lying in connection with your academic work. You will be held responsible for your actions. Particular attention should be directed to the appropriate use of materials available through the Internet. Whether intentional or not, improper use of materials is a violation of academic honesty. If you are unsure as to what is permissible, please contact your course instructor or I.S. adviser.

To learn more about the College's expectations for academic integrity in student research and writing endeavors, please consult the Academic Integrity Online Handbook. This online handbook consists of a series of modules and quizzes designed to help students learn about plagiarism, citation, and the proper incorporation of source material into research essays. You will find the Academic Integrity Handbook in the list of courses on your Moodle page (moodle.wooster.edu).

Section 6. Oral Examination
All students are expected to present a successful defense of their I.S. thesis. The defense of the thesis will involve an oral examination which will cover the thesis itself as well as the relation of the thesis to the broader questions of the discipline.

1. The First Reader is responsible for arranging the time and place as well as chairing the oral defense, which in principle will be limited to 50 minutes. Every effort is made to schedule the oral defense on or before the last Monday of classes in the spring semester. The Second Reader should present, in writing to the student at least one day before the scheduled defense, a critique that will present several of the lines of criticism and questioning to be pursued at the oral. Students should come prepared to discuss their I.S., and may bring notes or a copy of the I.S., but should not read from or be overly reliant on textual prompts.

2. The oral defense normally begins with the student making a brief statement of his or her thesis, method and principal findings. The Second Reader then takes up the questioning of the student. Although the First Reader asks questions as she or he deems appropriate, it is understood that the Second Reader is the one primarily responsible for leading the oral exam. After the oral, the student is asked to wait outside while the First and Second Reader determine whether the project has passed. If the readers have agreed on the project's pass/fail status, they will inform the student. If there is no agreement between the First and Second Reader, the thesis will be given to a Third Reader for evaluation. The Third Reader will then evaluate the project. In any event, no specific grades will be given to students until all oral exams are completed and the department has approved the proposed grades. Students must complete a survey about their experiences with I.S. and the department before receiving their final I.S. grade.

3. After the oral defense, the two readers will discuss the project as to its content, method, and form, as well as process, coming to agreement if possible on a grade (Honors, Good, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory). In the event that agreement cannot be reached, the department chair will, after conferring with the readers, assign a Third Reader whose evaluation will then be final. When the two readers have agreed on a grade (S, G, H, NC) or when a referee has resolved a deadlock, the department will meet to confirm the awarding of I.S. grades and Departmental Honors. After the department has met to confirm I.S. grades, First Readers will notify students of their I.S. grades and report the grade to the Registrar's Office.

Section 7. Evaluation

I.S. is not merely a final paper. I.S. is, rather, a process embodying topic selection, research design, literature review, data gathering and analysis. This process further involves revisions of

drafts and advisor conferences, a set of requirements for PSCI 451, and an oral defense of the final written project. Part of the process is for you to acquire and display the professionalism, skills, and qualities that are required to be a political scientist. This distinction is crucial since your grade will reflect our evaluation of your performance in all these areas, not simply of the final project. Remember that your title page for the thesis will read, "Submitted in PARTIAL fulfillment of the requirements for I.S. thesis."

Criteria

In evaluating the final Independent Study Thesis, the Political Science Department is committed to evaluating all senior projects on the basis of the principal criteria of evaluation which are set out in the College Handbook: content, method and form.

- Content: The choice of the I.S. Thesis topic should reflect a considered judgment as to the significance and manageability of the subject, and the completed project should represent a serious and systematic attempt to deal with it by having used effectively the available resources. An awareness of what has and has not been accomplished by the I.S. should be part of the presentation of the project.
- Method: The methods chosen should be stated and followed. The choices involved in the design should be made clear, and an appreciation of its uses and limits should be one of the results of the project.
- Form: Form is an essential element of clear expression. The project should reflect explicit attention to the requirements of form for a given discipline, field, or mode of expression.

In addition to these three elements, because the Independent Study project is also about the *process* of knowledge production and intellectual and personal growth, the Political Science Department will consider 'process' as a criterion in the evaluation of Senior Projects. Faculty consider the manner in which the three criteria – content, method, form – as well as the process are combined in the realization of the project.

Additional rules and procedures regarding late submission and other related issues are available in the Faculty Handbook, found at:
https://www.wooster.edu/academics/affairs/resources/handbook/).

Grading

For PSCI 451, the First Reader will submit a grade of Satisfactory (S) or No Credit (NC). In PSCI 452, the full thesis will be evaluated by the First and Second Readers, and then their collective evaluation will be reviewed by the entire department. The final judgment will be made according to your readers' (and the department's) professional judgment as to what constitutes the various quality levels in a senior thesis in political science.

In assessing content, method, form and process, we will consider the degree of success in:
- Completing assigned work by deadline.
- Showing initiative and skill in exploring the literature, defining the thesis, gathering the data and producing the final product.
- Making persuasive applications of theory and using appropriate methods.
- Clarity of organization and writing.
- The degree of independence, initiative, and creativity demonstrated by the student.

- The degree to which the student understands and can explain the thesis material.
- Exhibiting, throughout the IS process, of the highest professional attitude and behavior.

The final grade for the I.S. Thesis will be decided on the basis of the work accomplished during both semesters, on the basis of the completed thesis and on the basis of the defense of the thesis. The I.S. Thesis will be graded as follows:

- Honors: Outstanding in terms of content, method, form, and process.
- Good: Significantly above average in terms of content, method, form, and process.
- Satisfactory: Acceptable overall in terms of content, method, form, and process, though consideration may be given to balancing weakness in one area by strength in another.
- No Credit: Seriously deficient in content, method, form, or process, with no compensating strengths in other areas.

Departmental Honors
A graduating senior will receive departmental honors by attaining all of the following:

a. A cumulative grade point average of 3.500 or better for all courses completed in the major department.

b. A cumulative average of 3.200 or better for all courses completed at the College.

c. Honors for the Independent Study Thesis or Good with the unanimous vote of the department that the student's overall performance in the major is of the quality to merit departmental honors.

Section 8: Submitting the I.S.

Two bound copies of the I.S. Thesis (and two additional cover sheets) are due in the Registrar's office by 5:00 p.m., on the first day of classes following Spring Break. For Independent Study theses completed in Fall Semester, the due date is four weeks prior to the end of classes. The Registrar has established guidelines for the submission of a digital copy of the I.S. for inclusion in the Library's digital repository: https://www.wooster.edu/academics/registrar/is-submission/. Students are also required to submit an electronic version of their final thesis to psci@wooster.edu to be added to the Political Science Department's collection of I.S. theses where it will be accessible to departmental staff and students.

Any delay in turning in a thesis beyond the deadlines specified above automatically establishes the grade of "I" for the thesis. The conditions for changing the I to a passing grade will be established by the Dean for Curriculum and Academic Engagement after consultation with the student's adviser. The "I" automatically becomes a grade of "NC" two weeks after the deadline for the submission of the thesis unless prior approval for an extension of the "I" has been given by the Dean. No thesis turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of Honors without the unanimous vote of the department and the approval of the Dean.

A student, department, or I.S. adviser may petition the Provost to embargo an individual I.S. and its abstract for a period not normally to exceed five years, due to pending publication, patent or other sensitive research issues.

Section 9: Further Resources

All I.S. research involving human participants (e.g., interviews, surveys) is required to be reviewed and approved by the College's Human Subjects Review Committee (HSRC) prior to its commencement. If you obtained HSRC approval for your research, make sure to terminate your protocol and complete an annual report before graduation. Learn more about gaining HSRC approval at:
http://www.wooster.edu/academics/hsrc/.

Students can apply for Copeland Funds to enhance their senior I.S. projects. Students should discuss their needs with their advisers and can learn more about the program at:
http://www.wooster.edu/academics/research/is/copeland/.

While not required by the Department, many Political Science majors choose to present their I.S. research in an oral or poster presentation at the College's annual Senior Research Symposium:
https://www.wooster.edu/academics/research/is/symposium/.

Appendix 1: Sample I.S. Title Page

TITLE OF THE THESIS
CAPITALIZED AND CENTERED BETWEEN MARGINS

By Iman Example

An Independent Study Thesis
submitted to the Department of Political Science
at The College of Wooster
Month, Year
in partial fulfillment of the requirements of I.S. Thesis

Adviser: Frances Fox Piven

Second Reader: Theda Skocpol

Appendix 2: Global & International Studies Major I.S. Guidelines (approved 9/16)

As a Global & International Studies (G&IS) major with a Political Science Home Department, you will complete your Senior Independent Study in the Department of Political Science. Your Senior I.S. must conform to the requirements listed in the Political Science I.S. Handbook. However, as a G&IS major, you are responsible for some additional requirements, distinct from those required of Political Science majors, as explained below.

Your preparation for I.S.—and the very structure of your work in the major—is distinct. As a G&IS major, your required coursework in Political Science is less than that of a Political Science major. You have completed your related coursework and methodological training in the Department of Political Science, but you have also completed coursework in economics, history, and foreign language, and at least one other major-related course outside of these disciplines, together with off-campus study. Therefore, it follows that the expectations of your Senior I.S. will be distinct.

In addition to the requirements listed in the Political Science I.S. Handbook, your Senior I.S. must:

- **Address a topic in an area of Global and International Studies**
- **In the oral examination, be able to satisfactorily answer the following questions:**
    - **"How is your topic situated in the area of Global and International Studies?**
    - **"How did your interdisciplinary work as a Global and International Studies major inform your study of this topic?**
- **Integrate at least one of the other disciplines in the G&IS major in at least one significant way**
    - FOR EXAMPLE, In your Senior I.S., you might do one of the following:
        - apply scholarly perspectives from one of the other disciplines to *frame your research question*;
        - integrate scholarly work from one of the other disciplines into your *review of the literature*;
        - apply *theoretical models* from one of the other disciplines;
        - make use of *methodologies* from one of the other disciplines;
        - include *research* from one of the other disciplines in one chapter or more;
        - broadly *integrate theories, methods and research* from one of the other disciplines throughout your Senior I.S.
        - explain how your research impacts our thinking about your chosen question from multiple disciplinary perspectives
- **Integrate your foreign language study** in at least one significant way. In your Senior I.S., you must do at least one of the following:
    - include an abstract of the I.S. in English *and* in a foreign language;
    - make use of *foreign language sources*; produce your own translation of *foreign language sources*;
    - *write your I.S. (or a chapter of the I.S.) in a foreign language*.