Information Sheet for Seniors interested in taking SMPA 3196
Independent Study

If you are thinking about taking SMPA 3196, whether for 1, 2, or 3 credits, read on...

As explained in the GWU Bulletin, SMPA 3196 is for seniors who want to pursue “a program of directed reading, research, and writing” under the direction of a faculty advisor. This means you need to have a research project and an SMPA advisor who will see you through it.

Here are the steps to take before you can register:

• Decide on a research project you would like to pursue. This can be a new project or one you’ve already started and want to continue. Make sure you are very clear about what you’d like to study – be as specific as possible.

• Once you have your idea, speak to an SMPA professor with whom you’d like to work. If the professor agrees, then you’ll work together to develop a syllabus with the following information:
  o the goal of your project
  o the readings you will complete and their due dates
  o how often you will meet with your SMPA 3196 advisor about your work
  o the research you will conduct
  o the paper you will write and its due date
  o signatures on this syllabus – yours and the professor’s who is advising the project

The format of this syllabus is up to you. Just make sure it includes all the information required.

• Submit a copy of this syllabus to the Assistant Director of SMPA (currently Dr. Phalen) with an RTF-EZ - filled out with everything except the “Instructor/Dept approval.”

Please let Dr. Phalen know if you have any additional questions.