

UTC3400 Independent Study Course

Course Information

Information for supervisors and students

A. Course introduction

The Independent Study Course (ISC) provides an opportunity for senior undergraduates from the College of Alice & Peter Tan (CAPT) to do independent critical reading or research work that will build on their first and second year University Town College Program (UTCP) courses. ISCs undertaken at CAPT are distinctive in that they are inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, or trans-disciplinary in topic and/or approach.

ISCs typically grow out of a student's interest in a problem or question first encountered in the UTCP courses, or the informal curriculum such as Reading Group or community engagement in the college. Ideally, the student should have a particular area of interest that will allow a student to take lead in research, under the guidance of a CAPT fellow.

B. Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, the student should have learnt to:

1. Plan and execute independent work to culminate in a substantial end result
2. Identify and communicate needs, roadblocks, and intentions as a way to harness the appropriate support from the supervisor and (if relevant) others
3. Deploy and articulate an inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, or trans-disciplinary approach
4. Critically evaluate the nature of the inquiry undertaken and its strengths as well as blind spots.

C. Key features

The ISC is a 4 units graded undergraduate course that provides **current or past** CAPT students to research a selected topic in depth and to develop an understanding, knowledge and critical analysis of the topic selected. ISCs can take on the form of either independent critical reading or research work, and can entail a wide variety of topics that are multi-disciplinary in nature. The budget per ISC per Semester is \$100. This is typically used for transportation to visit Partners/sites to gather data. The guidelines for expenses and claims are similar to CAPT courses

D. Eligibility

Students who intend to read ISC should ideally be a third- or fourth-year student with a CAP of 3.50 or above. At the minimum, the student must have completed **at least one** Senior Seminar at CAPT to ensure that he/she has gained some familiarity with the topics of interest. In addition, the student must have completed or be on track to complete the UTCP and must be a current CAPTain or a CAPT alumnus. Exceptional cases can be considered, with the approval of the Director of Studies, and the supervising fellow.

E. General timeline

Week of Semester	Key Tasks	Remarks
1 to 2 months before the semester	Identify ISC topic and supervising fellow. Discuss timeline, methodology, expectations and fill up the ISC Contract (Appendix 1)	This process can be initiated by the student or the fellow, and the Director of Studies can be consulted if needed.
Week -2 to Week -1	ISC Contract to be submitted to the College curriculum manager. Student to work on and submit IRB application to Department Ethics Review Committee (DERC), if applicable.	There might be slight changes to the details of the ISC project later but the ISC Contract should provide sufficient details for the time being to ensure that the ISC is feasible.
Ongoing throughout the semester	Regular meetings between fellow, student and community partner (if applicable)	Frequency depends on the nature of the ISC. Weekly or biweekly meetings to be mutually agreed between fellow and student, to check on and provide guidance to the progress of the research

By Reading Week	Submission of assessment items listed in the ISC Contract	The assessments and submission deadlines should be listed in the ISC Contract.
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F. Workload

Students are expected to spend at least 10 hours per week on their ISC, adding up to a total of 130 hours a semester. However, the hours may exceed this number depending on the nature of the research, the schedule of the meetings and activities.

This course is an Unrestricted Elective (UE) and it **cannot be used** to replace any Junior or Senior Seminars in CAPT, and so, **cannot be used** to fulfill their UTCP. Students will need to ensure that they have sufficient modular credits for this UE and they will need to seek approval from their home faculties, if necessary.

G. Assessment

As the scope of ISCs varies, there are no fixed assessments but typically have a combination of these assessments:

Assessment mode	Typical weightage
(i) Literature review (1,500 to 2,000 words)	Up to 30%
(ii) Reflection journal	Up to 30%
(iii) Presentation	Up to 40%
(iv) Final essay or report (3,000 to 5,000 words)	Up to 100%

The assessments, weightages and submission deadlines should be discussed between the fellow and the student, and clearly listed in the ISC Contract. In addition to the formal assessment, students are expected to maintain satisfactory attendance for the meetings with their supervising fellow.

UTC3400 Independent Study Course (ISC)**Independent Study Course Contract**

Name of Student		Matriculation Number	
ISC Title			
Name of Supervisor			
Aim/Objectives			
Methods			
Work Plan/Schedule			
Reading List			
Assessment			

Deliverables			
<hr/> Signature of Supervisor (Date)		<hr/> Signature of Student (Date)	

CAPT Office

Approved by:	
<hr/> (Name and Signature)	
Comments:	
Date:	Office Notes: