

PHYS 3993 - Independent Study

Independent Study is an individual study of a topic in physics that is not covered in a formal physics class. Independent Study is carried out under the tutelage of a faculty member with whom the requirements are agreed upon prior to enrollment. The deliverable of an independent study course has to be agreed on with this faculty member; choices are a written review, an exam, a presentation, or a collection of solved homework problems. Good target audiences for the review or the presentation are other advanced undergraduate physics majors or a group of non-specialist faculty members who are interested in learning about the topic.

Procedure

Students seeking to enroll in PHYS 3993 are encouraged to talk to one of the undergraduate physics major advisors to discuss their particular interests and to visit the departmental website at <http://www.phys.virginia.edu/> to learn about the activities of each faculty member. Having found a faculty member and having agreed on the deliverable of the course, the student enrolls in PHYS 3993 into the course section of this faculty member.

Since 2018, SIS does no longer list PHYS 3993 courses for most instructors. The receptionist's office makes PHYS3993 courses for an unlisted instructor visible on demand.

General Requirements:

- Student and faculty member agree on the program and what is to be done, and a brief written plan is completed before the course drop date.
- Student and faculty member meet regularly, at least once a week for tutoring, discussion and reporting progress.
- Student should work at least 10 hours per week including contact, library, and outside study as we like to expect for other three-credit-hour courses.
- The instructor evaluates the deliverable for its science content and English composition.
- The review, or the exam, or a handout of the presentation, or the collection of solved homework problems is collected by our receptionist for retention in departmental files.