Independent Study

As a privilege for students who have displayed academic excellence and who can show appropriate preparation in courses previously taken, the Department of English offers course credit for independent study. Independent study provides an opportunity for highly motivated and capable students to pursue a rigorous course of study that is not accommodated elsewhere in the curriculum.

Independent study proposals require advance planning. Each must be developed in consultation with a full-time member of the English Department faculty who will serve as a faculty mentor for the project, and subsequently must be approved by the Department. Interested students should begin consulting with their mentors during the semester before the proposed independent study in order to develop a feasible course. Only those proposing a carefully structured and intellectually viable course of study that is not already offered in the undergraduate curriculum should submit applications. Independent study requires that students design their own courses, create their own syllabi, and work closely with faculty mentors. Supervising professors must donate a great deal of time and effort, so students applying for independent study should be similarly committed to the project. Students must be in residence in order to undertake independent study projects. A three-credit independent study should involve at least one hour of student-faculty contact plus an additional eight hours of work per week. It is also possible to elect one or two credit hours with appropriate changes in workload.

Professors normally do not supervise independent studies during terms when they are on leave, nor do they supervise them on subjects which fall outside of their areas of specialization, or on subjects covered by regular course offerings. A limit of six credit hours of independent study may be accumulated in the English department. Independent study projects CANNOT be used to fulfill Department program requirements (298, Pre-1600, Pre-1830, American Literature, New Traditions, or Poetry) or College distribution requirements. However, if appropriate, it can be applied to the upper-level elective credit portion of the concentration.

Please keep in mind, if you are planning on doing your independent study in writing (426) and have already taken and applied a writing course to your English major, the credit will not count toward your 30 credits. You are allowed to use only one creative or expository writing course toward the concentration whether it is independent study or a regular English course (323, 325, 423, 425, etc.)
How to apply:

Complete Part I of the following independent study application and attach a statement addressing each of the questions posed *along with a copy of an unofficial transcript*.

Part II of the application must be completed by the supervising faculty member.

Submit both parts of this proposal to the Undergraduate Studies Office, 3187 Angell Hall no later than:

- **Fall Term:**
- **Winter Term:** January 26, 2016
- **Spring Half-Term:** May 16, 2016
- **Summer Half-Term:** July 12, 2016

Once a decision is made regarding your proposal, you will be notified by email. All decisions on proposals submitted by the above due dates will be made by the Drop/Add deadline.
Application for Independent Study in the Department of English

Part I: TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT

Name: ___________________________________ UMID#: ________________________

UM e-mail: ___________________________________________________________

Term: ____________________ Class level: ________________________________

Supervising Faculty member: ________________________ Faculty IND #: __________

Course number (CIRCLE ONE) Proposed credit hours: __________
• English 226: Directed Writing (1-3 credits)
• English 299: Directed Study (1-3 credits)
• English 426: Directed Writing (1-4 credits, junior standing required)
• English 499: Directed Study (1-4 credits, junior standing required)

Please list previous English courses and grades:

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Previous courses relevant to the proposed study (English and other) and grades:

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Estimated Course load
(Credit hours) this term: __________ Overall G.P.A.: __________ Overall GPA in English: __________

Past independent study projects, if any, including supervising professor’s name and topic of study:
On a separate sheet attach your numbered responses to the following:

1. What is the title of your proposed study?
2. Provide a list, in sequence, of the texts you plan to read.
3. Provide a tentative schedule for your meetings with your supervising faculty member.
4. Provide a description of the written work you plan to do this term. Is this the work upon which you plan to be graded?
5. Why must you undertake this independent study project rather than taking a regularly scheduled course?

_________________________________________  _______________________________
Student Signature                              Date

**Part II: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SUPERVISING FACULTY MEMBER**

*Any questions about this form or the independent study process should be directed to the Undergraduate Administrator.

1. Do you believe the educational goals of this student’s independent study project can be met by other courses in the curriculum?

2. How long have you known this student and in what capacity?

3. What is your overall impression of the student's proposal?

_________________________________________  _______________________________
Signature of Supervising Faculty member         Date
Part III: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE CHAIR

_______ Approved ________ Denied

_____________________________ _________________________
Signature of Undergraduate Administrator Date

NOTES: