

**ROY H. PARK SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION  
CINEMA, PHOTOGRAPHY & MEDIA ARTS PROGRAM  
GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY  
CNPB-49900**

Independent Study is intensive study under the supervision of a faculty sponsor with the approval of the department chair.

A comprehensive research paper/or creative project is required.

Prerequisites: Junior cinema and photography or film, photography and visual arts major.  
Offered every semester.

May be taken for up to 4 credits.

The independent study is a research and/or production-oriented opportunity. The student selects a topic of interest and addresses it under the guidance of a faculty member, using historical, critical, empirical, creative, and/or experimental research methods. Independent Study in the Park School is consistent with the Ithaca College Guidelines for Independent Study. (Refer to the Catalog for current courses description.)

## **METHODS OF RESEARCH**

The methods of research outlined below may be applied separately or in combination.

- A. Historical method: A research plan that undertakes to describe relationships among past events occurring during a given period of time by studying the records of past observers.
- B. Critical method: A research plan that undertakes to evaluate contemporary or historical events, artifacts or phenomena by undertaking theoretically-grounded analysis and deconstruction of such events or artifacts.
- C. Empirical method: A research plan that undertakes to describe relationships existing at a given time among phenomena by means of controlled observation (for example, surveys, content analysis and the like) but without attempting to control or modify the phenomena themselves.
- D. Creative method: A research plan that undertakes to express, through artistic means, a topic of social, cultural, personal, intellectual or historical interest.
- E. Experimental method: A research plan that undertakes to find predictable relationships among variables by means of controlled observation and manipulation of phenomena.

## **DESIGN STATEMENT GUIDELINES**

Independent Study is an arrangement between a student and a faculty member. A design statement must be written and agreed upon by both of them and approved by the department chair. The statement should contain the following elements:

- A. A description of the creative and/or research problem and the learning goal(s) of the study. Include the probable results of the study. Describe the research methods to be used. It may be helpful to address the question: How will I know when I have finished?
- B. The student's preparation for undertaking the study (such as previous related course work)
- C. A reading list (not necessarily complete at this state, but at least a suggested or partial list sufficient to provide focus and stimulate investigation)
- D. The outcome of the study. The research will generate a paper, or a film, video or photographic project, incorporating all aspects of the investigation.
- E. The method and amount of ongoing interaction with the faculty sponsor (such as periodic discussion of reading, discussion of outline and drafts of a paper, etc.). Include a schedule of specific deadlines for various segments of the project, with the approximate time to be devoted to the different parts of the study: i.e., background reading, research and writing, discussion, in lab, etc.

## **APPROVAL PROCEDURES**

- A. Interactions with the faculty supervisor during the design and approval phases will be time consuming. Start the process well before advance registration.
- B. The signatures required for approval are:
  - 1. Student
  - 2. Faculty Sponsor - Signature indicates agreement with the design statement
  - 3. Student's Department Chair - The signature would indicate approval of the curricular validity of the study. If the chair does not feel that the study warrants approval, he/she should recommend ways to improve the design or offer a reasonable explanation for the decision.
- C. When all signatures have been obtained, make 3 copies; keep the original and give copies to the Dean's Office, the department chair and the faculty sponsor.

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**APPROVAL FORM FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**

1-4 credits

Attach this form to a design statement

Enrolling for CNPH-49900 \_\_\_\_\_ Credits \_\_\_\_\_ Semester, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVALS**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Dean: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Copies by student to: Dean, Department Chair, Faculty Sponsor, Student