

**ROY H. PARK SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION**  
**Television and Digital Media Production Program**  
**GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**  
**TVR-49900**

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

A comprehensive research paper (not project) is required.

Prerequisites: TVDM major; junior or senior standing; permission of the department. Offered every semester.

May be taken for 1-6 credits. NOTE: This course may be repeated but total credits earned from all Independent Study taken may not exceed 6 credits.

The student selects a research problem of interest to her or him and addresses it under the guidance of a faculty member, using historical, critical, empirical and/or experimental research methods. (See next page for elaboration on methods of research.) Possible topics include quantitative or qualitative research in an area relating to media production, consumption, regulation or criticism.

Note that Independent Study is **not a project or production oriented opportunity**. Independent Study in the Park School is consistent with the Ithaca College Guidelines for Independent Study. (Students wishing to pursue a *project* should apply for Independent Project, TVR-49700. Refer to the *Catalog* for current course descriptions.)

In order to register, the student must complete the attached cover sheet and, in collaboration with the faculty sponsor, write a design statement. The following page details the requisite information for the design statement.

**GUIDELINES FOR OBTAINING APPROVAL**

In addition, the student must follow these guidelines for obtaining approval:

- A. Work with the faculty sponsor during the design and approval phases. These interactions might be time-consuming, so start the process well before advance registration.
- B. After completing the design statement, obtain the requisite signatures in order as follows:
  1. Student
  2. Faculty Sponsor – Signature indicates agreement with the design statement.
  3. Program Director – Signature indicates approval of the curricular validity of the project. If the program director does not feel the project warrants approval, s/he should recommend ways to improve the design or offer a reasonable explanation for the decision.
- C. When all signatures have been obtained, email to [commdeansoffice@ithaca.edu](mailto:commdeansoffice@ithaca.edu) or drop off in the Park Dean's Office.

## **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. 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. The statement should contain the following elements:

1. 1. a description of the research study to be undertaken,
2. the learning goals to be achieved through participation in this study,
3. the student's preparation for undertaking the study (such as previous related course work),
4. a reading list (not necessarily complete at this state, but at least a suggested or partial list sufficient to provide focus and stimulate investigation),
5. the final outcome,
6. the method and amount of ongoing interaction with the faculty sponsor (such as periodic discussion of reading, discussion of outlines and drafts, review of data collected, etc., as appropriate) – Include a schedule of specific deadlines for various segments of the study, with the approximate time to be devoted to the different parts of the work, i.e., background reading, research, data analysis, writing, discussion, etc.
7. for studies requiring the use of technical equipment/facilities (such as computer software/hardware, tape recorders, etc., you must demonstrate that you have or have access to the equipment/facilities necessary to complete the proposed study. Any costs associated with the study will be the student's responsibility.

**Students using Park School equipment and/or facilities for completing their Independent Study must abide by all policies and requirements related to the use of portable equipment, editing labs, computer labs, and/or other facilities.**

**ROY H. PARK SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION PROGRAM**  
**APPROVAL FORM FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Attach this form to a design statement.

Enrolling for TVR-49900, \_\_\_\_\_ # of credits \_\_\_\_\_ Semester, 20\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

APPROVALS

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

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

Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Copies by student to: Dean, Program Director, Faculty Sponsor, Student