

ISU Women Studies Program
WS 461 Independent Study Requirements

I. Purpose:

- A. to provide students with in-depth study of topics not normally covered in the regular curriculum
- B. to enable students to incorporate independent academic interests into the main body of WS curriculum, especially by applying ideas and methods learned in WS 201 and/or WS 401
- C. to connect WS curriculum and core issues to other areas of interest, especially the student's major area of study

II. Independent Study Requirements:

Before enrolling, it is the student's responsibility to do some preliminary research and have a conversation with the independent study director about the topic and its relevance in the WS curriculum. The independent study director must agree to supervise the topic and sign the add card.

- A. Independent Study Proposal
 - 1. 1-2 page proposal that in some way includes the following information
 - a. description of topic for independent study, including some key research questions
 - b. description of learning objectives and goals
 - c. description of the types of sources that will be consulted
 - d. description of how this area of study will augment the student's experience with the regular WS curriculum
 - 2. Due Date
 - 1. Second Friday of semester
 - 2. **Failure to turn in the independent study proposal on time will result in dis-enrollment from independent study.**
- B. Academic paper or project
 - 1. Independent study students are required to complete an academic paper or project of some sort, in consultation with the independent study advisor.
 - 2. Range of options include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. 10 page final paper summarizing and analyzing the various readings experience
 - b. 10 page project connecting the readings to a specific example, event, or personal experience
 - c. portfolio of materials that connect the academic reading to an internship experience
 - d. another option as appropriate, in consultation with supervisor
 - 3. Due Date:
 - a. Monday of Finals Week
- C. Meetings/consultations with supervisor
 - 1. Independent study students are required to meet with their supervisor three times per semester. It is the responsibility of the independent study student to arrange these meetings.

III. Independent Study Grade

- A. Grade Breakdown (subject to negotiation, these are default guidelines):
 - 1. Total points: 100
 - a. Independent Study Proposal: 25%
 - b. Academic Paper/Project: 50%
 - c. Three consultations with supervisor: 25%