Spn 499: Independent Study in Hispanic Studies
Purpose, Eligibility and Procedures
September 25, 2013

**Purpose:** Independent study provides you with the opportunity to explore areas or topics in Hispanic Studies that complement the regular curriculum. This program is designed primarily for Hispanic Studies majors and minors. Independent studies are not normally granted on topics that are already included in the Hispanic Studies curriculum.

**Eligibility:** A 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Independent study in Hispanic Studies is intended for students pursuing advanced or upper-level work. In addition, you should be a self-motivated student who is self-disciplined and intellectually independent. You are responsible for your work. Your advisor will not organize your project for you but will advise you as you carry out your project.

**Procedures:**

1. **Faculty Advisor and Study Topic.** You need to have a faculty member in the Hispanic Studies department agree to serve as your independent study advisor. Make an appointment with the faculty member you would like to work, present verbally and somewhat informally your proposal for an independent research topic or project. You will need to have a fairly definite study topic, or project, in mind before this meeting. Do not expect your advisor to come up with a topic or project for you. The faculty member may either tentatively accept your verbal proposal, or decline your verbal proposal. If your verbal proposal is accepted, you must write a “study proposal” and submit it to your (tentative) faculty advisor for approval. (Note that your study topic should not duplicate what is covered in the regular course offerings.)

2. **Study Proposal and Approval.** After your verbal proposal has been tentatively approved, you must write a “study proposal.” The study proposal should be no more than one page in length, and should include: a summary statement of the area you want to explore or the problem or issue you intend to work on; a description of the work you will do (e.g. the number and types of papers you will write or oral reports you will give, etc.); a list of the learning objectives you hope to attain by the end of the semester and matching assessment type(s) (Bloom’s Taxonomy is a good resource); and how this course will fulfill the Department’s learning goals for the major (listed in the course catalog). In addition to this one-page “study proposal”, include an initial reading list or bibliography. Your written study proposal must be approved and signed by your faculty advisor. **You do not have approval for an independent study unless and until a faculty member has signed your study proposal.** (You are not bound to adhere to the letter of your study proposal. You may, with your advisor’s permission, deviate from your original study proposal.)

3. **Work Schedule.** You and your advisor must agree in writing on a work schedule. Your schedule will state when you will meet and the due dates for your papers or oral reports. It is your responsibility to adhere to this schedule. If you fail to adhere to it, you advisor may elect to drop you from independent study. **Note that you will be expected to work largely on**
your own. In particular, your faculty advisor should not be put in the position of having to make sure you do your work on schedule.

4. Grades and Credit. When you do an independent study in Hispanic Studies you are officially taking the Hispanic Studies course “Spn 499 Independent Studies in Hispanic Studies.” Thus, once your project has been approved, you must register for this “course.” You will receive standard credit, and your faculty advisor will assign you a standard grade at the end of the semester. All work must be carried out in Spanish.

5. Spn 499 Independent Studies can only be used as an elective for the major. In other words, it cannot be used to fulfill one of the two 400-level courses already offered in our curriculum.