

# ENVS Independent Study Grading Criteria and Student Contract and Enrollment Form

**COURSE:** 299 399 399F\*\* 494 494WRT\* 494F\*\* 498 498WRT\* 499 499F\*\* 499WRT\*

*\*\*In some cases, field course credit may be earned through ENVS 399 or ENVS 499 if specifically agreed upon by the instructor and the student in the course contract before the work is completed.*

**Student's ENVS PLAN:** BA BS BS/MPH BS/MS RIO

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/year \_\_\_\_\_

Course Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Credit hours(1-8) \_\_\_\_\_

Student number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Project title \_\_\_\_\_

**Project description** - attach a paragraph describing your interest in the research project you intend to pursue, the goals of your independent study experience, and your preliminary ideas for an independent project proposal.

Below are listed general components of the project on which your grade will be based. The specifics of these general components and the completion date for each should be agreed upon by you and your advisor at the beginning of the semester.

## CHECK IF APPLICABLE:

1. Background readings and commentaries \_\_\_\_\_

2. Bi-weekly discussion group/advisor meeting

Paper presentations/Commentaries \_\_\_\_\_

Participation \_\_\_\_\_

3. Field work/data collection \_\_\_\_\_

4. Preliminary data analysis \_\_\_\_\_

5. Final paper \_\_\_\_\_

a. annotated bibliography

b. project summary/report

c. project proposal for a subsequent semester

6. Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **\* Some WRT guidelines:**

- A minimum of 40% of the course grade is based on writing assignments
- A minimum of 20 pages of graded writing is assigned

### **\*\*Some field course guidelines:**

- Field component is the main focus of the course
- The coursework includes directed, cooperative work
- Field course instruction may include data collection, qualitative observation, and/or a field notebook/journal or similar assignments
- The field course must be a four credit hour course with at least a minimum of 50 hours of field-related work

**\*\*\*Keep in mind that, as with most courses, the amount of work (including homework/study) required to earn 4 credit hours is expected to equal roughly 10 hours per week.**

**Course Instructor Signature/Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **RESEARCH INTENSIVE OPTION (RIO) research course sequence details:**

**ENVS 299 Fundamentals of ENVS Research** ENVS 299 represents a stepping stone for students who plan to undertake advanced independent projects through the ENVS 399-499 sequence or as honors theses through ENVS 495. This course is intended to introduce students to research at an earlier stage in their undergrad careers, resulting in greater involvement in more in-depth independent work as upperclassmen. As part of ENVS 299, students will learn foundation skills for research in a field of environmental studies, including training in lab or field techniques, data collection, organization and analysis, literature search and review, and report/paper writing. While the student is not expected to carry out a full project independently, this course will provide a stepping stone to more advanced independent research later in the student's career. Students enrolled in ENVS 299 for 4-hour credit will allocate ~10 hours a week to research. Participation in an ENVS 299 course is equivalent taking any other undergraduate class. Not showing up during the scheduled time (unless prior arrangements are made) will impact the final grade. Student participation will be agreed with the Research Advisor, and will include:

1. Participation in lab/field work: Students will have flexibility to schedule their presence at the lab, but once they allocate their weekly time they are expected to be present at the lab/field.
2. Participation in biweekly journal club discussions or in one-to-one discussions and guided readings with Research advisor.
3. Students will be asked to submit bi-weekly reports describing their involvement in field/laboratory activities.

**ENVS 399 Intermediate ENVS Research** This course is intended for students who have had some prior introduction to research, either in ENVS 299 or in another class or field, and who are interested in furthering their knowledge of the research process. Unlike the ENVS 299 course, in which students were not expected to carry out a full project independently, ENVS 399 will be targeted to those students with enough skills to perform supervised research. Particularly, students enrolled in the ENVS 399 will be responsible of pursuing a research protocol/question designed by a research advisor (a faculty member and/or affiliated graduate students or post doctoral researchers), and will be in charge of the execution and analysis of the data related with that protocol. The rationale of the course is to provide foundation skills for research in a field of environmental studies, including training in lab or field techniques, data collection, organization and analysis, literature search and review, and report/paper writing. Students enrolled in ENVS399 for 4-hour credit will allocate ~10 hours a week to research. Participation in an ENVS399 course is equivalent taking any other undergraduate class. Not showing up during the scheduled time (unless prior arrangements are made) will impact the final grade. Evaluation in ENVS 399 will be agreed with the Research advisor and will follow the same structure as ENVS299. **Note that ENVS 399 is a prerequisite for ENVS 499.**

**ENVS 499 Independent ENVS Research** ENVS 399 is a prerequisite for ENVS 499. Students enrolled in ENVS 499 will be responsible of pursuing a research protocol/question of their interest, and will be in charge of the execution, analysis and report of findings with proper guidance and advice from the research advisor. Active interaction between the student and the advisor will warrant the proper implementation and finalization of the proposed protocol. The rationale of the course is to provide foundation skills for independent research in a field of environmental studies. Students enrolled in ENVS 499 for 4-hour credit will allocate ~10 hours a week to research. Participation in an ENVS 499 course is equivalent taking any other undergraduate class. Not showing up during their scheduled time (unless prior arrangements are made) will impact the final grade. Evaluation in ENVS 499 will be agreed with the Research advisor and will follow the same structure as ENVS 299.

Format of bi-weekly reports needed for fulfilling the ENVS 499 credits:

Reported period:

Activities performed during reported period:

Fieldwork/lab: