

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
Policy on Undergraduate Independent Studies

- 1) Students may propose to do a semester of independent study when existing course offerings do not meet their academic needs.
- 2) The option for doing an **independent study on literature** exists only for students who have already completed 325 and 326 in French; two surveys in Spanish (330-333-334-335-336); 323 and 324 in Italian. For **independent studies on translation or culture**, the option exists only for students who have already completed 307, 308, and one other 300-level course with grades of B+ or better.
- 3) Credits for the independent study will apply to the minor or major. However, in no case will an independent study substitute for a required course for either the minor or the major. For a list of required courses, consult the Major Guidelines and the Minor Guidelines (available online).
- 4) Faculty members often do not have the time to commit to directing independent studies and the Department does not pressure faculty to undertake such assignments.
- 5) The student must first secure the **provisional approval** of both the faculty member conducting the independent study and the DUS.
- 6) Prior to the start of the semester the student must obtain the **final approval** of the faculty member directing the independent study and the DUS based on their review of a detailed syllabus of the proposed course (compiled by the student with the aid of the faculty member), including all readings and writing assignments. The workload for the course must resemble that of comparable courses at the same level.
- 7) The faculty member and the student must meet for at least one hour every other week during the semester to speak in the target language about the works studied.

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