**Independent Study Syllabus**

2023 - 2024

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students engaged in Independent Study are involved in a one credit, pass/fail course which they design, learn from, and engage in, with the help of a content expert. By its very nature students involved in Independent Study are expected to engage in a project and research and create a portfolio of work with very little supervision. Students are expected to work an average of 5 hours per week on their projects, 75 hours over the course of the semester, 150 for the year.

**TEXTBOOKS/ONLINE RESOURCES:**

This will vary depending on the individual projects designed by students. If a student has a financial barrier please contact me ASAP and we will find a solution. Finances should not interfere with a student’s ability to successfully complete this course.

**GRADING**

Independent Study is a Pass/Fail course.

* Students are expected to keep a log of work and progress which is required for the class but not graded. Logs are submitted weekly
* Portfolios should be updated monthly and will be graded on a pass/fail basis
* At the semester break, students will be required to meet with me and to reflect on their progress. This will be graded on a pass/fail basis
* The final product/portfolio for the end of the year will be designed by the student. This will be graded on a P/F
* At the end of of year we will have a presentation of products/portfolios in a science fair type set up during a Warrior Period. This is required.

**CLASS MATERIALS**

These will vary depending on how the student has designed their project. If a student has a financial barrier, please contact me ASAP and we will find a solution. Finances should not interfere with a student’s ability to successfully complete this course.

**ATTENDANCE**:   
Attendance will not be recorded for Independent Study because the class is not within the schedule. However, if you are absent or ill for a long time, please notify me so we can work out what you need to do or not do. All reasonable excuses are always acceptable.

**COMMUNICATION:**

Students and families may contact me [through email](mailto:zpadron@k12albemarle.org?subject=Independent%20Study), phone call, or by texting me (do tell me who you are!). I will respond to emails within 48 hours of receiving them but usually much faster than that. 

**HOMEWORK**:

See Grading Requirements

**Student Weekly Check ins:**

* Students are expected to turn in their logs on Fridays when they are due.
* These will be ungraded but feedback will be provided.
* Late logs are acceptable, as long as students contact me **when turning them in late.** (I have to know they are there to give you credit)
* If a student is sick, cannot get to the computer, or has extenuating circumstances **prior to the log submission,** all reasonable excuses are acceptable.

**FINAL EXAM OR END-OF-YEAR PROJECT**

There is no final exam. Your final portfolio and product is your end of the year project. You will also be required to present at our Independent Study Expo during a Warrior Period

**SCHOOLOGY**

I will post all assignments in the Schoology calendar. It is important for you to check Schoology and your email daily. All assignments due that week will be in the yellow folder in the course. Previous assignments will be in the blue folder.

**ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:**

Submit your assignments through Schoology please. This means uploading your assignments to schoology. For online portfolios, please upload a doc with a link.

**PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC OFFENSES:**

I expect all your work to be **your work**. I understand that you are learning. Please cite your sources, use your own words, and make this your own work.

**LATE WORK:**

All late work is acceptable to me, as long as you notify me about it. This is **your** Independent Study Project. When you choose to work on it is up to you. If you cannot make a deadline, please be sure that you contact me about it. Communication is what is important to me. I want you to be successful. 

**Outline for Proposal Describing the Project**

***All Independent Study applicants must write and turn in a proposal. They may make changes as the project progresses.***

[Independent Study Proposal Document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16lqVzVQIlzkaliRP8b9iS5HbvYtVUrpEb60Ki0ycZ-g/copy)

**When completed, please share with Ms. Padrón** ([zpadron@k12albemarle.org](mailto:zpadron@k12albemarle.org))

**TO BE PRINTED AND HANDED IN!**

1. I understand that to complete an independent study I must meet my weekly, monthly, and yearly deadlines.
2. I understand that if I fail to meet my responsibilities that the Independent Study Coordinator can put me on a plan of improvement or terminate my Independent Study.
3. I have read the Independent Study Syllabus and understand the responsibilities required.
4. I understand that if I wish to modify, switch, or withdraw from Independent Study that it is my responsibility to meet with Ms. Padrón to discuss this.

Student Signature: Date:

Signature of Parent/Guardian indicating their approval of request:

Date: