New Course Proposal

ESC/GEG/GEL 5990 Independent Study

1. Catalog description

5990 ESC/GEG/GEL. Independent Study. (Arr.-Arr.- 1 to 6) Su or F or S. Inde Study. Individual study under faculty supervision on a topic selected by the student, in consultation with the faculty. Readings, discussion, reports, on-campus and/or off-campus fieldwork on specific areas or topics in earth science, geography or geology. May be repeated for credit if a different topic is pursued. Prerequisite: Teaching certificate or bachelor’s degree in an appropriate field.

2. Objectives

To allow students the opportunity to study, at their own pace, on or off campus, topics of special interest and/or timeliness not ordinarily covered in traditional courses.

3. Outline of the Course

Because the topics and setting of this course will vary, the course and outline will be unique each time the course is taught.

A sample outline for a student wishing to learn about Streambank Stabilization Techniques in the Midwest, might go like this:

**Week** | **Activity**
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1 - 2 | Meetings and discussions between student and instructor to assure that the student has a clear focus on the scope of the independent study project. Basic information sources will be identified and a framework for the project will be approved. A typical framework for a Streambank Stabilization paper might be:

- Introduction
- Streambank Materials and Processes
- Bank Instability Causes
- Stability Enhancement Techniques
  - Hard Technology Structures
  - Soft Technology Structures
- Site Evaluation Procedures
- Remediation Techniques Selection Process
- Monitoring and Evaluation Process
- Conclusions

3-5 Student will collect background information from libraries, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Farm Bureau, and the Department of Natural Resources.

6 Student meets with faculty to discuss literature review search and information gathered from local Agencies.

7-10 Student writes rough draft of paper, maintaining contact with professor.

11 Student meets with faculty to discuss rough draft. Areas of strength and weakness in the project will be identified. Modifications to improve final output will be discussed.

12-15 Student writes final draft of paper, maintaining contact with professor.

Evaluation of student's work will be based on the quality of the final draft of the paper, adherence of student to the proposed schedule of the course, degree of originality, self-direction and approach to the overall project.

4. Implementation

a. This course will be taught by qualified members of the Geology/Geography faculty. Number of hours credit to be offered (1-6), as well as background preparation of students, will be determined by the Department Chair, in consultation with the assigned faculty member. An Independent Study Request Form, detailing the objectives and final form of the project, must be filled out by the student and signed by the Chair, assigned faculty and student.

2. No major extra costs to students unless a field trip or other special project in involved. These costs will be explained to students prior to enrollment in the course.

3. Research materials will be selected based on the chosen topic.

4. This course may first be offered in Summer of 2001.

5. Rationale

1. There is a need to provide practicing professionals and educators with knowledge
and experiences relating to new and emerging concepts and theories in earth science, geography or geology. These students may need to study in a setting other than the EIU campus.

2. The level of this course is justified because all participants of this course will hold baccalaureate degrees. Many will be teaching earth science, geography or geology related subjects but will be seeking additional expertise in specific areas.

3. This course offers the opportunity to present knowledge not found in other courses, so there will be no similarity to existing courses.

4. This course is neither a requirement nor an elective in any program. It serves to provide additional training to practicing teachers who have an interest or need for the subject. The course will also serve to enhance the knowledge base for other professionals who seek additional background on specific topics.

6. Community College Transfer

Not applicable.

7. Date approved by the Geology/Geography Department 12-8-00

8. Date approved by the College of Sciences curriculum committee 1-26-01

9. Date approved by the CGS 3-8-01