 [**ENGL 490: Directed Research**](http://mobile.usc.edu/soc/20123/mda-490)

**Student Name:** Last, first [typing area will expand]

**Narrative**

**Studies**

**Contract for**

**Independent Study**

**USC ID#:** …

**Email address:** …

**Term—Year:** …

**Faculty adviser:** Last name, first

**Title:** Professor, etc.

**Department:** English, etc.

**Office:** Physical address

**Contact Info:** Email, phone number (office, cell), etc.

The required capstone in Narrative Studies has both a research and critical component. ENGL 490 provides an option to conduct the research component independently under the guidance of an approved faculty advisor with expertise in the field of the proposed project:

1. The research component can be analytical, theoretical, literary, creative or experiential, subject to prior approval. It cannot duplicate or approximate other courses listed in the *USC Catalogue* (for example, CTWR-435 “Writing for Film and Television Genres”).
2. The research advisor must be on regular USC faculty and be approved by the English Department Director of Undergraduate Studies. The advisor will guide the research but will not grade it.
3. The critical component will be a self-reflective essay of 20-30 pages that explains what the student has learned about narrative by researching it in the individual way as devised, and by studying narrative in the courses the student has chosen.
4. The student will make a public presentation on the capstone project along with other students completing their own capstone projects.
5. A jury of faculty who have conducted Narrative Studies Capstone Seminars will evaluate the critical component and will determine the grade for the independent capstone project.

**Description of Capstone Project**

Describe the research project you propose, and explain how it fits in with your prior work in Narrative Studies [typing area will expand].

**Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

List the readings, supplementary materials, and activities required for your project [typing area will expand].

**Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown**

Itemize your working timetable for completing your research component; include adequate time for the completion of the critical component [typing area will expand in each box below].

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Topics/Weekly Activities, Readings, Tasks** | **Due Dates** |
| Week 1Dates |  |  |
| Week 2Dates |  |  |
| Week 3Dates |  |  |
| Week 4Dates |  |  |
| Week 5Dates |  |  |
| Week 6Dates |  |  |
| Week 7Dates |  |  |
| Week 8Dates |  |  |
| Week 9Dates |  |  |
| Week 10Dates |  |  |
| Week 11Dates |  |  |
| Week 12Dates |  |  |
| Week 13Dates |  |  |
| Week 14Dates |  |  |
| Week 15Dates |  |  |
| FINALDate | **Final submission of research and essay** |  |

**Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:**

**Faculty Advisor to complete and sign this part**

I agree to advise the student’s proposed directed research described above as a capstone course appropriate to the student’s interdisciplinary major in Narrative Studies, and understand that the English Department alone is responsible for determination of grades.

**Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:**

**Director of Undergraduate Studies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:**

**After faculty have signed the form, please scan and email to**

**Jose Perez-Guerrero at jperezgu@usc.edu**