SAMPLE COURSE SYLLABUS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY
ENTO 896---Department of Entomology
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources/IANR
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I. Course Objectives
After completing the course, you should be able to:
1. Demonstrate a command of entomological knowledge and scientific principles
2. Demonstrate an ability to apply graduate coursework in an area of specific professional or personal interest to you.

II. Course Instructors
Erin Bauer (Independent Study Project Coordinator) - ebauer2@unl.edu, Office 402-472-9548

III. About this Course
The independent study course requires departmental approval to enroll. Students in this course may conduct individual or group projects focused on research, literature review, or extension/enhancement of other coursework. All work is conducted under supervision and evaluation of a departmental faculty member, which in most cases is the student’s advisor. A second option is working as a teaching assistant for an online M.S. course or developing an outreach project. Independent study contracts for ENTO 896 must be filed with and approved by the course coordinator, Erin Bauer - ebauer2@unl.edu. Students are limited to a total of 4 independent study credits during their program.

OPTION 1. Research, Literature Review, or Enhancement of other Work
The specific subject chosen may stem from a student's own experience and interests. A scholarly product is expected, which might be a term paper culminating from an extensive literature review, a series of readings accompanied by short papers or some other appropriate and approved activity. In some cases, independent study can be used to enhance work done on the student’s ENTO 888 M.S. Project. All projects are to be completed by the student working independently with occasional guidance, as needed, from their faculty advisor. Students considering a course of independent study should identify for themselves their area of interest and contact the course coordinator, who, depending on the topic proposed, will either agree to be the faculty advisor for the project, or solicit another faculty member to supervise the project. Projects must be turned in two weeks before finals week for a grade to be assigned for the enrolled semester. Unfinished projects will be assigned an incomplete until it is finished.

Steps:
1. Identify a topic or activity you wish to pursue for your independent study.
2. Write a brief descriptive of what you wish to do and submit to the course coordinator (ebauer2@unl.edu) for approval. Include the following:
   o Date submitted
Name and student ID #
Semester/year enrolling in independent study
Full title of project
Purpose and objectives of project
Procedures for completing project
Proposed outcomes
Proposed Timeline

3. Changes to the approved project must be discussed, in writing, with the student’s independent study advisor.

OPTION 2. Teaching Assistant
The teaching assistant option allows students to experience online classes from the teaching side, or help develop outreach curriculum and/or conduct outreach programs. Students can choose to do an independent study in either Online Courses or Outreach Education. Specifics are outlined below.

Assist with Online Courses: This includes, but is not limited to, grading papers; assisting the instructor; and discussion room, social media, or other assignment coordination. This is a good choice if you are interested in a particular topic and would like to learn more, or experience the teaching side of online education. For M.S. classes, it is required that you have already taken and passed the class in which you wish to be a TA. Examples of classes might include Insect Biology (undergrad course…online section), Insect Ecology, Insect Behavior, etc. Contact the Independent Study course instructor (Erin Bauer at ebauer2@unl.edu) with the class you are interested in and she can make arrangements. At the end of your TA semester, you’ll provide Erin with a short assignment about your experiences as a TA.

Outreach Education: Develop new educational materials for use in our outreach program (online or on-site kits). You will work with Erin Bauer to complete projects. Specific opportunities or projects may be available depending on the semester. In addition, if you are local in Nebraska, you may have the opportunity to conduct outreach programs in the community.

IV. Grading
Grading for this course will be based upon the quality of the final project (e.g., paper or outreach curriculum) or TAing (completing grading in timely matter, etc.) Letter grades will be assigned based on straight percentages of 100 - 90% A range, 89 - 80% B ranges, etc. The department of entomology and the Office of Graduate Studies requires that graduate students receive a B or better grade in order for the class to count towards graduation.

SCALE
100 – 98 A+ 89 - 87 B+
97 – 94 A 86 - 83 B
93 – 90 A- 82 - 80 B-

V. Academic Dishonesty:
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a clear, succinct, and reasonable policy about academic dishonesty, as indicated in the student code of conduct [www.unl.edu/sja/Student-Record-Policy.pdf]. As a student at UNL, you enjoy rights and protections under the code and are obligated to conduct yourself in compliance with the code. One area where students occasionally have some confusion regards plagiarism (which is especially important in this course, as most assignments and exams involve writing). The key concept here (and in other misconduct) is misrepresenting the work of another as one's own. The University Foundations program has a good web site that reviews UNL's policy on academic integrity and academic dishonesty, which you should review [http://www.unl.edu/UFP/acadinte.htm].

As the Student Code of Conduct indicates, academic sanctions for misconduct (subject to appeal) are at the discretion of the instructor, and may include giving the student a failing grade for the course. In this course, the least penalty we will impose for misconduct is a one letter grade reduction in the course grade, however, in most instances (particularly for graduate students) the penalty for cheating in this class will be a failing grade in the course.

VII. Additional Information:

PLEDGE OF INSTRUCTIONAL STANDARDS
Entomology instructors will provide our students a complete syllabus meeting all UNL standards, our classes will be based on current science and will follow published schedules and descriptions, and our instructors will be timely in returning grades and in responding to our students.

ADA STATEMENT
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Christy Horn for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY (updated 8/20/07)

CHEATING
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a policy about academic dishonesty, as indicated in the Student Code of Conduct (see Undergraduate Bulletin). As a student at UNL, you enjoy rights and protections under the code and are obligated to conduct yourself in compliance with the code.

As the Student Code of Conduct indicates, academic sanctions for misconduct subject to appeal are at the discretion of the instructor, and may include giving the student a failing grade for the course. In this course, the least penalty that
will be imposed for misconduct is a one letter grade reduction in the course grade, but in most instances the penalty for cheating will be a failing grade in the course.

“Students are expected to adhere to guidelines concerning academic dishonesty as specified in Entomology policy (insert web link) in accordance with Section 4.2 of the University Student Code of Conduct (http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/).”